



BOBOKRISTINA KOSEK

Alain Couanon of France assumed the post of **Head of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe** in mid-March, succeeding Yves Bargain, also of France.

He is not new to the region, having served as his country's Ambassador in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, from 1999 to 2003.

Prior to his OSCE appointment in Tajikistan, he was Special Adviser to the Director in the department of the French Foreign Ministry responsible for French nationals abroad and foreigners in France.

Since joining the Foreign Ministry in 1975, Ambassador Couanon has held assignments in Budapest, Moscow and Islamabad. He headed the Ministry's Soviet Department and, later, the Department for Consular Affairs. In the 1990s, he was General Consul in Johannesburg, Houston and Bombay.

Ambassador Couanon holds a master's degree in Eastern European History and Philology from the Sorbonne University.

Werner Wnendt of Germany was appointed **Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo** on 28 April. Since the Mission is an integral part of the United Nations' Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, he also acts as the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Institution-Building.

"I hope that both the OSCE and I, personally, can help to meet the greatest challenge in this mission — developing Kosovo in such a way that it can be home to all people who want to live here, in peace with their neighbours," said Ambassador Wnendt.

Prior to his OSCE appointment, he was serving as the Senior Deputy High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a post he assumed in August 2003. From late 2000 to 2003, he was a foreign affairs adviser to the German Federal President.

Ambassador Wnendt joined his country's Foreign Service in 1980 and has held positions in missions to the European Union in Brussels, as well as in Kenya, Pakistan, the United States and the Czech Republic.

In his new assignment, he succeeded Pascal Fieschi of France, who headed the Mission from January 2002.

Jorge Fuentes Monzonis-Vilallonga of Spain was appointed **Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia** in May, succeeding Peter Semneby of Sweden.

"I am fully committed to assisting the country in the implementation of reforms on its path to full EU membership," Ambassador Fuentes said. "The Mission has very good working relations with the Government, which enables us to be of assistance, even when it comes to tough issues."

Most recently, the career diplomat was Spanish Ambassador-at-Large for European Integration (2000-2005). Prior to that, he was Spain's Permanent Representative to the Western European Union (1997-2000). As his country's Ambassador to Bulgaria (1993-1997), he also covered the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Ambassador Fuentes has been intensely involved in OSCE matters since the early CSCE consultation meetings. He was Acting Head of the Spanish Delegation to the CSCE Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Stockholm



OSCE MISSION TO CROATIA/TOMISLAV PAVLEK

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes (right), welcomes Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader to the headquarters of the OSCE Mission to Croatia on 7 June.

(1983-1984). At the Spanish Foreign Ministry, he was Deputy Director-General for Eastern, Central and Southern Europe (1982-1989) and Director for CSCE Affairs (1985-1989).

Ambassador Fuentes holds degrees in Law and Political and Economic Sciences from the Complutense University, Madrid. He also attended the Diplomatic School of Spain. He has written several books and articles on the OSCE, the EU and other topics relating to international affairs.



OMIK/SHPEND KADA