



## **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**

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

**Final Report for the 2012 Annual Session**

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

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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 politico-military dimension of the general theme, the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security passed resolutions dealing with, *inter alia*, Moldova, Mediterranean Political Transition and the Corfu Process.

This Final Report considers actions taken over the past year by the OSCE, including Institutions and field presences, and other members of the international community in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations.

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.

## Activities beyond the OSCE Area

### I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The OSCE PA's Belgrade Declaration, "[e]ncourages the OSCE to increase upon request the sharing of its values and experience beyond the OSCE area, particularly to OSCE Partners for Co-operation ... and other relevant international and regional organizations." Further, the OSCE PA adopted a resolution on Mediterranean Political Transition, calling on the OSCE PA and OSCE respective Secretariats "to engage the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Union for the Mediterranean and the many other Euro-Mediterranean entities in order to facilitate focused and practical co-operation with the activities of the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension."

### II. OSCE PA Initiatives

#### *OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum and Fall Meetings*

At the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum in Dubrovnik, Croatia in October 2011, more than 200 parliamentarians from across the OSCE area met with representatives from Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia to promote democratic transition and strengthen international engagement in the Mediterranean region. OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou reiterated that "OSCE security work in the southern Mediterranean should be based on international co-operation aimed at eliminating the social and economic causes of instability, reinforcing democratization, and restoring an inter-cultural dialogue."<sup>1</sup>

#### *OSCE PA Election Observation Mission in Tunisia*

The OSCE PA observed the historic elections in Tunisia on 23 October 2011, the first democratic elections in the region since a revolution in Tunisia incited a wave of unrest throughout the Middle East and North Africa, dubbed 'the Arab Spring'. Seventy-five OSCE PA observers from 21 OSCE participating States and Algeria observed voting procedures in Djerba, Gafsa, Hammamet, Kairouan, Nabeul, Sidi Bouzid, Sousse, Tozeur, and Tunis. OSCE PA Vice-President Riccardo Migliori of Italy headed the delegation. "In this early phase of democratic transition, only months after violent protests, we saw genuinely free elections," Migliori reported. "My colleagues and I could not witness any widespread or systematic irregularities."<sup>2</sup>

#### *OSCE PA's President Visit to Israel*

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou, paid an official visit to Israel in February 2012. In his meetings, he urged Israeli parliamentarians to engage more intensively in OSCE activities and promoted peaceful dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli leaders amid changing dynamics in

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<sup>1</sup> 'Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou, Mediterranean Forum, Dubrovnik, Croatia – 9 October 2011.' Available at [http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc\\_download/380-president-efthymiou-remarks-at-mediterranean-forum-english](http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/380-president-efthymiou-remarks-at-mediterranean-forum-english).

<sup>2</sup> Press Release, 'Parliamentary observers applaud Tunisian elections', OSCE PA. Available at <http://oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/847-parliamentary-observers-applaud-tunisian-elections>.

the region. Efthymiou also covered topics relevant to the OSCE engagement with Mediterranean Partner countries, such as water management, desalination, solar energy and telecommunication infrastructure. As for the stalled talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, he reiterated that the Parliamentary Assembly supports a fair and viable two-state solution, able to guarantee the security of the State of Israel and an independent Palestinian State.<sup>3</sup>

**The role of Israel as an OSCE Partner State, including concrete areas for co-operation, was also discussed in a meeting between the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and the Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman in Vienna in January 2012.**

### III. OSCE Initiatives

#### *International Co-operation*

Promoting close co-operation between the OSCE and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and institutions, on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, was one of the main priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship. At the Vilnius Ministerial Council, participating States agreed on the need to increase co-operation and co-ordination between OSCE executive structures and other international and regional organizations, especially with their respective structures in the field, and with civil society organizations, to increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing and reduce unnecessary duplication.<sup>4</sup>

The CiO also aimed to enhance the level of interaction with the OSCE's Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.<sup>5</sup> The 2011 Ministerial Council called for a broadening of the existing dialogue and co-operation with Partners for Co-operation across the three dimensions of the OSCE's work.<sup>6</sup>

#### *OSCE-Mediterranean Dialogue*

In 2011, the attention of the OSCE community was very much focused on developments in the southern Mediterranean. Uprisings in the region created both new opportunities and challenges to the people of the affected countries, as well as for the OSCE. In response to the ongoing changes in the southern Mediterranean, participating States held a number of discussions and expressed the OSCE's readiness and willingness to support democratic transition processes in the region, drawing upon the Organization's experience in assisting democratic transitions in its own participating States. The OSCE shared information on areas in which the Organization might offer support with the governments of Egypt and Tunisia.

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<sup>3</sup> Press release, "President Efthymiou urges peace, regional co-operation in official visit to Israel - 14 February 2012", OSCE PA. Available at <http://www.osce.org/pa/88196>.

<sup>4</sup> '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,' MC.DEC/3/11, 7 December 2011.

<sup>5</sup> '2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme,' CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev.1, 12 January 2011.

<sup>6</sup> 'Partners for Co-operation', MC.DEC/5/11, 7 December 2011.

Several Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation expressed interest in relevant OSCE experience and expertise. To explore further possible areas of co-operation, the Chairperson-in-Office, Irish Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore, visited Tunisia on 15-17 April, ODIHR Director Ambassador Janez Lenarčič visited Morocco on 24-27 May, and Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė and a team of ODIHR experts visited Egypt from 31 May to 3 June. OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier visited Cairo in September for meetings with Egyptian officials and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

At the Mediterranean Partners Contact Group meeting held in February 2012, the Secretary General reported that he had tasked the Secretariat to produce a list of possible projects and topics of potential co-operation within the three dimensions, reflecting the OSCE's specific expertise in the areas of expressed interest. This list was shared and discussed with the Mediterranean Partner Contact Points at an informal meeting in March. The projects include activities to be held both inside and outside the OSCE area. Partners have been encouraged to attend these events, and participating States encouraged to support such participation where necessary.<sup>7</sup>

#### *2011 OSCE Mediterranean Conference*

The OSCE Mediterranean Conference took place in Budva, Montenegro on 10-11 October. Discussions focused on the role of the police and the armed forces in democratic societies, promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and strengthening good governance. Thirty-six OSCE participating States and all six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation attended the conference, which was addressed by OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou, who spoke of the need to strengthen OSCE engagement with the region.

The Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Renatas Norkus, emphasized that “[t]he OSCE is open and willing to share its know-how with Mediterranean partners... in the areas of election support, democratic institution building, NGO capacity building, police reform, and good governance”.<sup>8</sup>

#### *2011 OSCE Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference*

Representatives of civil society from OSCE participating States and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation met in Vilnius on 4-5 December 2011, in the lead-up to the Ministerial Council. Participants shared lessons learned from civil society engagement in democratic transition to develop a common vision of future partnership and co-operation.<sup>9</sup> In the Conference Conclusions, OSCE participating States were called on to provide expertise, training and other activities to increase the capacity of civil society organizations.

#### *2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation*

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<sup>7</sup> “List of Potential Projects and Topics of Potential Co-operation with the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation”, SEC.GAL/51/12, 15 March 2012

<sup>8</sup> “Closing Remarks by Ambassador Renatas Norkus, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship,” CIO.GAL/204/11, 17 October 2011.

<sup>9</sup> ‘Conference Conclusions and Recommendations,’ CIO.GAL/244/11, 5 December 2011.

On 23-24 May 2011, the 2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between OSCE and the Asian Partners of Co-operation took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.<sup>10</sup> Discussions focused on co-operative responses to transnational threats, international economic co-operation with an emphasis on transport and energy security, and the role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in promoting comprehensive security.

All the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Thailand) were represented at the conference, in addition to 19 OSCE participating States, including Hungary, which represented the European Union. Also represented were the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

### *Afghanistan*

At the Astana OSCE Summit, Heads of State or Government stressed the need “to contribute effectively, based on the capacity and national interest of each participating State, to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.” This call was reinforced in an MC decision taken in Vilnius on *Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. The decision tasks the Secretary General, *inter alia*, with developing a new comprehensive package of activities with Afghanistan across all three dimensions.

On the occasion of a Joint FSC-PC Meeting in Vienna in May 2012, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier presented four proposals for strengthening the OSCE engagement, notably on stepping up capacity building activities on border management, contributing to the implementation of confidence-building measures as envisaged under the Istanbul Process, making the most out of the partnership with Afghanistan, increasing the political impact and coherence of OSCE engagement.<sup>11</sup>

### *Mongolia*

On 28 October, OSCE Partner for Co-operation Mongolia expressed its interest in becoming an OSCE participating State. This initiative was well-received, and was discussed at a high-level informal lunch at the Vilnius Ministerial Council. In the Ministerial decision, Mongolia's application was welcomed and the 2012 Irish Chairmanship was tasked to follow up on the request with a view to adopting a decision on Mongolia becoming the OSCE's 57th participating State.

The Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Eoin O'Leary, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and a team of experts from OSCE Institutions and Secretariat visited Mongolia 3 to 6 June. The visit was organized by the Chairmanship following Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/11 on the application of Mongolia to become an OSCE participating

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<sup>10</sup> ‘2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between OSCE and the Asian Partners of Co-operation - Consolidated Summary,’ SEC.GAL/110/11, 30 June 2011.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Security Dialogue: *Transition aspects in Afghanistan*’, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Joint FSC-PC Meeting”, SEC.GAL/86/12, 10 May 2012.

State. The purpose of the visit was to consult with key government officials and representatives of civil society about Mongolia's readiness to implement OSCE commitments. Meetings were held with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Minister of Environment, the State Secretary of Defence, and the National Security Adviser to the President. The OSCE experts also had meetings with counterparts across all three dimensions.<sup>12</sup>

### *Thailand*

An OSCE conference on building synergies between regional organizations and further engagement with OSCE partner countries in order to tackle shared security threats, including those emanating from Afghanistan, was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 13-14 February. The event, which saw the participation of representatives from 18 OSCE participating States and all the OSCE's Asian Partners for Co-operation (Australia, Afghanistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Thailand), discussed confidence- and security-building measures, co-operation in addressing transnational threats, strengthening regional security through dialogue and co-operation for the promotion of sustainable transport and energy security as well as Exchange of experiences in protecting and promoting human rights, rule of law and democracy at the national and regional levels.<sup>13</sup>

## **Conflict Prevention and Rapid Reaction Capability**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

The Belgrade Declaration “[c]alls for the Permanent Council of the OSCE to provide the Conflict Prevention Centre with improved capacity for the Organization's rapid reaction capability to live up to its mandate in situations like the 2010 crisis in Kyrgyzstan.”

### **II. OSCE Initiatives**

#### *Ministerial Council*

The Ministerial decision on *Elements of the Conflict Cycle* tasked the Secretary General to ensure that the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) functions as the focal point of the Organization-wide systematic collection, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating closely with other OSCE executive structure and the Parliamentary Assembly.<sup>14</sup> As a result of the decision, the Secretary General designated the CPC's Operations Service as the focal point for organization-wide mediation-support with a view to developing a systematic mediation-support capacity within the CPC. Elements of the

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<sup>12</sup> “Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office. 915<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 7 June 2012”, CIO.GAL/67/12/Rev.1, 8 June 2012.

<sup>13</sup> “2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference Strengthening Security Through Regional Co-operation: The OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co-operation - Chiang Mai, Thailand, 13 – 14 February 2012 - Consolidated Summary”, SEC.GAL/39/12/Rev.1, 6 March 2012.

<sup>14</sup> ‘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,’ MC.DEC/3/11, 7 December 2011.



envisaged proposal for mediation-support as well as way the proposal should be put forward by the Secretariat were discussed in the 2nd Meeting of the 'Open-ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle'. The proposal will elaborate on the issues of developing of a systematic mediation-support capacity and on the strengthening of the role of OSCE mediators at all levels.<sup>15</sup>

The decision called for strengthened exchanges of information between OSCE executive structures with the aim of consolidating the OSCE's early warning capacity in a more methodical, comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner. In response to the above tasks, the Secretary General developed an internal guiding framework document to be used by the OSCE executive structures to facilitate OSCE early warning. Entitled, 'Early Warning: Internal OSCE Guidelines', the document is intended to further strengthen co-operation between early warning focal points within OSCE executive structures as well as providing training for those focal points. It will be reviewed and refined on a regular basis in light of further experience.<sup>16</sup>

The Secretary General is tasked with providing early warning to participating States by bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council emerging tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area, suggesting possible options for timely and effective responses in consultation with the Chairmanship and participating States. Ministers urged the Chairmanship to use its mandate to the full extent and to convene the Permanent Council without delay, including in a special, reinforced, or joint Forum for Security Co-operation-Permanent Council meeting, if necessary, to consider early warning signals and possible response options.

The Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairmanship, will prepare a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations and also on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during emerging crises and conflicts and present it for consideration by the Permanent Council.

In this regard, a Food-for-Thought paper was prepared within the CPC offering various suggestions, for instance:

- the OSCE PA sharing its assessment of the emerging developments and possible response options with the PC, Chairmanship, Secretary General and appropriate executive structure(s);
- the Chairperson-in-Office considering the nomination of an appropriate parliamentary member of the OSCE PA as its special envoy/representative for a particular crisis/conflict;
- the OSCE PA availing itself of the positive contributions that members of parliament could make towards preventive diplomacy;

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<sup>15</sup> Implementation of MC Decision No. 3/11 on 'Elements of the Conflict Cycle', with a focus on Dialogue Facilitation, Mediation and Mediation-Support, SEC.GAL/67/12, 16 April 2012.

<sup>16</sup> "Implementation of MC Decision No. 3/11 on 'Elements of the Conflict Cycle', with a focus on the OSCE Early Warning Capacity", SEC.GAL/53/12, 15 March 2012.

- and, following close co-ordination, the OSCE PA President sending public messages complementing those of the Chairmanship, Secretary General and executive structure during crisis/conflict.<sup>17</sup>

The participating States agreed to develop rosters of national experts readily available for OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts as well as for other phases of the conflict cycle and to make optimal use of OSCE instruments launched by previous OSCE documents such as Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT).

The Secretary General will provide a report on progress made and possible options for the way forward in the area of conflict resolution by 16 July 2012.

## **The Corfu Process**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

The Belgrade Declaration calls on the OSCE to continue informal discussions started under the so-called *Corfu Process* under the direct leadership of the Chairmanship. Contributions from the OSCE PA, when appropriate, should also play a role in determining the future strategy of the OSCE.

### **II. OSCE Chairmanship**

The Lithuanian Chairmanship initiated a series of informal ambassadorial discussions in the style and spirit of the Corfu Process, called the “V to V Dialogue” (Vancouver to Vladivostok via Vienna and Vilnius). An outgrowth of the 2010 Greek Chairmanship’s Corfu Process, these dialogues included events and seminars hosted by think tanks, academic and civil society experts, co-sponsored by willing participating States on similar or closely-related topics.

A total of eight meetings were held throughout the year on topics ranging from the conflict cycle, early warning and analytical capacities, post-conflict rehabilitation, natural and man-made disasters, the Vilnius Ministerial Council, capacity for mediation support, and early response to crises and emerging conflicts.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Conclusions*

Permanent Representatives of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in Vienna, the OSCE Secretary General, the Parliamentary Assembly, representatives of OSCE executive structures, as well as representatives of international think tanks attended the final dialogue event in December.

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<sup>17</sup> “Food-for-Thought Paper on The Possible Contribution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to Developing Effective Response to Emerging Crises and Conflicts”, 9 May 2012.

<sup>18</sup> ‘The V to V Dialogues,’ OSCE.org. Available at <http://www.osce.org/cio/81397>.

Concluding speakers underlined the useful steps that had been taken in 2011, and stressed that the OSCE has great potential to help states develop relations of a “win-win” nature, away from the “zero-sum games” of the Cold War. It was noted that the OSCE’s core activities – reconciliation, trust, and confidence- and security-building measures – are all still needed today.

## **Food Security and Self-Sufficiency**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

At the 2011 Annual Session, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly identified food security and self-sufficiency as an integral challenge to broader security in the OSCE area. The Belgrade Declaration “calls on the OSCE to consider including this issue on its agenda with the goal of reducing political instability, radicalization of conflict and unacceptable inequalities.”

### **II. OSCE Initiatives**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly collaborated with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) to produce a video calling for legislative action to address rural jobs and food security issues. The video featured Oxfam director of campaigns and policy Phil Bloomer, UN FAO Senior Economist David Dawe, OSCE PA Vice-President and Member of Parliament of Italy Riccardo Migliori, and Member of Parliament of Armenia Khachik Harutyunyan, who also successfully passed a resolution on food security during the OSCE PA Annual Session.<sup>19</sup>

Food security and self-sufficiency did not feature in major discussions on the OSCE’s governmental side during this time period.

## **Protracted Conflicts**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

The 2011 Belgrade Declaration “deplores the recent increase in tension around Nagorno-Karabakh, and urges that increased political efforts be made within the OSCE to settle the unresolved conflicts”. Furthermore, the OSCE PA adopted a resolution on Moldova, calling for “the resumption of the settlement talks in the 5+2 format, with the efforts of the mediators from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE, as well as the European Union and the United States as observers in the settlement negotiations”.

### **II. OSCE PA Initiatives**

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<sup>19</sup> For more information, visit <http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/547-watch-parliamentary-spotlight-on-food-security>.

*2011 Fall Meetings in Dubrovnik*

On 8 October 2011, the OSCE PA organized a special presentation on 'The Role of the OSCE in Conflict Resolution: Nagorno-Karabakh', in which all three Minsk Group Co-Chairs jointly appeared before the Parliamentary Assembly for the first time. The presentation was chaired by OSCE PA President Emeritus and current OSCE PA Special Representative to the South Caucasus, João Soares. The Co-Chairs, Ambassador Bernard Fassier of France, Ambassador Robert Bradtke of the United States, and Ambassador Igor Popov of Russia, outlined the progress the group has made in settling the unresolved conflict and stressed that the status quo in the conflict zone is untenable. The Co-Chairs emphasized that direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with mediation by the Minsk Group, was the only way to provide a meaningful solution to the conflict.

Following these keynote speeches, OSCE PA delegates from Armenia and Azerbaijan were also given an equal opportunity to speak, in which both sides expressed their continuing desire to find a fair settlement and bring about peace. A proposal was presented to establish direct dialogue between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

In the ensuing discussion, parliamentarians expressed their support for the work of the Minsk Group and their will that the Assembly could play a positive role in building confidence amongst the parties through parliamentary diplomacy. They highlighted the difficulties in interpreting international law and insisted that the top priority was to avoid war.

*Moldova*

OSCE PA Vice-President Riccardo Migliori visited the OSCE Mission in Moldova at the end of March 2012. He met with Jan Plesinger, the Deputy Head of the Mission; Marian Lupu, Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova; Simion Furdui, Head of the Moldovan Delegation to the OSCE PA; Iurie Leanca, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Yevgeny Karpov, Deputy Prime Minister on Reintegration. In his meetings, Migliori reiterated the OSCE PA's commitment to achieving a settlement of the protracted conflict in Transdnistria, in full respect of the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty envisaged by international law. He commended the Moldovan government for its commitment to OSCE values, while the Moldovan representatives expressed their appreciation for the work of the OSCE PA, particularly the Parliamentary Team on Moldova chaired by PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas.<sup>20</sup>

A delegation comprising members of the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova visited Chisinau and Tiraspol on 16-18 May 2012. In Chisinau, the group led by Walburga Habsburg Douglas met with the recently elected President Nicolae Timofti, Prime Minister Vlad Filat, Speaker of Parliament Marian Lupu, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Iurie Leanca, as well as the Moldovan delegation to the OSCE PA. The delegation had a meeting as well with the chief negotiators in the Transdnistrian settlement process, Eugen Carpov and Nina Shtanski. In Tiraspol, the delegation met the Transdnistrian Leader, Yevgeny Shevchuk, and representatives of the Supreme Soviet. Throughout their meetings, the team welcomed the

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<sup>20</sup> News from Copenhagen: "Migliori participates in human trafficking Round Table, visits Moldova", n. 430, 18 April 2012.

resumption of the 5+2 negotiations, encouraging intensified co-operation and the establishment of parliamentary contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol. Consultations were also held with the OSCE Mission to Moldova and counterparts in Chisinau on an OSCE PA resolution on Moldova to be debated at the Assembly's Annual Session in Monaco.<sup>21</sup>

### III. OSCE Initiatives

#### *Lithuanian Chairmanship*

One of the priorities of Lithuania's OSCE Chairmanship was to promote settlement of protracted conflicts and to enhance the capabilities of the OSCE to address all phases of the conflict cycle.<sup>22</sup> This core function of the Organization was the topic of several workshops, seminars, and discussions in the Security Committee of the Permanent Council and other fora for negotiation. These efforts culminated in the adoption of a Ministerial 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*. Ministers also called for increased efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and international law.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Irish Chairmanship*

The Irish Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) and Irish Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Eamon Gilmore named three Special Representatives for protracted conflicts. Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk continues his role as the Personal Representative of the CiO on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Mink Conference. Ambassador Pádraig Murphy, a former Irish ambassador to Moscow, is co-chairing the Geneva talks on the conflict in Georgia and serve as the Special Representative of the CiO for the South Caucasus. Ambassador Erwan Foéré, a former EU Special Representative in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, is chairing the 5+2 talks on Moldova and Transnistria in his capacity as Special Representative of the CiO for the Transnistrian settlement process.<sup>24</sup>

On 27 April 2012 the Irish Chairmanship held a conference in Dublin on, "Shared Future: Building and Sustaining Peace" which centered on lessons learned from the Northern Ireland conflict. The opening address was given by the OSCE Chair-in-Office, Tanaiste and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore and was followed by a video message from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Keynote speakers included; U.S. Senator George Mitchell, First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland.

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<sup>21</sup> Ad Hoc Committee On Moldova: "Parliamentary Team supports OSCE work in Moldova", 18 May 2012, <http://www.oscepa.org/about-osce-pa/committees/ad-hoc-committees/moldova/958-parliamentary-team-supports-osce-work-in-moldova>.

<sup>22</sup> 'Meaningful Steps: Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011', 7 December 2011.

<sup>23</sup> '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', MC.DEC/3/11, 7 December 2011.

<sup>24</sup> 'List of Appointments by the Irish Chairmanship,' CIO.GAL/1/12, 11 January 2012. Available at <http://www.osce.org/cio/86945>.

The Good Friday agreement was highlighted as an example of a collaborative, international effort to establish a peaceful resolution to a protracted conflict, though challenges remain in implementing the agreement. Shared understandings, compromise and 'sufficient consensus' were emphasized as key mechanisms for brokering peace.

### *Geneva Discussions (Georgia)*

The 19th round of the Geneva International Discussions took place on the 29 March 2012. The goal of the first working group remains, to reach an agreement on the Non-Use of Force (NUF) and the International Security Arrangements (ISA). The discussions demonstrate a positive direction, although no agreements were reached. The second working group reviewed the humanitarian situation, focusing on the needs and challenges of displaced persons and vulnerable populations. In addition, specific issues such as missing persons, education and cultural heritage preservations were discussed. The next session is scheduled for 7-8 June 2012.<sup>25</sup>

### *Moldova*

The Lithuanian Chairmanship sought "the unconditional resumption of formal 5+2 negotiations and development of concrete confidence and security building measures, as well as facilitation of people-to-people contacts."<sup>26</sup> Early in his term, Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis visited Moldova and met with officials and members of civil society from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River and pursued active OSCE participation in the settlement process together with his Special Representative for Protracted Conflicts, Ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis.<sup>27</sup>

Informal meetings in the 5+2 format were held in Vienna on 14-15 February and 4-5 April, as well as in Moscow on 21 June. Three informal meetings between Prime Minister Vlad Filat of Moldova and Transdnestrian leader Igor Smirnov were held under the auspices of the OSCE. On 9 September, in Bad Reichenhall, Germany, a set of regulations governing the operations of the Expert Working Groups on Confidence Building Measures was adopted. Later that month, participants in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnestrian Settlement agreed to resume their formal negotiations in the 5+2 framework for the first time in nearly six years.

The 5+2 talks formally resumed in Vilnius on 30 November. Further talks were held in Dublin on 28-29 February 2012 with participation from both sides, as well as mediators and observers in the negotiations. Further progress was made in a Vienna meeting on 18 April 2012.<sup>28</sup>

A meeting between the Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat and the Transdnestrian leader Yevgeny Shevchuk took place in the German village of Rottach-Egern. The two leaders convened in a three-day high-level conference in the framework of the 5+2 process, from 20 to

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<sup>25</sup> "OSCE Chairmanship highlights importance of freedom of movement in areas affected by 2008 conflict in Georgia", 29 March 2012, Press Release. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/cio/89287>.

<sup>26</sup> '2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme', CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev.1, 12 January 2011.

<sup>27</sup> 'Meaningful Steps: Report on progress made during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011', 7 December 2011.

<sup>28</sup> Press Release: "OSCE Chairperson hails breakthrough in Transdnestrian settlement talks", 18 April 2012. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/cio/89764>.

23 June. The event, organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova with the support of the German Government, brought together leaders of joint working groups as well as experts in a view to discuss confidence-building measures in the security, social and economic fields.<sup>29</sup>

### *Nagorno-Karabakh*

Throughout 2011, the CiO worked together with the Co-Chairs, members of the Minsk Group and other participating States to urge the parties of the conflict to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the issue, based upon the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

On the margins of the Vilnius Ministerial, the Heads of Delegation of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan issued a Joint Statement on the need to continue the negotiating process in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group and to improve the climate for making progress towards a peaceful settlement. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian stated that “their Presidents are ready to meet again jointly in the near future under the auspices of the Co-Chair countries to continue their direct dialogue, building upon recent experience, on how to bring peace, stability and prosperity to their peoples.”<sup>30</sup>

The Chairmanship, alongside the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, called on the parties to take additional, immediate actions to reinforce the cease-fire agreement by agreeing on a mechanism to conduct investigations of incidents along the Line of Contact, and by removing snipers.

### *Georgia*

In its priorities for 2011, the Lithuanian Chairmanship stated it will “continue the efforts of previous Chairmanships in urging all participants to take full advantage of the Geneva framework to develop measures to improve the security and humanitarian situation” in Georgia.<sup>31</sup> The CiO called upon all participants to redouble their efforts to address international security arrangement issues, in particular the necessity for commitment from all sides on non-use of force, as well as the humanitarian needs of affected communities via the follow-up process of the recommendations of the 2008 ODIHR/HCNM report.

The Minister also presented an updated proposal calling for the restoration of an OSCE presence based on a status-neutral agreement. As a result of a high number of regular meetings between parties, progress was made on the effective use of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (agreed within the Geneva Framework) in solving security issues on the ground. Throughout the year, the Chairmanship stressed that progress in the negotiation process can only be made if there is full engagement and political will from all sides.

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<sup>29</sup> Press Release: “OSCE hosts meeting between Moldovan and Transnistrian leaders”, 20 June 2012. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/cio/91487>.

<sup>30</sup> ‘Joint Statement by the Heads of Delegation of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan’, 6 December 2011, Press Release. Available at <http://www.osce.org/mg/85838>.

<sup>31</sup> ‘2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme’, CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev.1, 12 January 2011.



## **Re-establishing an OSCE Presence in Belarus and Georgia**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

In Belgrade, the OSCE PA regretted “the lack of consensus which led to the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia and the OSCE Office in Minsk, and encourages the Chairmanship to continue to work for a viable solution to restore their presence in order for the OSCE to remain relevant in the field where it is most needed.”

### **II. President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Speaking at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius, OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou reiterated the need “to find the political will to re-open OSCE offices in Georgia and Belarus.”<sup>32</sup> President Efthymiou emphasized the Parliamentary Assembly will “continue to offer parliamentary dialogue in order to help Belarus uphold its OSCE commitments.”

### **III. OSCE PA Initiatives**

At the 2012 Winter Meeting in Vienna, First Committee Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli prioritized the matter of re-establishing an OSCE presence in Belarus and Georgia, regretting the lack of consensus on the issue. She stressed the importance of striving for new approaches to address the issue.<sup>33</sup>

### **IV. OSCE Initiatives**

#### *Belarus*

There was no consensus to re-establish a permanent OSCE presence in Belarus. Nonetheless, the OSCE continued its work in Belarus through the Representative on Freedom of the Media and ODIHR monitoring of trials of people arrested following the 19 December 2010 presidential election.

On 6 April, 14 OSCE participating States invoked the 1991 Moscow Mechanism, leading to a report and recommendations on the human rights situation in Belarus. The CiO attempted to maintain a dialogue with Belarusian representatives, presenting a package of possible OSCE

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<sup>32</sup> ‘Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou to the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, 6 December 2011 – Vilnius.’ Available at [http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc\\_download/972-speech-to-the-osce-ministerial-council-06-12-11](http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/972-speech-to-the-osce-ministerial-council-06-12-11).

<sup>33</sup> Press Release: “Protracted conflicts and multidimensional threats the focus of political affairs and security committee”, 24 February 2012. Available at: <http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/899-protracted-conflicts-and-multidimensional-threats-the-focus-of-political-and-military-affairs-committee> .



activities, while often speaking out against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country.<sup>34</sup>

### *Georgia*

The restoration of the OSCE presence in Georgia, despite some encouraging signs, remains unfulfilled.

## **Reforming and Strengthening the OSCE**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

In Belgrade, the PA urged the OSCE “to undertake the necessary structural reform in order to help overcome stalemates on political issues as well as issues related to personnel and administration.” The Assembly also called on the OSCE Chairmanship to monitor and evaluate Decision 19/06 of the Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council and other decisions concerning the matter of raising the OSCE’s effectiveness, and to take appropriate action.<sup>35</sup>

#### *Background on Decision 19/06 on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE*

Decision 19/06, adopted in 2006 in Brussels, affirms the need to prioritize the work of the Organization in areas where it has a comparative advantage, to ensure the long-term coherence of priorities and action plans in accordance with OSCE commitments and decisions, to improve the transparency and the effectiveness of the decision-making process based on sovereign equality of States and the rule of consensus, and to foster among the participating States the sense of common purpose and of shared responsibilities. The Decision addresses the need for a transparent, fair, and consistent recruitment process of OSCE personnel, enhanced management of human resources, greater gender balance, and wider diversity of national origin of OSCE staff at all levels. The Decision stressed the continuing need to improve the overall regulatory basis for the finances of the OSCE.

The Decision also considered whether thematic missions could prove a useful and effective tool to address newly emerging security threats, responding particularly to needs encompassing the whole OSCE area.

### **II. President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

At the Vilnius Ministerial Council, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Petros Efthymiou reiterated the need “for true OSCE reform which enhances transparency and accountability.” President Efthymiou pushed for an enhanced oversight role for the PA in the budget process and the selection of the OSCE Secretary General. He also stressed the need for further reform to the

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<sup>34</sup> ‘Meaningful Steps: Report on progress made during Lithuania’s Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2011’, 7 December 2011.

<sup>35</sup> ‘Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE,’ MC.DEC/19/06, 5 December 2006.

Permanent Council, repeating the Belgrade Declaration's urge to make meetings open to public and press on an ad hoc basis, to modify the consensus rule for personnel, budget and administration matters, to use the consensus-minus-one rule for "clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments," and to give the OSCE a legal personality.<sup>36</sup>

On the occasion of the 2012 Winter Meeting, the OSCE PA President further urged the Permanent Council to increase its transparency and to adopt a consensus-minus-one or minus-two rule, at least with regard to gross human rights violations, budget and personnel matters.<sup>37</sup>

### **III. OSCE Initiatives**

#### *Unfulfilled Structural Reforms*

With no consensus to modify it, the consensus rule for decision-making – including for decisions related to personnel, budget and administration issues – remains in place. No advancement was made on the question of establishing unified rules for appointment to leading positions within the OSCE or the PA's proposal to develop a multi-year financial plan to pursue longer term strategies, nor was there an overhaul of staffing mechanisms to eliminate fixed-term limits on duration of service and to reduce reliance on seconded personnel in field operations.

The role of the OSCE Secretary General was not significantly politicized in 2011, as Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, a career diplomat, was unanimously appointed to the position by participating States on 30 June 2011.<sup>38</sup> OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou congratulated him and expressed his confidence that Ambassador Zannier would work to implement a "strengthening of the political role of the Secretary General ... in the interests of the Organization overall."<sup>39</sup>

#### *Creation of New Special Department*

Meeting in Vilnius, Ministers from OSCE participating States welcomed the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE's mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources in addressing transnational threats.<sup>40</sup> The 2012 Unified Budget was officially approved on 22 December 2011 in Vienna.

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<sup>36</sup> 'Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou to the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, 6 December 2011 – Vilnius.' Available at [http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc\\_download/972-speech-to-the-osce-ministerial-council-06-12-11](http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/972-speech-to-the-osce-ministerial-council-06-12-11).

<sup>37</sup> 'Opening Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou, 11th Winter Meeting, 23 February 2011, Vienna.' Available at: [http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc\\_download/1071-speech-to-the-osce-pa-winter-meeting-23-02-2012](http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/1071-speech-to-the-osce-pa-winter-meeting-23-02-2012).

<sup>38</sup> 'Press Release: Lamberto Zannier of Italy appointed OSCE Secretary General,' OSCE, 30 June 2011. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/sg/80469>.

<sup>39</sup> 'Press Release: OSCE PA congratulates Zannier on appointment as OSCE Secretary General,' OSCE PA, 30 June 2011. Available at: <http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/94-2011/209-osce-pa-congratulates-zannier-on-appointment-as-osce-secretary-general>.

<sup>40</sup> 'Strengthening co-ordination and coherence in the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats.' MC.DEC/9/11, 7 December 2011.

### *Improving Efficiency*

Throughout 2011, the Lithuanian Chairmanship worked closely with the current and former Secretaries General, the Heads of Institutions and the Heads of Missions to ensure maximum efficiency, as pledged in its work programme.

May 2012, a food-for-thought paper commissioned by the Irish Chairmanship entitled, “Working together: the OSCE’s relationship with other relevant international organizations”, outlines opportunities for inter-institutional co-operation to support building a security community in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. The paper highlights the need to focus on developing the OSCE both as an actor and a hub for co-operative security, focusing on three closely interrelated areas: the conflict cycle, transitional threats and the human dimension.

The paper gives four main recommendations:

1. prioritization of OSCE interaction with other international organizations,
2. review of current OSCE communication and information policies,
3. further enhancement and visibility of relevant international actors within OSCE meetings,
4. establishment of a permanent presence in Brussels.<sup>41</sup>

### *Co-operation with the OSCE PA*

The Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other representatives of the executive structures participated in meetings of the OSCE PA, including the Fall Meetings, Winter Meeting, Bureau Meeting and the Batumi Economic Conference. At the Bureau Meeting in April, the OSCE PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, reported that the PA is enjoying good co-operation with the OSCE’s executive structures, describing a positive atmosphere in Vienna fostered by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier.<sup>42</sup>

### *Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE*

Under the Lithuanian Chairmanship, several meetings of the Informal Working Group on “Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE” were held and a non-paper was issued on “Principles for a discussion on a Constituent Document for the OSCE.” The Irish Chairmanship has stated its intention to pursue a discussion on the legal status of the OSCE and on the sustainability of the Chairmanship model.<sup>43</sup> In May 2012 the Irish Chairmanship disclosed that a food-for-thought paper strengthening the legal framework is being developed. The document will address issues related to the lack of legal personality, implementation of the Draft Convention, as well as suggestions on the possible adoption of a Constituent Document.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> “ ‘Working together: the OSCE’s relationship with other relevant international organizations’, Food for thought paper commissioned by the CiO, Lars-Erik Lundin, May 2012”, CIO.GAL/52/12, 2 May 2012.

<sup>42</sup> *News from Copenhagen 431*, “OSCE PA Bureau meets in Copenhagen,” 25 April 2012.

<sup>43</sup> ‘V to V Dialogue, Towards a Genuine Security Community, Kahlenberg Hotel, 14 December 2011,’ CIO.GAL/256/11, 21 December 2011.

<sup>44</sup> “Chairmanship Food-For-Thought Paper - Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE”, CIO.GAL/63/12, 18 May 2012.

## **Strengthening Arms Control and Security Co-operation**

### **I. OSCE PA Recommendations**

Previously, the 2010 OSCE PA Oslo Declaration had called on participating States “to hold vigorous negotiations in the interests of signing in the near future... a new version of the Vienna Document.” In July 2011, Members of the OSCE PA welcomed the continuing work on updating the 1999 Vienna Document towards enhancing the politico-military security dimension of the OSCE. In the Belgrade Declaration, the Assembly called for the “enhanced implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as well as for increased efforts to start negotiations on the strengthening and modernizing of conventional arms control in Europe.”

#### *Background on the Vienna Document*

Adopted in 1990, the Vienna Document built on the 1975 Helsinki Final Act's provisions for early notification of military exercises involving 25,000 military personnel. The Vienna Document envisaged greater information exchanges, verification of force structures and major weapon holdings, an annual implementation assessment meeting and a risk reduction mechanism. The adoption of the Vienna Document represented a milestone in confidence- and security-building regimes and has strengthened transparency and predictability as well as early warning and crisis prevention throughout the OSCE region.

The document was updated in 1992 to include the 15 new OSCE participating States, in 1994 to provide additional parameters for prior notification and observation, and in 1999 to introduce two additional chapters on regional measures and defence planning.<sup>45</sup> Further modifications have been widely considered overdue to adapt the document to technological and geopolitical changes of the last decade.

### **II. OSCE Initiatives**

#### *Vienna Document 2011*

The 1999 Vienna Document was revised at a Special Meeting of the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC) on 30 November 2011 and came into force on 1 December 2011.<sup>46</sup> The 2011 Vienna Document, reissued at the Vilnius Ministerial Conference, incorporates nine of the so-called “VD Plus” decisions that have been developed over the past two years.

The adoption of the 2011 Vienna Document ends a 12-year decision-making deadlock. Participating States were able to move forward on VD2011 despite a series of related contentious issues, such as protracted conflicts and the suspension of the CFE Treaty implementation. Significantly, the new introduction of VD2011 declares that participating States agree to update the document every five years in order to simplify the process of updating the Vienna Document

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<sup>45</sup> ‘OSCE Summit in Changing Times’, OSCE Magazine, Issue Number 4/2010.

<sup>46</sup> ‘Reissuing the Vienna Document,’ FSC.DEC/14/11, 30 November 2011.

in the future, and to ensure that the document remains relevant in an evolving security environment.

A majority of participating States concurred that the technical and procedural revisions incorporated in VD2011 fell short of the strategic update that was needed.<sup>47</sup> Broader changes are necessary to reflect modifications in the structure and doctrine of the Armed Forces of the OSCE participating States, the introduction of new technology, tighter defence budgets, and the need to improve the prompt and efficient use of the document during military activities and in crisis situations.

Several concrete elements discussed in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) were not mentioned in the decision, including lowering the threshold at which participating States must inform each other of their military exercises, formalizing the voluntary arrangements for below threshold notifications, expanding the range of military activities for which participating States are obliged to notify each other, increasing opportunities for verification activity, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening risk reduction mechanisms, as well as exploring ways in which participating States can enlarge the scope of CSBMs.

#### *Vilnius Ministerial Council*

The Ministerial Council adopted three significant decisions which had been prepared through the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC). First, a decision on *Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation* notes progress on work done in the FSC in 2011, and tasks the FSC to give “further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document.”<sup>48</sup> As a result of the decision, the FSC, through its Chairperson, will submit progress reports to the 19th Ministerial Council on, *inter alia*, efforts to improve implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in arms control agreements and CSBMs.

A second Ministerial decision was taken on *Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition*,<sup>49</sup> in which the foreign ministers welcomed the FSC work on Small Arms and Light Weapons, particularly the FSC decision to declare destruction of conventional ammunition as the preferred method of disposal (FSC.DEC/3/11) and another decision to organize a meeting this May to review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (FSC.DEC/9/11). The Ministerial decision tasked the FSC to accelerate efforts to further implement the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, to develop greater OSCE involvement with the United Nations on SALW, and to further facilitate appropriate border and customs co-operation for preventing the illicit trafficking of SALW. The FSC will submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the 2012 Ministerial Council on the implementation of these tasks and on the continuing

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<sup>47</sup> “Interpretative Statement by Germany, on behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, and Ukraine on ‘Decision on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation’, 7 December 2011.

<sup>48</sup> ‘Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation,’ MC.DEC/7/11, 7 December 2011.

<sup>49</sup> ‘Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition’, MC.DEC/6/11, 7 December 2011.

implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

Third, in order to strengthen the organization's role in non-proliferation, OSCE participating States adopted a Ministerial Council resolution on *The Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540*.<sup>50</sup>

#### *High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, Vienna*

On 24-25 May 2011, the Forum for Security Co-operation organized a High-Level Military Seminar in accordance with the 1999 Vienna Document, which called for a seminar every five years. The seminar examined changes that have occurred in the past five years in military technology and military doctrines and their implications for security in the OSCE area. Participants also discussed the changing nature of conflicts, new threats and challenges, and technological advances.

#### *2012 Winter Meeting*

A special OSCE PA debate was held on 24 February 2012 at the Winter Meeting in Vienna, focusing on conventional arms control in Europe. Damian R. Leader, an arms control regime expert from the United States, underlined the strategic importance and the benefits for European stability of the arms control regime comprised of the Vienna Document, the Open Skies Treaty and the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE). Anton Mazur, Head of Delegation to the Vienna Negotiations on Military Security & Arms Control, provided a historical outlook of the issue from the Russian point of view. He called for further modernization in the process and welcomed the OSCE's progress on the VD plus. Mathew Geertsen Senior FSC Support Officer, OSCE Conflict Prevention Center, underscored the changing nature of threats to security, suggesting that parliamentarians would benefit from an adapted or new set of confidence- and security-building measures to strengthen transparency and predictability. A debate followed with 14 parliamentarians participating. Several delegates urged progress on the modernization of the VD and the implementation of the corresponding Vilnius MC decision 2011.

#### *Other events*

On 14 December 2011, the FSC announced that the first annual discussion on the 'Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security' will be held on 11 July 2012 in Vienna.<sup>51</sup> The FSC also published a 'Reference Guide on the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security' on 13 July 2011.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Resolution 1540 (2004) was adopted unanimously by the United Nations Security Council, obliging States, *inter alia*, from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems. For further information on the resolution, please visit <http://www.un.org/sc/1540/>.

<sup>51</sup> 'Dates and Venue of the First Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,' FSC.DEC/18/11, 14 December 2011.

<sup>52</sup> 'Reference Guide on the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,' FSC.DEC/5/11, 13 July 2011.

A Regional Workshop (Mediterranean Region) on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing (Conducted by the TNT/Borders Unit, FSC Support Unit, and UNSCR 1540 Advisor) was held in Valletta, Malta, in January 2012. This event was intended to enhance information sharing between customs services and licensing officers at the national and regional levels in order to effectively combat the trafficking of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and strategic dual-use commodities across the border.<sup>53</sup>

Under the auspices of the FSC, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held on 6-7 March 2012. The meeting consisted of three working sessions, the first and the second focusing on the Implementation of the Vienna Document (mainly regarding chapters on defence planning, contacts, prior notification of military activities, compliance and evaluation and bilateral agreements), the third on suggestions aiming at the improvement of the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).<sup>54</sup>

The 56 OSCE participating States and 12 Partners for Co-operation concluded a review of the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that aims to counter the spread and accumulation of illicit SALW. This was the result of a meeting held by the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation on 22 and 23 May, which brought together experts and officials from 56 OSCE participating States as well as from international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Ambassador Gints Apals of Latvia, the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation, recalled the need to co-ordinate work on SALW at the level of participating States, in the OSCE framework and within global UN efforts.<sup>55</sup> Furthermore, a special meeting of the FSC devoted to an expert-level discussion and training session on the topics of stockpile management, surplus reduction and destruction of small arms and light weapons was held on 24 May 2012.

### **III. Other International Initiatives**

#### *UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty*

Recognizing a lack of controls on the global arms trade, the United Nations is holding the final preparatory meeting of the UN Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty this July. The negotiations will focus on how to ensure that before approving international transfers (e.g., exports) of weapons, governments assess the risk that such transfers would exacerbate conflict or be used to commit grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In February, the heads of several United Nations bodies laid out the following criteria for the envisaged Arms Trade Treaty:

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<sup>53</sup>“Report to the Security Committee on the Activities of the TNT Department (23 January 2012)”, SEC.GAL/6/12/Corr.1, 19 January 2012.

<sup>54</sup>“Twenty-second annual implementation assessment meeting”, FSC.AIAM/30/12, 26 March 2012.

<sup>55</sup> OSCE Press Release: “OSCE reviews plan of action to control small arms and light weapons”, 23 May 2012. Available at: <http://www.osce.org/fsc/90778>

- It must require States to assess the risk that serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law may be committed with the weapons being transferred.
- It must include within its scope all conventional weapons, including small arms, as well as ammunition.
- It must ensure that there are no loopholes by covering all types of transfers, including activities such as transit, trans-shipment, as well as loans and leases.<sup>56</sup>

The conference will take place in New York City from 2 to 27 July, beginning with a “General exchange of views” at the ministerial level on 2 July.

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<sup>56</sup> UN Press Release, “UN officials call for comprehensive arms trade treaty to improve civilian safety,” 16 February 2012, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41270&Cr=disarmament&Cr1=&Kw1=arms+trade+treaty&Kw2=&Kw3=>