



**General Committee on Economic
Affairs, Science, Technology and
Environment**

**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

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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 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.

Energy Security

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Recalling 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 prioritized 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 2011. 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

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

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

On 27 February 2012 the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities hosted the Sixth Meeting of the Vienna Energy Club, which brings together nine Vienna-based organizations dealing with energy issues. The meeting focused on “Good Governance in the Field of Energy” and featured speakers from the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

On 23 May, the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee held a thematic meeting on “Energy Security Dialogue and Co-operation in the OSCE Context.” Ambassador Eustathios Lozos, the Chairman of the Economic and Environmental Committee stated that “energy is directly linked to key global security challenges, such as poverty alleviation, climate change, and environmental and food security.” He underlined that addressing threats and challenges to energy security necessitate joint action by the international community “in a spirit of co-operation between producing, consuming and transit countries.”⁷

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier indicated that although the OSCE is not an expert organization on energy issues, it should continue to use its comprehensive approach to security to further shape its role in energy security. Zannier also mentioned areas where the OSCE can engage in energy security, such as the co-operation with other organizations in promoting good

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 PC.DEL/0468/12 - Mtg. on 23 May 2012, Opening Statement by the Chairperson of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

governance and transparency in the energy sector, addressing the various threats to critical energy infrastructure, and promoting sustainable energy solutions by sharing information and best practices.⁸

OSCE PA Economic Conference

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly organized an economic conference in Batumi, Georgia on 12-14 May. The third session, focused on energy security and efficiency, featured presentations by Giorgio Baramidze, the Vice Prime Minister of Georgia and State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Affairs; Alexander Khetaguri, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia; and Professor Murat Karagoz from Fatih University (Istanbul, Turkey). The speakers emphasized the importance of international co-operation to achieve energy security, pointing to energy diversification, the use of renewable energies, the creation of alternative energy corridors, and energy conservation measures.

The presentations were followed by a discussion that focused on the relationship between energy security and international stability, climate change, and the future of nuclear energy. In particular, participants encouraged international dialogue to discuss new energy transportation corridors and modernize regional energy infrastructures.

Field Activities

Following up on a previous event organized in March 2011, 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.⁹ An additional workshop on cross-border gas trade was held on 1 June 2012.¹⁰

On 22 August, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan launched a project to support renewable energy efficiency. A working group was tasked to analyze the current trends in the energy sphere and the potential for renewable energy in Uzbekistan and draft a strategy and action plan.¹¹

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

⁸ SEC.GAL/0117/12 - Summary of the Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee, 23 May 2012

⁹ SEC.GAL/0170/11, Report by Mr. Svilanović, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, 27 October 2011.

¹⁰ OSCE Centre in Ashgabat: "OSCE supports workshop on cross-border gas trade in Ashgabat," 1 June 2012, <http://www.osce.org/ashgabat/90989>

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

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.¹²

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, underlining the need for improved co-ordination among EU Member States.¹³

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.¹⁴ "Energy Roadmap 2050" has been used as a tool for the Danish EU Presidency to reboot the stalled talks on the Energy Efficiency Directive.¹⁵

Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) hosted the third session of the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) in Geneva, Switzerland on 24-25 April. Participants explored ways to enhance co-operation between international organizations in the area of energy efficiency and sustainable energy. During the meeting, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities made a presentation on "The OSCE and Sustainable Energy".¹⁶

¹² SEC.FR/0518/11, Activity Report 09/11, 1-30 September 2011, 11 October 2011.

¹³ 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>

¹⁴ European Commission: "The Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050," 15 December 2011, <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/914>.

¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁶ SEC.GAL/00098/12 - Report on the Activities, 22 March-17 May 2012

Regulation of Migration Issues

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Recalling the resolution on “Migration as a Continuing Challenge for the OSCE” adopted by the OSCE PA at the 19th Annual Session in Oslo, the Belgrade Declaration reaffirms the necessity to co-operate in the preparation and implementation of migration mechanisms. The OSCE PA called 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.¹⁷

Further, a resolution adopted in Belgrade 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.¹⁸

II. OSCE Initiatives

Reports 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. Ferrier spoke about 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. She called for increased co-ordination of migration policies within the OSCE and a better exchange of information on best practices. Ferrier noted that Kyrgyzstan was making 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, and the International Organization for Migration.¹⁹

The Special Representative further reported on her activities at the 2012 OSCE PA Winter Meeting. Emphasizing that Europe needs migrants to sustain its economic activity and its living standards, she underlined the need for adequate policies throughout the OSCE region to

¹⁷ OSCE PA: “Belgrade Declaration,” 6-10 July 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/675-belgrade-declaration-english.

¹⁸ OSCE PA: “Belgrade Resolutions,” 6-10 July 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

¹⁹ OSCE PA: “Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative for Migration,” 9 October 2011.

safeguard the human rights of migrants. Ferrier lauded the work of the OSCE Co-ordinator in Ukraine in combatting human trafficking and reported on her visit to the African centre in Kyiv, pointing out that the issue of violent discrimination and economic hardship for African migrants in countries from the former Soviet Union.²⁰

Ferrier also made a presentation during the OSCE PA's Economic Conference in Batumi, Georgia on 12 May. The Special Representative stated that the effective use of migration management as a tool for stability remained underestimated within the OSCE and encouraged participating States to regard migration policy as a tool for conflict prevention and management. Ferrier also explained that it was in the interest of all countries – of destination and of origin – to make sure that migrant communities are given good living conditions. She reiterated the call for the OSCE Permanent Council to provide the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities with the appropriate mandate to enable the creation of a network of focal points to facilitate the exchange of information in the field of migration.

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

On 3 October the OSCE/ODIHR held a working session on migrant workers and the integration of legal migrants, refugees and displaced persons as part of the Third Dimension Implementation Meeting organized in Warsaw, Poland. The session underlined the issues of visa liberalization for freer cross-border travel, and problems with excessive use of detention of internally displaced, migrants, and refugees.²¹

Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

Since the Belgrade Annual Session, 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.

On 22 February, the OCEEA and the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) presented a jointly produced "Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective". The publication offers reference material and best practice examples for legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing freight, risk

²⁰ OSCE PA: "Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative for Migration," 24 February 2012.

²¹ ODIHR.GAL/0062/11 - Statement by Amb. Lenarcic, ODIHR Director

management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking.²²

Moreover, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities has been engaged in setting up reliable and comparable data on migration. Country assessments for the three Central Asian countries as well as a common draft template for migration data collection were developed during 2011 and a visit to the Russian Federation took place in April 2012. Their conclusions and recommendations will be compiled in the "Handbook on Migration Data Collection," to be released in fall 2012.

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.

The OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Goran Svilanovic, spoke about the impact of the economic crisis on migration at the OSCE PA's Economic Conference in Batumi, Georgia on 12 May. Svilanovic explained that, in general, the economic crisis has led to a decrease in migration and in the volume of remittances, although the decline was not as sharp as might have been anticipated. He observed that across the OSCE area, migrants had been especially hit by job losses, despite considerable variations by sector, country, and gender.

Svilanovic underlined that there is a continuous need for migration data harmonization and sharing in order to implement better policies in the OSCE region. He also called on politicians to refrain from using immigration and migrants as scapegoats for domestic economic problems, underlining that international labour migration should be considered as a force for growth and development. He also encouraged participating States to take advantage of the platform and expertise the OSCE can offer in the field of migration.²³

Field Activities

The OSCE Presence in Albania participated in the 9th Ministerial Review Conference in the field of border security in Southeast Europe in Skopje on 15 and 16 March. During the event, the Ministers of Interiors of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed the agreement on the establishment of a Common Information Exchange Centre, the negotiations of which were facilitated by the Presence.²⁴

The OSCE Presence in Albania also attended the regional cross-border meetings between the border police services of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Ohrid, and

²² SEC.GAL/0042/12 - 903rd PC, 1 March 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General.

²³ See the OSCE PA's Report on the 2012 Economic Conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, available at www.oscepa.org.

²⁴ SEC.FR/0151/12 - Bi-weekly Report No. 363, 12-25 March 2012

with Montenegro in Ulcinj on 28 March and 3 April, respectively. The meetings discussed ways to further improve cross-border co-operation.²⁵

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, however, that the debate helped “to clarify the position of participating States, and to encourage steps to promote this fundamental freedom”.²⁶

Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI)

On 16-17 April 2012, the OSCE Secretariat co-organized the Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI). The event was co-organized with the Austrian Ministry of Interior, the EU, UNODC and UNDP, and was attended by all OSCE Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan. The Conference offered the opportunity for the OSCE to present its current border security and management activities in Central Asia and receive feedback from concerned governments and their respective border agencies.

The Ministerial Conference was also an occasion to better co-ordinate international efforts to support Central Asian Authorities in border security and management. The Conference highlighted the need for further international border assistance in Central Asia, particularly in light of the upcoming withdrawal of ISAF from Afghanistan. In this regard, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier took note of specific issues and needs referred to by Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan and they would be taken into account in the framework of the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan on border security and management issues.²⁷

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 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.

Second Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process

²⁵ SEC.FR/0184/12 - Bi-weekly Report No. 364, 26 March-15 April 2012

²⁶ 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>.

²⁷ SEC.GAL/0072/12 - 908th PC, 19 April 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General

Within the framework of the Polish EU Presidency, the second Prague Process Ministerial Conference was held in Poznan, Poland on 4 November. The event, titled “Building Migration Partnerships in Action” was attended by delegations representing 47 Prague Process countries, the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, as well as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The participants considered ways of preventing and countering illegal migration, encouraging re-admissions, voluntary returns and lasting re-integration. Participants adopted an Action Plan for the years 2012-2016, which contains a list of 22 priorities intended to stimulate co-operation in the areas of migration between EU Member States and the European Economic Area, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Western Balkans, Georgia, Turkey and Central Asian countries.²⁸

Fifth Global Forum for Migration and Development

On 1-2 December Switzerland hosted the fifth Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) Concluding Debate in Geneva. Throughout 2011, the Swiss GFMD held 14 thematic meetings supported by the Chair's flagship theme of “Taking Action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation,” the results of which were reported in Geneva, where the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities participated. The OCEEA used this opportunity to promote the OSCE publications in the field of migration management.²⁹

Cyber Security

IV. OSCE PA Recommendations

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 therefore called 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.³⁰

V. OSCE Initiatives

²⁸ Polish Presidency of the EU: “Prague Process Action Plan adopted for 2012-2016,” 7 November 2011, <http://pl2011.eu/en/content/prague-process-action-plan-adopted-2012-2016>

²⁹ GFMD: “Annual Themes,” <http://www.gfmd.org/en/process/annual-themes>

³⁰ OSCE PA: “Belgrade Declaration,” 6-10 July 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/675-belgrade-declaration-english.

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.³¹ Nevertheless, a decision on “Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE’s Efforts to Address Transnational Threats” was adopted. The decision supports the OSCE Secretary General’s proposal to create a new department in the Secretariat to address transnational threats.³²

Launch of TNT Department

The OSCE Secretariat’s new Transnational Threats (TNT) Department became operational on 1 January 2012. Pending the recruitment of a Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier designated himself as Officer-in-Charge.³³

Throughout 2012, the Co-ordination Cell of the Transnational Threats Department (TNT/CC), and particularly its Cyber Security Officer, have been supporting the Secretary General and the Chairmanship-in-Office in all cyber security related matters and acted as the focal point for participating States’ requests for activities aimed at enhancing cyber security. In close co-operation with relevant counterparts, the Cell has been working towards raising awareness of threats emanating from cyberspace and has been proposing solutions for tackling them.³⁴

Informal Working Group on Cyber Security

On 26 April, the Permanent Council of the OSCE tasked the Chairmanship-in-Office to establish “an open-ended, informal OSCE working group” to step up individual and collective efforts in the field of cyber security. The Informal Working Group on Cyber Security held its first meeting on 10 May and was tasked with elaborating a set of draft confidence-building measures (CBMs) to “enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability, and stability, and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation, and conflict” that may arise from the use of information and communication technologies, and to help build consensus to adopt such a set of CBMs in 2012.³⁵

Field Activities

³¹ 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>.

³² MC.DEC/0009/11 - Strengthening Co-ordination and Coherence in the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats, 7 December 2011

³³ SEC.GAL/0006/12/Corr.1 - Mtg. on 23 January 2012, Report on the Activities of the TNT Department, 19 January 2012.

³⁴ SEC.GAL/0022/12 - TNT Work Programme 2012

³⁵ PC.DEC/1039 - Development of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ENG)

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.³⁶

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.³⁷

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.³⁸

From 25 to 27 April, the OSCE Office in Baku supported the attendance of Azerbaijani government and civil society representatives at the "Counter e-Crime Operations Summit," organized by the international Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) in Prague, Czech Republic. Participants discussed national and regional cybercrime trends and individual case studies about resolving specific electronic crime cases.³⁹

VI. 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 2011.⁴⁰ CSTO leaders agreed to create a unified preventive strategy for cyberspace.

Octopus

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

³⁶ OSCE Office in Baku: "Tackling cybercrime focus of OSCE conference in Baku," 6 October 2011, <http://www.osce.org/baku/83604>.

³⁷ OSCE: "OSCE discusses approaches to prosecuting cybercrime aspects of trafficking in Ukraine," 25 October 2011, <http://www.osce.org/ukraine/84326>.

³⁸ SEC.GAL/0190/11 - Report on the Activities of the Secretariat's Thematic Units Aimed at Addressing Transnational Threats, 9 December 2011.

³⁹ SEC.FR/0211/12 – Activity Report No.52, 6-27 April 2012

⁴⁰ RT: "CSTO grapples with cyber security," 15 August 2011, <http://rt.com/politics/csto-cyber-threat-bordyuzha/>.

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.⁴¹

The Council of Europe organized the 2012 installment of the Octopus Conference on 6-8 June in Strasbourg, France. The conference focused on transborder access to data and jurisdiction in the context of cloud computing and public-private information sharing. The event was also the opportunity to discuss cybercrime threats and trends, the implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, as well as policies and initiatives on cybercrime by international and private sector organizations.⁴²

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 expected to be operational by the end of 2012.⁴³ 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.⁴⁴

South East Europe Police Conference

On 24-26 April, the South East Europe Police Chief Association (SEPCA), in co-operation with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Montenegrin Police Department, organized a regional conference addressing cybercrime in Budva, Montenegro.⁴⁵

INTERPOL European Regional Conference

On 8-10 May, the INTERPOL General Secretariat organized its 41st European Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. In addition to new challenges in combating organised crime, terrorism at the global level as well as capacity-building and training initiatives, participants

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² CoE: "Octopus Conference on Cooperation against Cybercrime," http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/cy_Octopus2012/Interface2012_en.asp

⁴³ NATO: "NATO launches 2012 cyber defence procurement," 23 September 2011, <http://www.nc3a.nato.int/news/Pages/NATO-launches-2012-cyber-defence-procurement.aspx>.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Balkan Insight: "Balkan Police Pledge United War on Cyber Crime," 25 April 2012, <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/police-cooperation-key-in-counteracting-cyber-crime>

discussed global law enforcement response to cybercrime. The OSCE Secretariat's Senior Police Adviser attended the conference.⁴⁶

Combating Labour Trafficking

VII. OSCE PA Recommendations

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.⁴⁷

VIII. OSCE Initiatives

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 noted the co-operation with parliamentarians of the participating States on combating human trafficking. The Ministerial Declaration recommended the development and application of measures to improve labour practices and promote the enforcement of internationally recognized labour rights.⁴⁸

Reports of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues

Based on the findings of the “Trafficking in Persons Report,” released annually by the U.S. Department of State, Special Representative Chris Smith (United States) reported 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

⁴⁶ SEC.GAL/0085/12 - 911th PC, 10 May 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General

⁴⁷ OSCE PA: “Belgrade Resolutions,” 6-10 July 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

⁴⁸ MC.DOC/0001/11 - Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking, 7 December 2011.

response.” In particular, Smith called on participating States to focus on victim identification and prosecution of both sex and labour trafficking.⁴⁹

Smith reported on his activities during the OSCE PA Winter Meetings on 24 February, renewing his appeal for parliamentarians to encourage their governments and airlines to establish a training protocol for flight crews to recognize and alert law enforcement when victims of trafficking are in transit. He also restated a call to work with the militaries of OSCE participating States to prevent military bases and deployments from acting as magnets for human trafficking. Congressman Smith informed the Parliamentary Assembly that the U.S. Helsinki Commission had held a hearing on the trafficking of Roma.

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

On 7 October the OSCE/ODIHR held a working session on trafficking in human beings as part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting organized in Warsaw, Poland. Participants emphasized the importance of early and effective access to legal aid for victims of trafficking. In addition, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons called for a more effective co-ordination of the various anti-trafficking initiatives.⁵⁰

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 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.

⁴⁹ 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.

⁵⁰ ODIHR.GAL/0062/11 - Statement by Amb. Lenarcic, ODIHR Director

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.⁵¹

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.⁵²

The SR/CTHB participated in the launch of a joint International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)-OSCE project on Capacity Building for Combating Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Bucharest, Romania on 28 February 2012. In the framework of this project, the OSCE and the ICMPD will jointly deliver training to labour inspectors, law enforcement and judiciary authorities in order to enhance identification of, assistance to and protection of victims of labour exploitation.⁵³

On 13 March, the Office of the SR/CTHB officially launched an extra-budgetary project for the elaboration and implementation of a special course on “Trafficking in Human Beings: the Global Perspective and the Role of the Media” for students and post graduates of Moscow State University, Faculty of Journalism. The resulting curriculum is intended to serve as a model for future courses in Russian universities and for youth media, to encourage a stronger role for the media in combating human trafficking.⁵⁴

The SR/CTHB reported on her activities before the OSCE Permanent Council on 31 May. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro expressed the belief that the OSCE had significantly contributed to a wider recognition of trafficking in human beings as a global problem, thanks to the advocacy work led by the OSR/CTHB and the sharing of best practices, as well as co-operation with NGOs within the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. Nevertheless, she indicated that her office's work is hindered by limited human resources.⁵⁵

Joint Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Human Being

⁵¹ OSCE OSR/CTHB: “An Agenda for Prevention: Activities and Challenges in 2011,” 7 December 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cthb/86292>.

⁵² SEC.GAL/0007/12 - Talking Points of the Secretary General, 19 January 2012.

⁵³ SEC.GAL/0047/12 - 904th PC, 8 March 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General

⁵⁴ SEC.GAL/0063/12 - 906th PC, 22 March 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General

⁵⁵ SEC.GAL/0101/12 – Statement by Ms. Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

As a follow up to an initiative of the SR/CTHB, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (CIS-IPA) and Executive Committee organized a joint Round Table dedicated to Combating Trafficking in Human Beings on 18 April. The event was held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, under the auspices of the Unified Commission on Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking. The event focused on the implementation of international legal obligations and political commitments in the fight against modern-day slavery, international co-operation and national co-ordination. The meeting was attended by representatives of Parliaments and governments, CIS co-ordinating structures, OSCE field operations, ODIHR and experts from governments, NGOs and academia.⁵⁶

Field Activities

On 10 February 2012, the OSCE Office in Yerevan released a comprehensive manual for training courses on combating trafficking for Armenian law enforcement personnel. The manual was prepared by four national experts as part of a multi-year regional project implemented by the OSCE Office in Yerevan in co-operation with the International Labour Organization and funded by the European Union. In conjunction with the Training of Trainers Methodology prepared by the same group of national experts in 2011, Armenia's Law Enforcement academies are now equipped with the training materials to conduct anti-trafficking education.⁵⁷ On 25-26 February, the Office presented its Anti-Trafficking activities at a conference organized by the Armenian Caritas NGO.⁵⁸

The OSCE Mission to Kosovo supported the Kosovo police directorate for investigating trafficking in human beings in furthering the process of redrafting the Victims' Rights Form on 13 March. The form advises alleged victims of trafficking of their rights based on the legal framework and the standard operating procedures for victims of trafficking. The Victims' Rights Form was finalized in April and translated to feature in seven languages – Albanian, Serbian, English, Russian, Moldovan, Bulgarian and Polish – which have been identified as the languages of the most commonly-identified victims of trafficking in Kosovo.⁵⁹

The OSCE Office in Baku met with the Azerbaijan Migration Centre and American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) to discuss the initiative of establishing an anti-trafficking legal practitioners' network in Azerbaijan on 25 April. During the meeting, parties agreed that lawyers and advocates working on human trafficking and forced labour cases

⁵⁶ SEC.GAL/0075/12 - 909th PC, 26 April 2012, Talking Points of the Secretary General

⁵⁷ SEC.FR/0113/12 - Activity Report No.2, 27 January-24 February 2012.

⁵⁸ SEC.FR/0163/12 - Activity Report No.3, 24 February-23 March 2012

⁵⁹ SEC.FR/0140/12 - Activity Report 11/2012, 12-19 March 2012

should join the network. They also planned the organization of a round table event and follow-up activities to build the capacities of the selected legal practitioners.⁶⁰

On 24-27 April, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro facilitated a three day study visit by representatives of the Montenegrin Crime and Border Police and the National Coordinator's Office for the fight against trafficking in human beings to Turkish law enforcement agencies. The aim was for Montenegrin officials to establish direct contact with Turkish counterparts in order to increase co-operation on illegal migration.⁶¹

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted consultations with relevant stakeholders on how to best approach the issues of co-ordination between state and entity levels to re-establish an efficient and effective response to human trafficking cases, including the referral mechanism for victims and prosecution of offenders. On 7 May, the Mission supported a meeting of the representatives from all four State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) offices, the Directorate for Co-ordination of Police Bodies, the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), and the German Society for International Co-operation (GIZ).⁶²

The OSCE Mission to Skopje organized a study tour to the Hungarian National Bureau of Investigation for four investigators of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 14-17 May. The aim of the visit was to instruct the participants on organizing, financing and executing international joint investigative teamwork on human trafficking and illegal migration cases.⁶³

The OSCE Centre in Astana completed a series of human trafficking prevention seminars on 25 May and launched a training series on identifying victims of human trafficking on 28 May, in co-operation with the Kazakhstani Ministry of Interior and the International Legal Initiative NGO. The Centre is also carrying out a series of seminars for judges on effective judicial practices for combating trafficking in human beings.⁶⁴

Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), in co-operation with the Irish OSCE Chairmanship, organized a Human Dimension seminar on the "Rule of Law Framework for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" in Warsaw, Poland on 14-16 May. The conference was attended by government representatives, experts, and civil

⁶⁰ SEC.FR/0211/12 – Activity Report No.5, 6-27 April 2012.

⁶¹ SEC.FR/0247/12 - Activity Report No. 64, 23 April-18 May 2012

⁶² SEC.FR/0245/12 - Mission Bi-weekly Report No. 10/2012, 1-14 May 2012

⁶³ SEC.FR/0251/12 - Mission Activity Report No.424, 7-20 May 2012

⁶⁴ SEC.FR/0278/12 - Activity Report 05/12, 1-31 May 2012

society groups from across the OSCE region, and discussed ways to strengthen the rule of law to combat trafficking in human beings. Working sessions focused on the primacy of human rights and the rule of law in the fight against human trafficking, ways to promote the effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, challenges faced in providing justice to and protecting the human rights of victims, and addressing the root causes of trafficking.⁶⁵

Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, remarked that although “prosecution and punishment form an essential part of the action to prevent and combat trafficking ... the law enforcement and criminal justice response is still very weak”. She pointed out that the legal framework on trafficking in human beings could be strengthened by addressing the cultural background of practitioners and by reinforcing the rights and role of victims in the criminal justice process.⁶⁶

IX. 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 first group of ten Parties to the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.⁶⁷

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.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ OSCE/ODIHR: “Opening Remarks by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič,” 14 May 2012, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/90603>

⁶⁶ OSCE SR/CTHB: “Keynote Address,” 14 May 2012, <http://www.osce.org/belarus-closed/90489>

⁶⁷ 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

⁶⁸ 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

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.⁶⁹

Free Movement of Information and Knowledge

X. OSCE PA Recommendations

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.⁷⁰

XI. OSCE Initiatives

Chairmanship-in-Office

The Lithuanian Chairmanship made freedom of the media a priority, organizing a conference that resulted in the Vilnius Recommendations, intended 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.⁷¹

The Irish Chairmanship has also made media freedom one of its priorities for 2012. In particular, Chairman-in-Office Eamon Gilmore 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.”⁷² Gilmore regretted the fact that some OSCE

⁶⁹ 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

⁷⁰ OSCE PA: “Belgrade Resolutions,” 6-10 July 2011, http://oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/681-belgrade-resolutions-english.

⁷¹ For the guidebook see: <http://www.osce.org/fom/85777>.

⁷² OSCE CiO: “Irish Deputy Prime Minister presents 2012 OSCE Chairmanship priorities,” 12 January 2012, <http://www.osce.org/cio/86960>.

governments are limiting these freedoms, in spite of their OSCE commitments and other international human rights obligations.⁷³

At the OSCE PA Winter Meeting on 24 February 2012, Irish Minister for European Affairs Lucinda Creighton underlined that “freedom of expression constitutes a basic building block for an open and free society” and that “a free, uncensored and pluralist media is essential in any society to ensure freedom of expression.”⁷⁴

The Chairmanship organized the Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom on 18-19 June 2012. The Conference gathered over 200 OSCE delegates, members of civil society and representatives of the ICT and media sectors to discuss how best to ensure compliance with OSCE commitments on freedom of expression and freedom of the media.⁷⁵ The PA was represented at the conference by Head of the Assembly's Irish Delegation Eoghan Murphy, Member of the Irish Delegation Ann Phelan, and OSCE PA Communications Director Neil Simon.⁷⁶

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

On 26 September the OSCE/ODIHR held a working session on freedom of expression and freedom of the media as part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting organized in Warsaw, Poland. The Representative on Freedom of the Media used the forum to repeat her strong rejection of violence against journalists and called for the political support of all governments to help prevent such violence.⁷⁷

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Throughout 2011, and since the beginning of 2012, 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.

⁷³ OSCE CiO: “Update on Ireland’s Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE,” 10 May 2012, <http://www.osce.org/cio/90455>.

⁷⁴ OSCE CiO: “Address by Ms. Lucinda Creighton T.D., Minister of State for European Affairs,” 24 February 2012, <http://www.osce.org/cio/88399>.

⁷⁵ OSCE CiO: “Address by the Chairperson-in-Office, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Eamon Gilmore T.D., at the opening of the Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom,” 18 June 2012, <http://www.osce.org/cio/91352>.

⁷⁶ News from Copenhagen 439, “PA participates in OSCE Dublin Internet Freedom Conference”, 20 June 2012, http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/news-from-copenhagen/doc_download/1217-news-from-copenhagen-439

⁷⁷ ODIHR.GAL/0062/11 - Statement by Amb. Lenarcic, ODIHR Director

On 11 January 2012, the Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović released a position paper on the importance of Internet freedom. She 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."⁷⁸

In January and February 2012, Mijatović urged the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to safeguard free expression when discussing the draft Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA). She warned against the dangers of placing the interests of rights holders above the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy.⁷⁹

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media organized a Master Class in Broadcasting Regulation on 26-28 March in Istanbul, Turkey. The Master Class provided training for broadcast regulators from the South Caucasus and Central Asia on the emerging issues of convergence, spectrum management, intellectual property rights and the digital switchover while preserving media pluralism. The event brought together more than 40 high-level representatives of broadcasting regulatory authorities, staff of government ministries associated with broadcasting and broadcast regulatory policy, parliamentarians involved in drafting broadcast regulations and legal experts working in the field.⁸⁰

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, Mijatović urged all governments of the OSCE to take real steps to secure freedom of speech. She stated that "all OSCE participating States should recommit to their democratic values by deeds rather than words."⁸¹

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Assembly President Petros Efthymiou called for better protection of freedom online during the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting on 23 February 2012. In particular, he underlined that OSCE parliamentarians have "the responsibility ...to advocate for laws that protect freedom of expression wherever that expression is taking place." He added that OSCE participating States should consider sanctioning companies that willingly sell technology that they know is going to be used to restrict Internet freedom.⁸²

⁷⁸ OSCE RFoM: "Internet Freedom – Why it Matters," 11 January 2012, <http://www.osce.org/fom/86003>.

⁷⁹ OSCE RoFM: "OSCE media representative urges European Parliament to reassess ACTA to safeguard freedom of expression," 14 February 2012, <http://www.osce.org/fom/88154>

⁸⁰ OSCE RoFM: "Broadcast Regulation Master Class," <http://www.osce.org/fom/88783>

⁸¹ FOM.PR/0026/12 - All Participating States Must Intensify Real Steps to Defend Media Freedom, Says OSCE Media Freedom Representative

⁸² OSCE PA: "Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou," Eleventh Winter Meeting, 23 February 2012, http://www.oscepa.org/publications/all-documents/doc_download/1012-petros-efthymiou-speech-23-feb-2012

The OSCE PA International Secretariat is currently collecting stories of how parliaments, governments, NGOs, and ordinary citizens are using online strategies to engage people and promote change in the OSCE area. As part of its “sOcialSCAPE” project, a collection of social media case studies will be distributed at the 21st Annual Session in Monaco. The project is intended to help strengthen relationships between citizens and their elected representatives, as well as build bridges between nations across the OSCE area. Any delegations that wish to highlight cases within their countries can submit their stories at oscepa.org.

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”.⁸³

Field Activities

On 1 March the OSCE Mission to Montenegro organized a roundtable to discuss the Draft Law on Free Access to Information and comment on its compliance with international standards. The event provided inputs toward resolving major articles in the legislation and finding a balance in provisions in the right to free access to information with protection of personal data and classified information. The Mission provided its assessment to a meeting of the Working Group of the Parliament dealing with harmonizing the Draft Law on Free Access to Information with the Draft Law on Protection of Personal data and the Draft Law on Classified Information on 5 March.⁸⁴

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the President of the Commission for Free Access to Public Information of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 18 April initiating a joint project to facilitate free access to public information at the local level. The MoU aims to increase the capacity of civil servants in multi-ethnic municipalities to disseminate information timely and accurately and to raise public awareness for more transparent and accountable functioning of local government institutions.⁸⁵

On 27 April, the OSCE Mission to Skopje organized a workshop for the Commission for Free Access to Public Information. The purpose of the event was to offer assistance and to agree on joint activities for the project “Promoting Good Governance Principles in Line with the Provisions of the Ohrid Framework Agreement” and further improve inter-institutional

⁸³ 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>.

⁸⁴ SEC.FR/0143/12 - Activity Report No. 62, 1 February-16 March 2012

⁸⁵ SEC.FR/0204/12 - Activity Report No. 422, 2-22 April 2012

co-operation, the exchange of information, and to assist with increasing public participation and transparency.⁸⁶

The OSCE Centre in Astana co-organized a two-day regional forum on the Internet in Central Asia on 18-19 May. The forum brought together some 100 participants, including media experts and journalists from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of Kazakhstan's government, non-governmental and international organizations and diplomatic missions. Participants focused on the challenges of developing the Internet as one of the few unrestricted sources of information, and exchanged views about potential threats to the free flow of online information.⁸⁷

XII. 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 online whistleblower sites are entitled to media freedom rights and responsibilities established under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁹ In addition, the Committee adopted ten Internet governance principles which are to be followed in national and international policies related to the Internet.⁹⁰

On 16 March, the Council of Europe adopted an Internet governance strategy to protect and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy online. The strategy, one of the priorities of the United Kingdom Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, contains more than 40 lines of action structured around six areas (Internet's openness, the rights of users, data protection, cybercrime, democracy and culture, and children and young people). The Internet

⁸⁶ SEC.FR/0228/12 - Mission Activity Report No.423, 23 April-6 May 2012

⁸⁷ SEC.FR/0278/12 - Activity Report 05/12, 1-31 May 2012

⁸⁸ 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](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2011)7&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383)

⁸⁹ 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](https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2011)8&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383)

⁹⁰ 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>

Governance Strategy will be implemented from 2012 to 2015, in close co-operation with partners from all sectors of society, including the private sector and civil society.⁹¹

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution on “the protection of freedom of expression and information on the Internet and online media” on 25 April. In particular, the resolution reaffirms “the right of everyone to disclose information of public concern which corresponds to the right of the public to be informed under Article 10 of the [European Convention on Human Rights].” PACE underlined that member States must not curtail the right of the public to be informed by restricting the right of individuals to disclose information of public concern.⁹²

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 2012.⁹³

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.⁹⁴

⁹¹ CoE: “Internet Governance,” 16 March 2012, <http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/Documents/Internet%20Governance%20Strategy/Internet%20Governance%20Strategy%202012%20-%202015.pdf>

⁹² PACE: “The protection of freedom of expression and information on the Internet and online media,” 25 April 2012, <http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefViewPDF.asp?FileID=18323&Language=EN>

⁹³ 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>

⁹⁴ 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>