General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

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

Interim Report for the 2012 Winter Meeting

Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Introduction

Around 240 parliamentarians representing 52 OSCE participating States met in Belgrade from 6 to 10 July 2011 to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, focusing on the general theme of *Strengthening the OSCE's Effectiveness and Efficiency – A New Start After the Astana Summit*. In addition to addressing the economic and environmental dimension of the general theme, the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment passed resolutions dealing with, *inter alia*, cyber security, migration policy, labour trafficking, and the free movement of information and knowledge.

This Interim Report considers actions taken by the OSCE, including Institutions and field presences over the past six months, and other members of the international community in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations. Developments within participating States relating to the Belgrade Declaration's recommendations will be made available for the Annual Session in Monaco.

While the majority of the recommendations addressed here are found in the OSCE PA's Belgrade Declaration of July 2011, key themes from past Declarations have also been considered to ensure greater continuity and scope. The International Secretariat appreciates the input on their work within these fields provided by the OSCE Secretary General, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Energy Security

I.   Belgrade Declaration

In line with the 2010 Oslo Declaration, which affirms that energy security is one of the most important factors ensuring the national security of each participating State, as well as a key element in modern world policy affecting the interests of all countries, the Belgrade Declaration recommends that the OSCE offers itself as a leading organization to prevent tensions over energy security in the OSCE region.[1]

II.   OSCE Initiatives

Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office

Pursuant to the Astana Summit, during which OSCE Heads of State or Government noted that "our energy security dialogue, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, must be enhanced", the Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office pushed forward the issue of energy security in 2011.[2]

In particular, the Lithuanian Chairmanship organized a high-level conference on "Integrating Global Energy Markets – Providing Energy Security" in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. Held on 3-4 November 2011, the meeting offered a forum to discuss the state of affairs in trans-corporate energy trade and suggested mechanisms for the stable transit and diversification of energy resources in the OSCE region and beyond.[3]

Nineteenth Economic and Environmental Forum

The 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum concluded in Prague, Czech Republic on 14-16 September. This year's cycle focused on the "Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport", and emphasized that energy security can be best pursued through regular and open dialogue and confidence-building measures. The meetings held in Vienna, Druskininkai and Prague helped generate ideas that were incorporated in draft decisions put forward by the Lithuanian

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[1] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Declaration", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/675-belgrade-declaration-english.

[2] OSCE CiO: "Meaningful Steps – Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011", 7 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/mc/86008.

[3] OSCE CiO: "OSCE Chairmanship holds high-level energy conference in Ashgabat", 3 November 2011, http://www.osce.org/ashgabat/84732.

Chairmanship at the Vilnius Ministerial Council.[4] However, no consensus was reached to adopt a Ministerial Decision "On Fostering Energy Security in the OSCE Area".

Inaugural Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

An Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting was organized in Vienna for the first time on 17-19 October. Participants noted the active and constructive contribution of the Economic and Environmental Officers from OSCE field operations, but nevertheless underlined the necessity to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat and the field presences.[5] On 7 December 2011, the OSCE Permanent Council decided to hold the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis, with the aim to improve the implementation of OSCE commitments and the effectiveness of its work in the economic and environmental dimensions.[6]

Field Activities

The OSCE Office in Baku held a workshop on the creation of a legal framework for the promotion of renewable energy sources in July 2011. It was followed up with a roundtable discussion on 1 December, organized by the OSCE Office in Baku and Azerbaijan's State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources, in co-ordination with the Energy Reform Support Programme of the European Union in Azerbaijan. The discussion focused on the draft law on alternative and renewable energy sources, and was aimed to support the Azerbaijani government's efforts to promote the large-scale application of renewable energies.[7]

Following up on a previous event organized in March, a workshop on Energy Diplomacy was held on 8-12 August in Ashgabat. The August session sought to enhance the knowledge of different specialists on energy security and promote stable and reliable energy as well as principles of energy diplomacy. Two additional workshops are planned for 2012.[8]

On 22 August, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan launched a project to support renewable energy efficiency. A working group has been tasked to analyze the current trends in

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[4] SEC.GAL/0170/11, Report by Mr. Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, 27 October 2011.

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] PC.DEC/1011 - Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, 7 December 2011.

[7] OSCE Office in Baku: "OSCE Office supports discussion on draft law on alternative and renewable energy sources in Azerbaijan", 1 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/baku/85501.

[8] SEC.GAL/0170/11, Report by Mr. Svilanović, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, 27 October 2011.

the energy sphere and the potential for renewable energy in Uzbekistan and draft a strategy and action plan.[9]

On 20 September, the OSCE Centre in Astana participated in a workshop conducted by the Soros Foundation Kazakhstan on sustainable energy sector development. Participants from the government, non-governmental organizations, the energy sector, and international experts discussed ways to increase the transparency and the accountability of Kazakhstan's energy sector while identifying better sustainable development opportunities and creating more favourable conditions for foreign investors.[10]

III. Other International Initiatives

European Commission

On 7 September 2011, the European Commission adopted the Communication "The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders". For the first time the European Commission set out a comprehensive strategy for EU external relations in energy, which underlines the need for improved co-ordination among EU Member States.[11]

The European Commission adopted the Communication "Energy Roadmap 2050" on 15 December. The roadmap explores different scenarios that would enable the EU to reach its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95 per cent below their 1990 levels by 2050, while at the same time improving the competitiveness and the security of supply.[12] "Energy Roadmap 2050" will serve as a tool for the Danish Presidency of the European Union to reboot the stalled talks on the Energy Efficiency Directive.[13]

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[9] SEC.FR/0445/11, Activity Report, 1-31 August 2011, 1 September 2011.

[10] SEC.FR/0518/11, Activity Report 09/11, 1-30 September 2011, 11 October 2011.

[11] European Commission: "On security of energy supply and international co-operation - "The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders"", 7 September 2011, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0539:FIN:EN:PDF

[12] European Commission: "The Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050", 15 December 2011, http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/914.

[13] EurActiv: "2050 roadmap to re-boot stalled energy efficiency talks", 19 December 2011, http://www.euractiv.com/energy-efficiency/2050-roadmap-boot-stalled-energy-efficiency-talks-news-509798.

Regulation of Migration Issues

I. Belgrade Declaration

Recalling the resolution on "Migration as a Continuing Challenge for the OSCE" adopted by the OSCE PA in Oslo, the Belgrade Declaration reaffirms the necessity to co-operate in the preparation and implementation of migration mechanisms. The OSCE PA calls on the Member States of the Council of Europe and, if the Council of Europe invites them to do so, other OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the "European Convention on Nationality", the "Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at the Local Level", and the "European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers". The Declaration also urges ratification of the UN "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air".[14]

Furthermore, the resolution on the "Co-ordination of Migration Policy in the OSCE" calls on participating States to make more effective use of the wealth of expertise within the OSCE, both at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and in the field presences. The OSCE PA also recommends that the OSCE Secretariat, the field presences and the participating States make efforts to collect migration data and promote their international exchange and their common use. The Resolution asks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to make a proposal for the establishment of a network of national focal points for migration, similar to those networks of focal points that already exist in the field of human trafficking and the fight against organized crime.[15]

II. OSCE Initiatives

Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative for Migration

Dutch MP Kathleen Ferrier, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative for Migration, reported on her activities during the 2011 OSCE PA Fall Meetings. Ms. Ferrier evoked her September 2011 visit to Kyrgyzstan where she witnessed some of the major challenges of labour migration. In particular, she noted a growing economic dependence on remittances and the problematic treatment of migrant workers. To better regulate migration issues, the Special Representative called for increased co-ordination of migration policies within the OSCE and a better exchange of information on best practices. Ms. Ferrier noted that Kyrgyzstan was making headway progress in that matter, thanks to the work of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).[16]

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[14] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Declaration", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/675-belgrade-declaration-english.

[15] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Resolutions", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

[16] OSCE PA: "Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative for Migration", 9 October 2011.

Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

Since the Annual Session in Belgrade, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities has continued to promote a comprehensive approach to migration management that supports legal migration and reduces irregular migration by facilitating regional dialogue, co-operation, capacity building activities and exchange of best practices.

The OCEEA has been developing a number of policy guides, handbooks and training materials on migration management to assist OSCE participating States in improving their migration legislation and implementing more effective national policy frameworks. For instance, the Russian version of the OSCE-IOM "Trainer's Manual on Labour Migration Management" was published in February 2012.

Moreover, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities has been engaged in setting up reliable and comparable data on migration. The Office is working on the implementation of the OSCE-IOM project on "Harmonized data collection as a sound basis for policy-making", focusing on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation. Country assessments for the three Central Asian countries as well as a common draft template for migration data collection were developed during 2011, while a country visit to the Russia will take place in April 2012. Their conclusions and recommendations will be compiled in the "Handbook on Migration Data Collection", which will be released in the fall.

The Office is also conducting a project on "Maximizing the Economic Development Aspects of Migration" to raise awareness among governments and financial institutions of the economic potential of migrants' remittances.

Vilnius Ministerial Council

Despite a lively discussion on freedom of movement throughout 2011, no consensus was reached on a Ministerial Decision in Vilnius. The Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office acknowledged that the debate helped "to clarify the position of participating States, and to encourage steps to promote this fundamental freedom".[17]

III.   Other International Initiatives

Dushanbe CIS Summit

On 3 September, the annual summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held in Dushanbe. The presidents of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine and the prime ministers of Azerbaijan, Belarus and Uzbekistan

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[17] OSCE CiO: "Meaningful Steps – Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011", 7 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/mc/86008.

adopted a joint statement on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the CIS. They also considered a draft programme on countering illegal migration designed for 2012-2014.

Cyber Security

I.   Belgrade Declaration

The Belgrade Declaration reaffirms the Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Oslo Declaration of 2010, which recognize that cyber-attacks are a great challenge to governments, and that the results of a cyber-attack against vital State infrastructure and commercial infrastructure are equivalent in nature to those of a conventional act of aggression.

The OSCE PA calls on the international community to increase co-operation and information exchange in the field of cyber security. The Belgrade Declaration emphasizes the need to assess the effectiveness of the existing norms with a view to finding common responses to the rapid development of new information technologies and the increase in the threat of cybercrime.[18]

II.   OSCE Initiatives

Vilnius Ministerial Council

A package of decisions on transnational threats, including confidence-building measures for cyberspace, was brought before the Ministerial Council, but several elements failed to reach consensus.[19] Nevertheless, a decision on "Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats" was adopted. *Inter alia*, the decision supports the OSCE Secretary General's proposal to create a new department in the Secretariat to address transnational threats.[20]

Launch of TNT Department

The OSCE Secretariat's new Transnational Threats (TNT) Department became operational on 1 January 2012. Pending the recruitment of a Director, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier designated himself as Officer-in-Charge.[21]

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[18] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Declaration", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/675-belgrade-declaration-english.

[19] OSCE CiO: "Meaningful Steps – Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011", 7 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/mc/86008.

[20] MC.DEC/0009/11 - Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, 7 December 2011

[21] SEC.GAL/0006/12/Corr.1 - Mtg. on 23 January 2012, Report on the Activities of the TNT Department, 19 January 2012.

Field Activities

On 6-7 October, a conference on tackling cybercrime was organized by the OSCE Office in Baku in co-ordination with the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism and Strategic Police Matters Units, the Council of Europe and the Government of Azerbaijan. With the purpose of raising awareness about issues and possible solutions related to cybercrime as part of a comprehensive approach to cyber security, the conference provided an opportunity to address the challenges of international co-operation in cybercrime investigations.[22]

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) and Ukraine's Ministry of Interior held a roundtable discussion on prosecuting cybercrime on 25 October. The event gathered national and international experts to discuss best practices in the investigation of cybercrime, with a particular focus on the trafficking of children exploited in the pornographic industry.[23]

The last phase of the Regional Advanced Cybercrime Training for Police, organized by the Strategic Police Matters Unit, Europol and University College Dublin took place on 14-18 November. The programme trained police officers from Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The project is expected to serve as a model to develop police cybercrime experts in other OSCE regions.[24]

III.   Other International Initiatives

Astana CSTO Summit

Heads of State of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) worked out measures to fight potential threats in the information sphere and cyber space during an informal summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 12 August 2011.[25] CSTO leaders agreed to create a unified preventive strategy for cyberspace.

Draft United Nations Resolution

On 12 September Russia, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan called for international negotiations, within the UN framework, to draft a resolution on an international code of conduct for information security. The proposed UN resolution calls for UN members to co-operate in the

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[22] OSCE Office in Baku: "Tackling cybercrime focus of OSCE conference in Baku", 6 October 2011, http://www.osce.org/baku/83604.

[23] OSCE: "OSCE discusses approaches to prosecuting cybercrime aspects of trafficking in Ukraine", 25 October 2011, http://www.osce.org/ukraine/84326.

[24] SEC.GAL/0190/11 - Report on the Activities of the Secretariat's Thematic Units Aimed at Addressing Transnational Threats, 9 December 2011.

[25] RT: "CSTO grapples with cyber security", 15 August 2011, http://rt.com/politics/csto-cyber-threat-bordyuzha/.

fight against criminal and terrorist activities in the cyberspace. It also calls on countries to vow not to use technology to carry out hostile acts of aggression.[26]

Octopus 2011

On 21-23 November the Council of Europe hosted the Octopus Conference on Co-operation against Cybercrime. The plenary and workshop discussions underlined the growing challenge posed by cybercrime and the need for greater capacity building in order to implement standards, tools and good practices already available. The Octopus Conference also encouraged international organizations to reinforce their co-operation in the field of cyber security.

On the tenth anniversary of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, participants noted that the treaty serves as a guideline to build comprehensive national legal frameworks in harmony with international standards. They also noted it is a dynamic instrument that can be supplemented to address new challenges.[27]

NATO Cyber Defence

On 20 September, NATO formally launched the procurement process for the full operational capability of the Alliance's cyber defences, as well as a multinational project aiming to lower the costs of cyber defence for NATO Allies. The new cyber defence capability is among 11 priority projects agreed at the November 2012 Lisbon Summit and is expected to be up and running by the end of 2012.[28]

From 13 to 15 December NATO conducted a cyber defence exercise to test the Alliance's technical and operational cyber defence capabilities. The exercise, called Cyber Coalition 2011, tested NATO protocol for responding to large scale cyber-attacks targeting information infrastructures of NATO and individual countries. The exercise offered an opportunity to look into the needs for collaboration between NATO and partner nations. The European Union participated in the exercise with an observer role.[29]

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[26] UN General Assembly: "Letter dated 12 September 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of China, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General", 14 September 2011, http://blog.internetgovernance.org/pdf/UN-infosec-code.pdf.

[27] CoE: "Octopus 2011 – Key Messages", 30 November 2011, http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/cy_Octopus_Interface_2011/2079IF11_conclusions_V7_30nov.pdf .

[28] NATO: "NATO launches 2012 cyber defence procurement", 23 September 2011, http://www.nc3a.nato.int/news/Pages/NATO-launches-2012-cyber-defence-procurement.aspx.

[29] NATO: "Cyber Coalition 2011 exercise tests NATO procedures for cyber defence", 15 December 2011, http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-2767E976-DA4C52A8/natolive/news_82213.htm.

Combating Labour Trafficking

I. Belgrade Declaration

Recalling the principles of the St. Petersburg Declaration (1999), the Brussels Declaration (2006) and the Kyiv Declaration (2007), the OSCE PA adopted in Belgrade a resolution on Combating Labour Trafficking in Supply Chains.

The resolution urges participating States to prosecute labour trafficking and to provide protection for labour trafficking victims. In addition, the resolution encouraged OSCE parliamentarians to work with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to foster political will for an OSCE Ministerial Decision or Ministerial Declaration on combating trafficking for labour exploitation, including domestic servitude.[30]

II. OSCE Initiatives

Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues

On behalf of U.S. Representative Christopher Smith, U.S. Representative Aderholt reported on the activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues during the 2011 OSCE PA Fall Meetings. Since the Annual Session in Belgrade, Congressman Smith met with legislative and executive branch officials from Ireland, Guinea, Somaliland, the Holy See, and the European Parliament, which he advised on innovative methods to combat human trafficking.

Based on the findings of the "Trafficking in Persons Report", released annually by the U.S. Department of State, the Special Representative stated that "trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation still remains rampant in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" and observed that "the OSCE has taken steps forward [to combat human trafficking], but that some states require particular focus to improve their anti-trafficking response." In particular, Congressman Smith called on Participating States to focus on victim identification and prosecution of both sex and labour trafficking.[31]

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2011, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) devoted specific attention and resources to child trafficking and trafficking for labour exploitation. Throughout the year, the OSR/CTHB continued to advocate

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[30] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Resolutions", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

[31] OSCE PA: "Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues", 10 October 2011,
http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/650-2011-report-of-the-sr-on-human-trafficking-issues.

for the OSCE cross-dimensional and human rights approach to combating trafficking in human beings and emphasized the importance of comprehensive and co-ordinated strategies.

On 3-4 October, an expert seminar on leveraging anti-money laundering regimes to help combat human trafficking was organized in Vienna. The event was a joint effort of the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing, and the Anti-Human Trafficking & Migrant Smuggling Unit. The seminar aimed to advance the body of operational knowledge available in financial investigations, in order to identify perpetrators of human trafficking activity and bring them to justice. It also looked at identifying and confiscating the instruments and proceeds of human trafficking activity.

On 23-24 November, the OSR/CTHB and ODIHR organized the Annual Anti-trafficking Focal Points Meeting, during which the Secretariat and representatives from OSCE field operations discussed anti-trafficking actions in the OSCE region. ODIHR presented its work on promoting access to justice and briefing on the elaboration of the ODIHR's Guide on Human Rights Protection in the Return of Trafficked Persons. The Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings provided policy guidance for the implementation of OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and advocated for a common platform for co-ordination in 2012-2013.[32]

The OSR/CTHB convened the 12th Annual Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team (AECT) meeting on 16 December. The conference was attended by representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), Interpol, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and several other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The meeting focused on the current status of non-punishment provisions of trafficked persons in the national legal systems, the safe and dignified return of trafficked persons, and trafficking for the removal of organs. The conference also served as a follow up to the 11th AECT meeting which addressed "Preventing Trafficking for Labour Exploitation: Decent Work and Social Justice."[33]

Field Activities

In July, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, jointly with the U.S. Embassy and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), released Tajik, Russian and English versions of the "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in Tajikistan 2011-2013". The action plan was

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[32] OSCE OSR/CTHB: "An Agenda for Prevention: Activities and Challenges in 2011", 7 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/cthb/86292.

[33] SEC.GAL/0007/12 - Talking Points of the Secretary General, 19 January 2012.

developed co-operatively by the government, civil society and international organizations, and remains a platform for quarterly dialogue sessions on its implementation.

From August to October, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) organized several regional meetings with NGOs and police servicemen specialized in anti-trafficking to increase co-operation between the police and the Department of Combating Cybercrimes and Trafficking in Human Beings. Through the summer, the PCU also continued to provide expert legislative assistance to Ukrainian authorities focusing on the finalization of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law. The Law "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" was adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament In September 2011. In addition, the PCU worked developed and conducted a public awareness campaign on prevention of trafficking in human beings ahead of the international football championship that Ukraine and Poland will host in 2012.[34]

The OSCE Presence in Albania held a training on 22 September, for the Korça Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee, in co-operation with Albania's National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator. The training provided information on human trafficking and ways of improving inter-agency co-operation. A similar training was organized on 20 October for the Gjirokastra Regional Anti-Trafficking Committee.

On 14 October, the OSCE Presence in Albania, the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator and Terre des Hommes co-organized a meeting on anti-trafficking issues between Albania and Kosovo/UNMIK authorities, which served as a forum to discuss a draft Protocol of Co-operation for the protection of trafficked children.

On 11 October, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo published a report entitled "Defining and Prosecuting the Crime of Human Trafficking", which was distributed to the Kosovo Judicial Council, the Kosovo Judicial Institute, and other international and local stakeholders working in the area of human rights and rule of law. The Mission will support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report to improve the performance of the courts in addressing human trafficking. On 18 October, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, in collaboration with the Kosovo Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator and Secretariat, marked European Anti-trafficking Day with the launch of an anti-trafficking and domestic violence helpline.

The OSCE Office in Baku organized a training seminar on "Human Trafficking and Forced Labour for Regional Law Enforcement Agencies" on 13-16 December. Supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the meeting strived to raise awareness among regional police officers and public officials in the area of prevention and combating human trafficking. It also supported the creation of a referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking at the regional level.[35]

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[34] SEC.FR/0652/11 – OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Semi-Annual Activity Report, June-November 2011, 15 December 2011.

[35] SEC.GAL/0007/12 - Talking Points of the Secretary General, 19 January 2012.

Vilnius Ministerial Council

In Vilnius, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration on "Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking". The OSCE participating States underlined their deep concern that human trafficking remains a serious problem in the OSCE area. They acknowledged the role of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and, without referring directly to the OSCE PA, appreciated the co-operation with parliamentarians of the participating States on combating human trafficking. The Ministers acknowledged that labour rights must be respected in order to prevent trafficking in human beings. To that effect, the Ministerial Declaration recommended the development and application of measures to improve labour practices and promote the enforcement of internationally recognized labour rights.[36]

III. Other International Initiatives

Council of Europe

On 6-9 December the Council of Europe hosted a meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). GRETA held an exchange of views with representatives of international non-governmental organisations active in the area of action against trafficking in human beings (Anti-Slavery International, ECPAT International and La Strada International). In addition, GRETA took stock of the evaluations of the 1st group of 10 Parties to the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.[37]

International Labour Organization

On 26 October the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Helpdesk for Business and the Special Action Programme to combat forced labour organized an online seminar on "Eradicating Forced Labour from Global Supply Chains", which provided practical guidance to assess and address forced labour risks.[38]

The ILO launched the "ILO Survey Guidelines to Measure Forced Labour of Adults and Children" on 15 December. The guidelines are meant to help national governments obtain reliable data in order to implement targeted and effective responses.[39]

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[36] MC.DOC/0001/11 - Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking, 7 December 2011.

[37] CoE: "12th meeting of GRETA – List of Decisions", 9 December 2011, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/GRETA_MeetingDocs/Lists%20of%20decisions/THB-GRETA_2011_LD12_en.pdf

[38] ILO: First webinar on "Eradicating Forced Labour from Global Supply Chains", 26 October 2011, http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/News/WCMS_166058/lang--en/index.htm

[39] ILO: "Launch of the ILO Survey Guidelines to Measure Forced Labour of Adults and Children", 15 December 2011, http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/News/WCMS_170280/lang--en/index.htm

Free Movement of Information and Knowledge

I. Belgrade Declaration

In Belgrade, the OSCE PA emphasized the fundamental importance of freedom of expression and recognized the enormous potential of the Internet for realizing the right to freedom of expression and to information. The Resolution on the Free Movement of Information and Knowledge supports media independence and calls on OSCE countries to act more decisively on guaranteeing the development of critical, free and pluralistic media. In addition, the PA invites the OSCE to enable the Representative on Freedom of the Media and ODIHR to be more active in the field of promoting free movement of information and knowledge and its free access.[40]

II. OSCE Initiatives

Chairmanship-in-Office

The Lithuanian Chairmanship made freedom of the media a priority for its term in office. In particular, the Vilnius conference on Safety of Journalists organized on 7-8 June helped draft a set of specific recommendations – the Vilnius Recommendations – which are to be considered as a roadmap for national governments, legislatures, law enforcement agencies and the media to protect journalists. As a follow-up, the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Office of the Representative on the Freedom of the Media teamed to create a detailed guidebook to journalists' safety setting forth specific best practices. The guidebook was made available at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius on 6-7 December.[41]

The Irish Chairmanship has also made media freedom one of its priorities in 2012. In particular, the Chairman-in-Office has vowed to defend the issue of Internet freedom "to highlight the fact that human rights and fundamental freedoms do not change with new technologies, but extend into the digital age."[42] New digital media will be at the centre of an OSCE conference to be held in Dublin in June 2012.

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

On 7-8 July, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media held a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting dedicated to the "Promotion of Pluralism in New Media". The meeting brought together a total of 191 participants, including 41 representatives from 37 NGOs, and 102 delegates from 42 OSCE participating States. The discussion focused on the

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[40] OSCE PA: "Belgrade Resolutions", 6-10 July 2011,
http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

[41] For the guidebook see: http://www.osce.org/fom/85777.

[42] OSCE CiO: "Irish Deputy Prime Minister presents 2012 OSCE Chairmanship priorities", 12 January 2012,
http://www.osce.org/cio/86960.

development of electronic and new forms of media and their possible implications on media freedom and pluralism. The Representative on Freedom of the Media also presented the findings of the first OSCE-wide study on content regulation on the Internet.[43]

Throughout 2011, the Representative on the Freedom of the Media has repeatedly voiced concerns about Internet regulation policies proposed by several participating States. She underlined that, although States do have a legitimate right to ensure their own stability and protect themselves from all forms of crime, OSCE commitments rest on the core idea that freedom and security are intimately linked. Dunja Mijatović further emphasized that free Internet, including social networks, blogs and online news media, leads to more transparency and political accountability worldwide.

On 11 January 2012, the Representative on Freedom of the Media released a position paper on the importance of Internet freedom. Dunja Mijatović underlined that in today's "information societies a free Internet is instrumental to exercise the basic right to freedom of expression and the corollary right to freedom of the media." She also stated that "access to and the use of Internet and all its services is widely considered a human right in the 21st century."[44]

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Mediterranean Forum

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou spoke about freedom of expression during the OSCE PA's Mediterranean Forum, held in Dubrovnik on 9 October. He underlined that "freedom of expression means embracing new technology, particularly the internet, and turning away from the repression of the past."[45]

Inaugural South East Europe Media Conference

In co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the support of the OSCE field presences in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Skopje, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media organized the first South East Europe Media Conference on 13-14 October in Sarajevo. The conference brought together approximately 100 international and local experts and media members from South East Europe. The meeting focused on the politicization and independence of the media and additional topics including public service broadcasting, legal challenges to media freedom, violence against and intimidation of journalists, and their employment conditions. Participants agreed on a conference declaration

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[43] For the study on content regulation on the Internet see: http://www.osce.org/fom/80723.

[44] OSCE RFoM: "Internet Freedom – Why it Matters", 11 January 2012, http://www.osce.org/fom/86003.

[45] OSCE PA: "Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou", Mediterranean Forum, 9 October 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/380-president-efthymiou-remarks-at-mediterranean-forum-english.

that outlined major recommendations to governments and media to support and develop a free press, which was forwarded to OSCE pS Foreign Ministers.[46]

South Caucasus Media Conference

On 20-21 October, the 8th Annual South Caucasus Media Conference took place in Tbilisi. More than 70 journalists, government officials and NGO representatives gathered to discuss issues related to pluralism and Internet governance and the state of media freedom in the Caucasus. The participants adopted a conference declaration, which was forwarded to the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to ask for their consideration when looking at related issues.[47]

Central Asia Media Conference

On 29-30 November, the 13th Central Asia Media Conference was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media with the assistance of the OSCE field presences in Central Asia. Participants discussed the role of the Internet in promoting pluralism in the OSCE region and Central Asia in particular, analyzed international standards and national practices in this field, exchanged experiences, as well as shared the latest developments in the field of media freedom in Central Asia. The conference called on governments to put in place all necessary legislative and technological parameters to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information, including through modern information and communication technologies, urged OSCE participating States to ensure that the Internet remains an open and public forum for freedom of expression, and emphasized that media pluralism is one of the most important conditions for the existence of a democratic society.[48]

Vilnius Ministerial Council

Despite broad support from OSCE participating States and civil society, consensus was not reached to adopt a decision "On Pluralism in Digital Media" and a declaration "On Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age".[49]

III.   Other International Initiatives

Council of Europe

On 21 September, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recommended that States adopt a new broad notion of media and acknowledge that social networks, online games or

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[46] For the conference declaration see: http://osce.org/fom/83941.

[47] For the declaration see: http://www.osce.org/fom/84371.

[48] OSCE RoFM: "13th Central Asia Media Conference – Pluralism and Internet Governance, Declaration",
30 November 2011, http://www.osce.org/fom/85765.

[49] OSCE CiO: "Meaningful Steps – Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011",
7 December 2011, http://www.osce.org/mc/86008.

online whistleblower sites are entitled to media freedom rights and responsibilities established under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.[50] The Committee of Ministers also adopted a "Recommendation on the protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet", which lays out a framework of co-operation for member states to preserve a global, stable and open Internet as a means of safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information.[51] In addition, the Committee adopted ten Internet governance principles which are to be followed in national and international policies related to the Internet.[52]

European Commission

On 11 October the European Commission convened the first meeting of the High Level Group on Media Freedom and Pluralism. The independent group has been established to provide recommendations for the respect, protection, support and promotion of media freedom and pluralism in Europe. An assessment report will be submitted to the European Commission by the autumn of 2012. [53]

On 7 November the European Commission initiated a Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom within the Robert Schuman School of the European University Institute. The institute's new centre is tasked with undertaking problem analysis and developing new ideas on how to meet the expectations of citizens and politicians regarding media pluralism and freedom within the EU.[54]

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[50] CoE: "Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on a new notion of media", 21 September 2011,
https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2011)7&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

[51] CoE: "Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet", 21 September 2011,
https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2011)8&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

[52] CoE: "Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on Internet governance principles", 21 September 2011,
https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1835773&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

[53] EC: " Digital Agenda: high-level group to discuss freedom and pluralism of the media across the EU",
11 October 2011,
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1173&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

[54] EC: "Digital Agenda: Commission awards €600,000 for new Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom",
7 November 2011,
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1307&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en