



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Follow-Up on Recommendations in the OSCE PA's Monaco Declaration

Interim Report for the 2013 Winter Meeting

*Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat for
the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ms. Susanne Bratli*



Contents

Arms Control	2
Conflict Resolution	2
Deepening Contact and Co-operation with Afghanistan	5
Cyber Security	8
Reform of the OSCE	9

Background

The Parliament of the Principality of Monaco hosted the 21st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 5 to 9 July 2012 under the theme *The OSCE: Region of Change*. It concluded on 9 July with the adoption of the Monaco Declaration, a political document recommending plans of action for governments, parliaments and the OSCE, to address human rights, military transparency and the global economic crisis.

This Interim Report was prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat for the Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Susanne Bratli (MP, Norway). It considers actions taken in the politico-security dimension over the past six months by the OSCE, including Institutions and field presences, and other members of the international community, in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations in the Monaco Declaration.

A Final Report will be issued in advance of the OSCE PA's 22nd Annual Session, to be held in Istanbul from 29 June to 3 July 2013 under the theme *Helsinki +40*.

Comments may be directed to OSCE PA Editorial Director Nat Parry, nat@oscepa.dk, +45 33 37 80 40.

Arms Control

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Monaco Declaration calls on all OSCE participating States to contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is being held in New York until 27 July 2012.

II. International Initiatives

All Member States of the United Nations gathered in New York on 2-27 July 2012 for the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which seeks to establish high common standards for international trade in conventional arms. Despite the efforts of the delegations, a treaty text could not be agreed upon. The United Nations will reconvene the negotiations on 18-28 March 2013.¹

Conflict Resolution

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Monaco Declaration calls on all parties involved in protracted conflicts to intensify their efforts to generate peaceful and viable solutions. It further calls for a comprehensive and timely implementation of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision on “Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE’s Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation”.

II. OSCE Initiatives

A seminar entitled, “Preparing for peace: Communications in conflict resolution” was held at the University of Philosophical Society of Trinity College Dublin, on 24 October. Organized by the OSCE Press and Public Information Section and supported by the Irish Chairmanship, the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the OSCE, the seminar merged two priorities of Ireland’s Chairmanship – conflict resolution and Internet freedom – through the theme of communications.²

In July, the OSCE held the first workshop on Early Warning Focal Points, with participation from all field operations, the ODIHR and the HCNM. The Workshop helped to develop a functioning network of early warning focal points and further stimulate the work on operationalizing the internal early warning guidelines. The outcome of the workshop produced a drafted generic template to streamline and systematize internal reporting on developments which might lead to a situation requiring early warning, including proposals for OSCE response options as well as further enhanced and systematized its conflict analysis tools. In addition, established

¹ United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty Resolution. UN A/C.1/67/L.11

² “Preparing for Peace: Communications in Conflict Resolution”, OSCE Talks December 2012

follow-up mechanisms to be used to monitor whether and how proposed response options have been implemented and a drafted internal generic list of indicators aimed to serve as an *aide memoire* guiding the OSCE early warning process. The list, which is still under internal review, has been developed in close co-operation with other executive structures.³

On 22 October 2012, the Conflict Prevention Centre published a "Report to the Open-ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle on further progress made in the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11". The Ministerial Council decision No. 3/22 refers to the Elements of the Conflict Cycle with regards to early warning; mediation, dialogue facilitation and mediation support; early action and cross-cutting issues. The report summarizes the initiatives taken to implement and refine ideas presented in the previous four working group meetings.⁴

The Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Group

On 8 November the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs⁵ presented their annual reports to the Permanent Council, in which they outlined their activities over the previous year during individual and joint meetings with the sides and trips to the region. The reports also discussed bilateral engagement by each of the Co-Chair countries and a trilateral meeting of the Russian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani presidents in Sochi in January. They discussed their role in managing moments of tension and avoiding escalation when violence has occurred, in particular through the work of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and his team.⁶

From 19 to 26 November the Co-Chairs visited the region to continue their efforts to assist the parties in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. In Yerevan, they were received by President Sargsyan and met with Minister Nalbandyan, and in Baku they were received by President Aliyev and met with Minister Mammadyarov. In Nagorno-Karabakh they met with the *de facto* authorities and visited Zangilan and Jabrail regions to assess developments since their last visit in October 2010.⁷

The Azerbaijani side has expressed a desire to engage OSCE participating States and international organizations from outside the Minsk Group to assist in facilitating wider input and possible solutions to the conflict. The European Union has been particularly active in engaging civil society through the programme European Partnership Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The programme aims to support peace-building efforts concerning the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh by facilitating dialogue between civil society, media and policy-makers.⁸

³ SEC/CPC/OS/205/12

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Co-chaired by France, the Russian Federation and the United States, the OSCE Minsk Group spearheads the OSCE's efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh involving Armenia and Azerbaijan.

⁶ SEC.FR/613/12 3 January 2013

⁷ Ibid

⁸ SEC.SEL/372/12 7 November 2012

Geneva Discussions

The 22nd round of the Geneva International Discussions took place on 12 December 2012. The discussions took place in two working group sessions. One focused on security and stability in the Abkhazia region and in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and the other session focused on issues related to the return of IDPs and refugees to their original place of residence. The first working group continued to work on drafting a statement on the non-use of force by the participants of the Geneva International Discussions tabled by the Co-Chairs as well as reviewing proposals of the Russian participants. An agreement could not be reached and the drafting will continue during the 23rd round of the Geneva International Discussions.

In the second working group, the Georgian participants reconfirmed their commitment to humanitarian, people-centred approach and strongly reaffirmed their dedication to resolve outstanding matters under non-politicized, humanitarian leadership of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Representatives of the *de facto* governments of Sukhumi and Tskhinvali, as well as those of Moscow, continued their efforts to change the agreed Geneva Discussions format.⁹ The next Geneva Discussions are scheduled for 27 March 2013.

Transnistria settlement process

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, paid an official visit to Chisinau on 21 January 2013 and urged the Moldovan and Transnistrian leadership to prepare the ground for progress in the coming months' Transnistrian settlement talks. Noting that the Transnistrian settlement process has been placed at the top of Ukraine's agenda as OSCE Chair, Kozhara urged leaders in both Chisinau and Tiraspol to make good use of the time before February's 5+2 talks and emphasized that Ukraine – which is a co-mediator in the 5+2 process along with the OSCE and the Russian Federation – was uniquely placed to take the negotiations forward.¹⁰

III. Other International Initiatives

On 14 December, Georgian Special Representative for Russia, Zurab Abashidze met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Geneva in the first bilateral talks held since the 2008 conflict.

⁹ PC.DEL/1180/12 20 December 2012

¹⁰ OSCE Press Release: "OSCE Chairperson, in Moldova, urges leaders to intensify efforts ahead of Transnistrian settlement talks", 21 January 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/98814>

Deepening Contact and Co-operation with Afghanistan

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The OSCE PA's Monaco Declaration "calls on the OSCE to deepen contact and co-operation with Afghanistan and to help strengthen ties between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States in order to address the security challenges and the risk of spill-over, especially in light of the planned withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) from Afghanistan".

II. OSCE Field Activities

OSCE Office in Tajikistan

Fifteen Afghan border police officers attended a five-week Patrol Programming and Leadership Course organized by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan between August and September 2012. During the training, the participants learned how to plan and conduct observation missions through the use of topographical maps, satellite imagery and other tactical equipment. In addition, they developed skills in patrol planning and management techniques, studying also reporting and analysis, mountaineering and field first-aid skills.¹¹

The course was in the framework of a project aimed at enhancing the capacities of Tajik and Afghan border staff in detection and interdiction of illegal cross-border movements. It was the first course dedicated to the training of Afghan students since the beginning of the project in 2011.

The Report on the Ninth Meeting of the Security Committee (SC) in 2012 included a presentation on the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project in Tajikistan by Erdal Duzdaban, Border Management Officer at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. Duzdaban elaborated on the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project, referring to the programme's objectives and planned activities, as well as its resources, outcome and duration. Tajikistan shares a border with Afghanistan, facing problems of insurgencies, organized crime, trafficking in narcotics and chemical precursors, he said.

The first phase of the OSCE project was developed in 2009-2012. Based on the fruitful results of the project, the Tajik side made a second request to the OSCE to train an additional 150 students and approached the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan in 2012 asking to reinforce co-operation with Afghanistan by training Afghans. The current phase of the project is in line with both MC Decision 4/07 on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan as well as MC Decision 4/11 on Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan and has been included in the list of new OSCE projects in support of MC Decisions 4/07 and 4/11 as developed by the OSCE Secretariat. The OSCE framework is the Border Security Management Concept which calls for greater co-operation between countries inter alia in addressing transnational threats. In 2012, a further request for assistance was reiterated to help reinforce the Border Police.¹²

¹¹ OSCE press release: "OSCE Office in Tajikistan trains Afghan border police officers", 7 September 2012, (available at: <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/93533>).

¹² PC.DEL/994/12 8 November 2012

OSCE Academy in Bishkek

The fifth annual Central Asian security seminar took place at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek on 13 and 14 September 2012, bringing together security policy experts from Eurasia, East and South Asia, Europe and the United States, as well as local high-level officials. The themes discussed included:

- regional security challenges, including the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for Central Asia and globally;
- military co-operation and competition;
- security service reforms in Central Asia and international involvement in them;
- the interlocking strategic visions of key players;
- and the role of non-state actors, including terrorism and organized crime.

The event was co-organized by the OSCE Academy, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, and the Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies in Washington, DC.¹³

OSCE/UNDP training courses on border management awareness

A ten-day intensive training course on border management awareness co-organized by the OSCE and the United Nations Development Programme was held in Tajikistan in October. Twenty-four border officers from Afghanistan and Tajikistan received theoretical and practical training on modern techniques to detect smuggled goods, forged documents and to prevent drug trafficking. Also other topics were dealt with: risk analysis models, leadership and management skills, the fight against trafficking and money laundering, “green border” surveillance technologies, and matters related to refugees and asylum. Participants also practiced searching vehicles for contraband and radioactive material.¹⁴

Five similar courses are scheduled for 2013.

OSCE event on cross-border co-operation

An event organized by the Borders Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, aimed to promote bilateral and regional co-operation on border security and management, foster professional relationships and a common understanding between participants from different states in the larger OSCE area, was held in Medininkai (Lithuania) in November 2012, gathering 21 officials from the border guard, border police and customs agencies of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The latter shared experiences with Lithuanian colleagues, dealing with issues pertaining to trade facilitation, border security,

¹³ OSCE Centre in Bishkek: “OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosts seminar on security in Central Asia”, (available at: <http://www.osce.org/bishkek/93760>).

¹⁴ OSCE press release: “OSCE, UNDP complete border management awareness training courses for Tajik, Afghan officers”, 1 November 2012 (available at: <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/96787>).

migration and stability, corruption and integrity. Another seminar will take place in March 2013. The overall project has been supported by the United States, Germany and Lithuania.¹⁵

Conference on Technical Co-operation on Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response

A two-day OSCE conference on “Technical Co-operation on Explosive Hazards Reduction and Response in Central Asia” was held in Astana in November 2012. The event, hosted by the Defence Ministry of Kazakhstan, brought together more than 60 technical experts, practitioners and other stakeholders from 16 countries and organizations. Among the issues tackled during the conferences there were demilitarization, explosive hazards reduction and explosive ordnance disposal.¹⁶

OSCE Secretary General

In his opening remarks on the occasion of the 2012 OSCE Ministerial Council in Dublin, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier recalled that, in view to strengthen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, the OSCE has “designated a realistic number of projects as priorities for implementation in the short term, focusing mainly on border management, police training and counter-narcotics”. Furthermore, Zannier pointed out that there have been efforts on the part of the OSCE to better assist participating States of Central Asia to address challenges related to Afghanistan and to contribute to sustained regional stability and development.¹⁷

IDEAS initiative

The final report of the IDEAS initiative – a collaborative effort of four think tanks launched by the foreign ministers of Germany, France, Poland and Russia – noted that the OSCE's efforts in stabilizing Afghanistan have heretofore primarily included supporting measures for securing the borders between the Central Asian States and Afghanistan and intensifying the involvement of Afghan counterparts in OSCE activities related to border security and management.

The report offers further recommendations for OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, suggesting, inter alia, that the OSCE should:

- engage in intense consultations with the relevant participating States and Partners for Co-operation, particularly with the Central Asian States and with Afghanistan;
- become engaged in broader international consultations, on the basis of the OSCE Platform for Co-operative Security, particularly with the UN, NATO, the EU and the CSTO, as well as with the relevant Partners for Co-operation, in order to co-ordinate further activities, realize synergies and avoid unnecessary duplication of international efforts after 2014.¹⁸

¹⁵ OSCE press release: “Officials from Central Asia, Afghanistan discuss cross-border co-operation with Lithuanian counterparts at OSCE-supported event”, (available at: <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/97146>).

¹⁶ OSCE press release: “OSCE promotes co-operation in demilitarization, explosive hazards reduction and explosive ordnance disposal in Central Asia”, 21 November 2012 (available at: <http://www.osce.org/astana/97383>).

¹⁷ OSCE: “Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Opening remarks, Ministerial Council Dublin, 6 December 2012”, MC.GAL/14/12, 6 December 2012 (available at: <http://www.osce.org/mc/97852>).

¹⁸ “Towards a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community: From Vision to Reality”, final report of the IDEAS initiative, 23 October 2012, http://www.pism.pl/files/?id_plik=11986

Cyber Security

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Monaco Declaration calls for the OSCE to organize an exchange of views and best practice on confidence and security-building measures, including in the area of cyber security and counter-terrorism, with a view to exploring the possibility of building new OSCE commitments.

II. OSCE Initiatives

The United States Chairman of the OSCE's Informal Working Group on confidence-building measures related to information and communication technologies (ICT) convened the first meeting of the group on 17 July which focused, inter alia, on more than 50 proposals for CBMs put forth by various participating States. The Chair offered a short paper proposing common objectives that should be the foundation of international ICT stability, and outlining a possible way of organizing the CBMs activities at three levels; enhance basic confidence and predictability through transparency- and confidence-building measures. Secondly, activities focusing on co-operative methods of crisis prevention and resolution to be used in the event of discrete disruptive activities of non-state actors and third, focus on stability measures where participating States engage in stabilizing behaviours and refrain from destabilizing activities in cyberspace.¹⁹ The IWG held its second meeting on 15 October 2012.

The Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) in the OSCE Secretariat organized the "Annual Police Experts Meeting" on 20-21 September 2012. The topic of this year's meeting was "Fighting the Threat of Cybercrime" which was attended by 100 representatives from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The meeting assisted in the identification of areas in need of action to include, improved prevention efforts, the need for rapid exchange of information, building investigation capacity through accredited training, co-operation with the private sector and internet service providers.

The TNTD/SPMU will organize a regional workshop in cybercrime investigations in Dushanbe in spring 2013 and will follow up with training activities conducted in South Eastern Europe with the aim of building more investigative capacities for police officers, prosecutors and judges. The TNTD/SPMU will improve and further develop relationships with all stakeholders involved in issues related to cybercrime investigations and aims at elaborating joint projects as appropriate. Finally, the TNTD/SPMU will work in close co-operation with OSCE field operations to identify needs for support in capacity building in participating States.²⁰

OSCE Ministerial Council

At the 2012 Ministerial Council in Dublin, a proposal was tabled for a Ministerial Council decision on confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs. The draft welcomed the adoption and the progress made in implementation of Permanent Council Decision 1039 on the development of CBMs to reduce the risks of conflict

¹⁹ PC.DEL/870/12 28 September 2012

²⁰ SEC.GAL/227/12 26 November 2012

stemming from the use of ICT and recommended several additional tasks for the OSCE in this field.²¹ However, a decision was not reached on the proposal.

Reform of the OSCE

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Monaco Declaration calls on the OSCE to “undertake the necessary internal reforms to enable an effective response to the new security related environment whilst reflecting current financial restrictions”. Recommendations were made in various sectors, including:

- the modification of the consensus rule for decision making regarding decisions on personnel, budget and administration matters;
- the fulfillment, on the part of the Secretary General, of the 2004 OSCE Gender Plan for the Promotion of Gender equality (notably increased representation of women as heads or deputy heads of OSCE missions and in leadership positions within OSCE institutions);
- the re-opening of an OSCE presence in Belarus and Georgia;
- the organization of an exchange of views and best practice on confidence-and security-building measures, including in the area of cyber security and counter-terrorism, with a view to exploring the possibility of building new OSCE commitments;
- the adoption of the strategic framework for police-related activities based on promotion of democratic policing principles that was developed by OSCE participating States under the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship during 2011.

II. President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Internal reform of the OSCE

In his remarks to the Ministerial Council held in Dublin on 6 December 2012, OSCE PA President Riccardo Migliori stated that “the backbone of the OSCE is the field missions and their programmes” and that the PA has “consistently called for protecting the budgets of the field missions and to avoid constructing a large bureaucracy”. Migliori voiced concern about resources being taken away from the field operations in favour of the Secretariat, and called upon the OSCE to “operate with the same transparency and accountability that we all expect from our own governments”.²²

III. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE Security Days

On 24-25 June the OSCE held the 2012 OSCE Security Days event in Vienna, which provided a platform for the discussion of fresh ideas and approaches to Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security.

²¹ CIO.GAL/139/12 12 October 2012

²² “President Riccardo Migliori Remarks to the Ministerial Council, 6 December 2012, Dublin” (available at: http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/1327-riccardo-migliori-address-to-the-osce-ministerial-council-06-12-12)

Aiming to help link the contributions that both traditional diplomacy and civil society can make to working towards a Security Community, the event addressed themes including the need to tackle security challenges through co-operative tools, and to promote trust, dialogue and reconciliation. Participants included eminent speakers from academic institutions and other elements of civil society, with several participants saying that it is only through non-governmental organizations that the OSCE can conduct a more open and fruitful discussion.²³

The Parliamentary Assembly was represented at the event by Head of the Belgian OSCE PA Delegation François-Xavier de Donnea, who emphasized the value that the Assembly adds as a forum for open dialogue between elected representatives of the peoples of the OSCE. “Members of Parliament are an essential component of any solution for problems that the OSCE is mandated to deal with,” said de Donnea, a former Minister of Defence of Belgium.²⁴

IDEAS initiative

In an address to the OSCE Ministerial Council in December, German Minister of State and Member of the Bundestag Michael Georg Link noted that “All of us, the participating States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and all OSCE institutions, bear joint responsibility for [the OSCE’s] promotion and further development.” In this regard, he highlighted the IDEAS initiative launched by the foreign ministers of Germany, France, Poland and Russia, which is intended to provide a strategic contribution to the Helsinki +40 process in leading the OSCE into the future.²⁵

The project is envisaged as a multi-country think tank initiative for the development of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community, and aims to conceptualize “a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok”. The initiative includes the participation of four highly regarded think tanks: the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In October, the four think tanks issued a report²⁶ intended to contribute to a critical debate on the conceptualization of a security community. Including sections on “Developing Arms Control, CSBMs and Military Co-operation”, “Taking Responsibility for Protracted Conflicts”, “Addressing Transnational Threats and Challenges”, “Engaging in the Economic and Environmental Dimension” and “Engaging in the Human Dimension”, the report argues that building a security community in the OSCE area cannot be delegated to the Organization alone. “States benefit from the existence of a dense network of European, Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian

²³ 2012 OSCE Security Days, <http://www.osce.org/event/securitydays2012>

²⁴ OSCE PA News from Copenhagen No. 440, 27 June 2012, http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/news-from-copenhagen/doc_download/1232-news-from-copenhagen-440

²⁵ MC.DEL/11/12/Rev.1 6 December 2012

²⁶ Available here: <http://www.pism.pl/events/others/Launch-of-IDEAS-Report-at-the-OSCE-forum-in-Vienna>

institutions”, notes the report, stressing that “all OSCE participating States work together in multiple institutional settings, whether as full members or associate partners”.²⁷

At the Dublin Ministerial Council, Minister Link stated Germany's wish for the IDEAS initiative to be followed up within the Helsinki +40 process and developed with further think tanks in order to make progress in the creation of a genuine security community.

Fulfillment of the 2004 OSCE Gender Plan for the Promotion of Gender equality

On 25 October 2012, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier presented to the Permanent Council the 2012 Annual Evaluation Report on achievements and challenges in the promotion of gender equality in the OSCE. In his remarks, Zannier recalled that the purpose of the Report is to “assess the situation and raise awareness of the extent to which the commitments articulated in the Gender Action Plan that are within the purview of the OSCE executive structures have been put into practice”.

The report, which covers the period from May 2011 to May 2012, is structured according to the three main areas of the Gender Action Plan: an overall gender mainstreaming within the Organization's structures and its working environment; an evaluation of gender mainstreaming in projects, programmes and activities across the organization; an examination of the implementation of gender-specific projects in the six priority areas in the participating States.

The report describes the progress made, for example in the appointment of women as Heads of Mission, and offers a variety of recommendations to improve implementation, notably:

- the need for an in-depth dialogue on developing concrete mechanisms that provide well-defined quantitative and qualitative targets, clear timelines, monitoring and accountability frameworks;
- the proposal for the creation of a network of gender focal points within relevant ministries of the participating States, in order to provide the OSCE with a mechanism able to monitor and assess the implementation of commitments by participating States themselves;
- the invitation to all stakeholders in the OSCE and the participating States to actively engage in involving more men in gender equality issues in order to enhance the understanding of the importance of gender equality for the benefit of all in society;
- the possibility to establish a structure to coordinate the development of a longer-term gender equality strategy.²⁸

Re-opening of an OSCE presence in Belarus and Georgia

In the second half of 2012 the OSCE has observed parliamentary elections both in Georgia and Belarus, however, no significant development toward the re-opening of the OSCE presence in the two countries has been made.

²⁷ “Towards a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community: From Vision to Reality”, final report of the IDEAS initiative, 23 October 2012, http://www.pism.pl/files/?id_plik=11986

²⁸ “The Secretary General's Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality”, SEC.GAL/209/12, 30 October 2012.

Exchange of views and best practice on confidence-and security-building measures

Decision no. 1039 of the Permanent Council stepped up individual and collective efforts to address security in the use of information and communication technologies in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations. In addition, with this decision the PC tasked the OSCE Chairmanship to establish an open-ended informal working group under the auspices of the Security Committee, in charge of elaborating a set of draft confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict that may stem from the use of ICTs.²⁹

The TNT Department has been recently active in the field of Cyber/ICT security. In particular, the Co-ordination cell has assisted the pertinent Chef-de-file in implementing PC/DEC/1039.

In November 2012, the TNTD/CC presented the OSCE's work in developing confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies at the 'Cyber Security Conference 2012: The Confidence Building Measures in Assuring Cyber Stability'. The event was held in Geneva and was organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: it constituted a valuable opportunity for the TNTD/CC to liaise directly with a number of cyber/ICT security experts from the OSCE region and beyond.³⁰

In accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 9, adopted in Bucharest in December 2001, the Annual Police Experts Meeting (APEM) was organized by the OSCE to convene, gathering police experts from OSCE participating States and representatives of other relevant specialized international and regional organizations. The meeting, which focused on the issue of cybercrime as an increasingly significant transnational threat, was a follow-up to a Police Experts Meeting that was held in 2008 on "Fighting the Threat of Cybercrime". The conference identified in improved prevention efforts an important priority and pointed out that rapid exchanges of information, as well as capacity building through training are essential.

The TNTD/SPMU will organize a regional workshop in cybercrime investigations in Dushanbe in spring 2013, involving practitioners from all Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, and will follow-up with previous training activities conducted in South Eastern Europe aiming to build more investigative capacities for police officers, prosecutors and judges.³¹

In November 2012, TNTD attended the 11th Berlin Security Conference, which outlined the importance of Cyber Security in Europe and stressed on the need for confidence building measures. The TNTD also participated in a conference by NATO in Brussels bringing together experts to discuss emerging security challenges to critical infrastructure protection. Sessions

²⁹ "Decision no. 1039: Development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies", PC/DEC/1039, 26 April 2012.

³⁰ "Transnational Threats Department: Report to the Security Committee on the Activities of the TNT Department", SEC.GAL/224/12, 19 November 2012.

³¹ "OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting: 'Fighting the Threat of Cyber Crime'. 20 - 21 September 2012.", SEC.GAL/227/12, 26 November 2012.

focused on defining threats and vulnerabilities to cyber networks, transit routes, and energy supplies; identifying the private and public sector actors who are essential for co-ordinated risk protection and response.

Another significant event was a workshop on “Regulating Terrorism and Crimes in Cyberspace” organized by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of Kyrgyzstan’s State Committee of National Security (SCNS) as well as Civil Initiative on Internet Policy NGO: experts from different international organizations (among them INTERPOL, the Council of Europe, Shanghai Co-operation Organization) had the chance to meet and share their experiences on the matters of terrorist use of the Internet and cybercrime. The workshop concluded that there is a need for further towards the harmonization of national legislation in line with international instruments, the enhancement of national capabilities and capacities in countering cyber threats as well co-operation at the international level. The workshop also served as a way to kick-start longer term co-operation between the OSCE and Kyrgyzstan in this thematic area, including potential concrete capacity building assistance, legislative reviews as well as training for relevant law enforcement and the judiciary.

The TNTD also took steps in the field of counter-terrorism, especially with regard to perspectives of co-ordination with UNODC. These were discussed during a meeting in December 2012 between TNTD/ATU, UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Senior Legal Adviser for Central Asia: a contribution from TNTD to the UNODC-led counter-terrorism programme in Central Asia was envisaged and TNTD proposals for concrete activities to the Project Co-ordinator based in the UNODC Office in Almaty were brought forward. Always with UNODC, at the invitation of the authorities of Montenegro, in November 2012 the OSCE (TNTD, OCEEA) conducted a mission to Podgorica to assess the needs for assistance in the process of drafting a new Action Plan (2012-2014) for the Strategy for Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism, Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing. Montenegro expressed an invitation to UNODC and OSCE for a follow-up mission in 2013.³²

Adoption of the strategic framework for police-related activities

The Permanent Council, at its 922nd Plenary Meeting, adopted decision no. 1049 on “OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities”. The objective of the Strategic Framework is to “define priority areas for the OSCE’s police-related activities within the Organization’s wider approach to security, combating transnational threats, and to render more operational the relevant provisions of the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council at Maastricht in 2003.” The annex to the decision also outlines four strategic features, divided into: guiding principles of the OSCE’s police-related activities; OSCE’s lines of action for police-related activities; thematic priorities of the OSCE’s police-related activities; coherence, co-ordination and co-operation.³³

³² “Transnational Threats Department: Report to the Security Committee on the Activities of the TNT Department. Co-ordination of activities to address TNT”, SEC.GAL/230/12, 13 December 2012.

³³ “Decision No. 1049: OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-related Activities”, PC.DEC/1049, 26 July 2012, (available at: <http://www.osce.org/pc/92559>).