

challenges.⁴¹ It therefore cannot be surprising that the topics of migration and human trafficking, which are closely related to human rights and democratization, have taken up ever more capacities in recent years.

Outlook

The OSCE is not a club of dyed-in-the-wool democrats. Nor can it be the Organization's goal to become one. It is far more important to support the participating States in establishing and consolidating democratic structures – including by giving critical advice – and to provide them with help in word and deed. In this regard, the OSCE is an instrument of co-operation. Randolph Oberschmidt was right to conclude in 2001 that the OSCE will achieve nothing if it criticizes states for human rights violations while offering neither coherent ideas nor concrete assistance with establishing institutions to support the rule of law and economic development.⁴² The OSCE's broad approach goes beyond the pro-democracy measures taken by the Council of Europe. Thanks to the latter's reporting system, which picks up on concrete issues,⁴³ it is the organization geared more towards the production of dyed-in-the-wool democrats than the OSCE. That is why it is right for the OSCE to react to deficiencies in the Russian parliamentary elections by refusing to send election observers. However, this act of abstention must be combined with the offer to provide Russia with further support in developing a functioning democracy.

41 Cf. Randolph Oberschmidt, Ten Years of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – An Interim Assessment, in: Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH (ed.), *OSCE Yearbook 2001*, Baden-Baden 2002, pp. 387ff.

42 Cf. *ibid.* p. 400.

43 Cf. e.g. the report: *State of human rights and democracy in Europe*, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg 2007.