

Annex

Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

Oslo, 2-3 December 1998

I. Oslo Ministerial Declaration

I.

We have discussed the challenges to security in our region, the OSCE's contribution to meeting them and how this can be developed in future. We stress the need for the international community to develop co-ordinated responses to such challenges. 1998 has been an important year in this regard, including for the OSCE.

The crisis in Kosovo has come to the forefront of the OSCE's concerns and action. We urge the parties to stop all violence and to co-operate in the negotiation of a political settlement.

The Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) is the largest and most difficult operation ever put into the field by the OSCE. It marks the international community's recognition of the Organization's developing potential and expertise to contribute to security. Success for the KVM requires not only the use of internal mechanisms for transparent consultations, but also effective co-operation with other inter-governmental bodies, as well as with non-governmental organizations; and it requires adequate allocation of resources by participating States.

This year the OSCE successfully supervised the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will continue to further the gradual processes of transferring responsibility for democracy building to the authorities in this country.

The OSCE role in police monitoring in the Danubian region of Croatia marks a new and practical development of the OSCE's operational capabilities.

The OSCE will continue and strengthen its efforts directed at the resolution of conflicts in Georgia and Moldova, as well as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It is necessary that the OSCE responds with equal energy and determination to all of its tasks.

We welcome the Memoranda of Understanding signed between the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan aimed at deepening the co-operation in the fields of democracy and human rights. We take note of the proposal of the Chairman-in-Office to open OSCE offices in the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

We note with satisfaction the growing involvement of the OSCE in Central Asia and welcome the establishment of the OSCE Centres in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan as a further expression of our commitment to

promote stability and co-operation throughout the entire OSCE area. We also welcome the signature by the Chairman-in-Office of Memoranda of Understanding on co-operation between the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. We recognize that the expansion of OSCE operations requires further strengthening of operational capabilities of the OSCE, including its Secretariat, and appreciate that the Secretary General has taken initial steps towards this goal. We support an early finalization of an OSCE strategy for training, the object of which is to enhance the ability of the Organization to carry out its tasks.

II.

We have taken stock of the progress this year in the work on a Document-Charter on European Security. This has been achieved through focused, target-oriented negotiation. Emphasis has been on the practical development of OSCE instruments for action, including co-operation with other organizations and institutions. At both conceptual and practical level, there has been progress in the development of the OSCE Platform for Co-operative Security as an instrument enhancing European solidarity and partnership and one of the essential elements of a Document-Charter. Developments on the ground have enriched the discussion of the role of the OSCE in conflict settlement. We urge rapid progress in the development of a Document-Charter.

III.

We conclude once again that the potential of the OSCE to contribute to security stems from its broad membership, its shared values, and its decision making based on transparency and consensus. We underline that respect for OSCE principles and implementation of OSCE commitments remain fundamental to security. Promoting compliance and reinforcing thereby democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the development of free market economies and social progress, and alleviating the plight of refugees and displaced persons, require constant effort. Primary responsibility for achieving these goals lies with individual States, but much depends upon solidarity in the OSCE and a genuine partnership based on sovereign equality.

We stress the importance of sub-regional and bilateral co-operation to complement OSCE-wide activities in the promotion of solidarity and partnership. This spirit of solidarity and partnership is essential to OSCE's capacity to respond to risks and challenges to security. This extends not only to partnership between States, but to co-operation among the different organizations and institutions to which those States belong. In this pragmatic,

flexible and non-hierarchical co-operation the OSCE should continue to develop its own operational activities in areas in which it has proved its strength.

We recognize that the OSCE police operations are now an integral part of the Organization's efforts in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. International police operations can provide an important contribution to building a society based on the rule of law that can consolidate democracy and enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The participating States will enhance the capacity of the OSCE with regard to police operations. To this end, close co-operation with the international organizations having relevant experience in conducting police operations, and in the first instance the United Nations, will be established.

IV.

We reaffirm our commitment to arms control as an important element of our common security.

We reaffirm the importance of the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security. Full implementation of the Treaty and its adaptation to the changing security environment in Europe will be an essential contribution to our common and indivisible security. In this context, we take note of the report by the Chairman of the Joint Consultative Group. We welcome the commitment made by the States Parties to complete the adaptation process by the time of the OSCE Summit in 1999. This goal will require that outstanding key issues be resolved and drafting begun in the first months of next year. We welcome the mutual commitment by the States Parties to redouble their efforts to achieve this goal.

We take positive note of the report on the activities of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We declare the objective to complete the work on the review of the Vienna Document 1994 by the OSCE Summit in 1999. We welcome the increased attention given by the FSC to the regional dimension of security and confidence building measures, in accordance with the decisions of the Lisbon Summit and the Copenhagen Ministerial meeting.

We reaffirm the significance of the Open Skies Treaty and the necessity of its entry into force without delay.

We note with satisfaction that agreement was achieved on the mandate for negotiations on regional stability, as foreseen under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

V.

We reaffirm that strengthened security and co-operation in adjacent areas, in particular the Mediterranean, is important for stability in the OSCE region.

We welcome Jordan as a new Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation. We value the long-standing relationship with the Mediterranean Partners and their interest in the work of the OSCE. As mutual dialogue develops, improvements in mechanisms of co-operation to reinforce the principles and values of the OSCE could be considered. We support the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group in Vienna and encourage the Mediterranean Partners to continue to contribute to OSCE activities including through sending visitors to OSCE missions and guest observers to OSCE election monitoring operations.

The OSCE welcomes support for its activities from its Partners for Co-operation. We appreciate the contributions of Japan and the Republic of Korea to OSCE efforts. We thank Japan for its generous financial support for Bosnia and Herzegovina elections and in the context of Kosovo.

II. Statement on Kosovo

The plight of so many people in Kosovo caught up in violent confrontation and fleeing their homes in fear has moved us all.

Involvement in Kosovo represents a challenge and an opportunity for the OSCE. It shows that security, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms are inseparable.

Thanks to the vigorous efforts of the international community, including the OSCE, there is now a ceasefire. It is still fragile, but it marks a great step forward. Displaced persons and refugees are starting to return to their homes. Now further diplomatic efforts are underway to find a political solution. Those efforts have our strong support.

There is still violence in Kosovo, and this is of deep concern to us. We urge all parties involved to stop the violence and to resolve their differences by peaceful means. We urge the FRY authorities, Serbian authorities and all Kosovo Albanians to co-operate in the search for a political settlement, so that substantial political dialogue could start as soon as possible. The international community is determined to help. But only the parties can overcome their differences. The sooner they do so, the sooner the reconstruction and development of Kosovo can make headway.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1160 and 1199 set out what is required of the parties to bring the confrontation to an end. Those resolutions have confirmed also the need to respect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the FRY, while securing a political settlement for Kosovo, involving substantive, broad and meaningful self-administration. The OSCE has

taken on the task of verifying that all parties are complying with these Resolutions.

The OSCE is setting up its largest ever operation, the Kosovo Verification Mission. Besides verifying compliance, the KVM will help to implement the political settlement to be reached by the parties by supervising elections, providing support in building up democratic institutions and assisting with police force development in Kosovo. We intend to do this effectively, and in a manner in which the views of governments contributing to KVM are taken fully into account.

The head of the KVM, Ambassador Walker, his team and the OSCE Secretariat have worked very hard in the past few weeks to establish the Mission. Numbers are building up quickly. We encourage all those involved to continue their excellent work. The OSCE will continue to work in close co-ordination with other international organizations and NGOs involved in the international effort in Kosovo.

We urge all parties to the conflict to respect the ceasefire, to comply fully with relevant Security Council Resolutions, and to co-operate closely with the KVM so that it can carry out its duties unimpeded throughout Kosovo. The OSCE, for its part, will respect fully the terms of the agreement on the establishment of the KVM signed by Foreign Minister Geremek as the Chairman-in-Office, and Foreign Minister Jovanovic. We stress that its implementation will be important for any future consideration of FRY participation in the OSCE.

The staff of the KVM must be able to carry out their duties safely. The OSCE verifiers are not a fighting force. Although their true protection is compliance by all parties with the terms of agreement, security must be in place to protect them. The OSCE welcomes the commitment of other organizations to provide assistance and protect the OSCE and its verifiers in its mission in Kosovo, in case it would be required.

It is our hope and belief that the KVM will make the path to a settlement to the conflict in Kosovo easier. We will continue to give it our full support. But it is for the parties themselves to go down that path and to ensure that Kosovo can look forward to a peaceful future.

III. Decisions of the Oslo Ministerial Council Meeting

*Decision on Georgia*¹

Ministers appreciate the efficient co-operation between Georgia and the OSCE. They stress that the OSCE should intensify its efforts in the conflict resolution process as well as in monitoring the situation in the sphere of building democratic institutions in Georgia. Ministers emphasize that the lack of progress in the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Georgia requires additional measures to increase the safety of the international personnel and transparency regarding military armaments and equipment in the conflict areas.

Ministers acknowledge certain progress in the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, in particular with regard to the military-security situation and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. They stress that there is an immediate need to increase efforts on all sides to promote the activities related to political negotiations on the definition of the political status of this region and facilitation of the process of the return of refugees.

Ministers express the hope that meaningful progress will soon be achieved with respect to a peaceful solution of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. They strongly condemn the violent acts in the Gali District of Abkhazia, Georgia, in May and June 1998, resulting in mass destruction and the forcible expulsion of Georgian population. In this respect they recall numerous United Nations documents, the OSCE Budapest Decision and in particular the Lisbon Summit Declaration where utmost support for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders was underlined. They also condemn the terrorist activities. They stress the need to refrain from the use of force, the importance of the prompt, immediate, safe and unconditional return of the refugees to the Gali District and the immediate conclusion of bilateral negotiations on this issue as a precondition for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

Ministers stress that the Geneva process is a leading framework for the peaceful settlement of conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and underline the primary responsibility of the United Nations for advancing this process. They declare the OSCE's readiness to assist the United Nations in their efforts. They appeal to the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General, as the initiators of the Geneva process, and the Russian Federation, as a facilitator, to activate their efforts with a view to implementing the already adopted decisions and undertakings. They ask the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to stay in close contact with the Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General on all matters concerning Abkhazia, Geor-

1 MC(7).DEC/1.

gia. They declare the OSCE's readiness to participate in the implementation of a final and comprehensive settlement, including assistance to a local administration of the Gali District, particularly with regard to a joint mechanism of investigation of criminal cases in the zone of conflict and law enforcement body.

Ministers stress that promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, monitoring of the smooth and safe return of refugees, and assisting in the development of legal and democratic institutions and processes, in particular in establishment of a joint local administration in the Gali District with the participation of the returnees, can contribute to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. In that respect they ask the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to conduct with the United Nations Secretary-General, and within the OSCE, appropriate consultations exploring the utility of the establishment of an OSCE office in the Gali District. Ministers emphasize that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure the safety of the personnel of this office.

Ministers express their support for the Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue, in particular on confidence-building measures. The Ministers encourage the parties to follow up the decisions on confidence-building measures and to further study the proposals put forward at the Athens Meeting on Abkhazia, Georgia. If all parties agree to a similar meeting in Istanbul, this may provide a good opportunity. Ministers stress the possible role of the UN/OSCE Human Rights Office in Sukhumi in monitoring and assisting in implementation of any confidence-building measures between the two parties.

While reiterating that reconstruction measures cannot be a substitute for political settlement, Ministers acknowledge the importance of the rehabilitation of the conflict areas and regions and the return of refugees for advancing the process of the conflict settlement. They call on all parties to create conditions appropriate for such measures to be implemented. They undertake to explore the possibilities of a more active OSCE role in this respect in close liaison with international donors and institutions which are already active in this field in Georgia, and as a complement to their activities.

Decision on Moldova²

Ministers note that negotiations respecting the status of the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova have languished. They call for re-invigorating these negotiations through the facilitation of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Russian and Ukrainian mediators. They strongly urge both parties to intensify their discussions aimed at consolidating the independence, sovereignty

2 MC(7).DEC/2.

and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova along with an understanding on a special status for the Trans-Dniestrian region.

They stress the positive role of the peacekeeping forces in securing stability in the region.

Ministers call for full implementation of the relevant OSCE decisions and express concern over the lack of progress in the withdrawal of Russian troops currently stationed in the Republic of Moldova, with the understanding that the removal of Russian armaments, military equipment, ammunition and other ordnance from Moldova should be the primary step in this direction.

To redress these circumstances, Ministers agree that the following small and "do-able" steps could have beneficial consequences for the full resolution of these problems:

(a) *with regard to the political settlement of the question of the status of Trans-Dniestria:*

- the complete implementation of the confidence- and security-building measures set out in the Odessa Protocols of 20 March 1998;
- the intensification of dialogue on the outstanding issues among relevant authorities and experts from both sides, particularly with regard to the division of competencies as agreed in the Memorandum and in the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine of 8 May 1997;
- identification and implementation of specific projects in the areas of the environment and economic and cultural relations as well as information flows across the Dniestr River;
- high-level meetings on the Trans-Dniestrian problem;

(b) *with regard to military issues:*

- consideration of making use of the offers of assistance in solving the environmental problems caused by the presence of unstable munitions;
- consideration of the existing offers of assistance relating to removal and/or destruction of Russian armaments, military equipment, ammunition and other ordnance;
- the elaboration, within a period of six months after the Oslo 1998 OSCE Ministerial Council, of a schedule for the withdrawal of the armaments, military equipment, ammunition and other ordnance;
- completion of the remaining protocols of the Moldo-Russian Agreement of 21 October 1994 on the withdrawal of Russian troops;
- resumption of the activities of the Mixed Moldo-Russian Commission on military issues.

- (c) *with regard to the activities of the OSCE Mission to Moldova:*
- consideration of a potential role of the OSCE Mission in ensuring transparency regarding the process of withdrawal of Russian troops.

*Decision on a Document-Charter on European Security: The Way Ahead*³

The Ministerial Council,

Reiterating the will to develop the key role the OSCE is playing within the framework of the emerging European security architecture based on partnership and co-operation,

Welcoming considerable progress in the development of the mutually reinforcing and non-hierarchical co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations and institutions,

Taking note of the on-going operational evolution of the OSCE especially in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, comprehensive conflict settlement and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Taking note of the Chairman-in-Office Progress Report on the work on a Document-Charter in 1998 and welcoming what has been achieved to date,

Confirming the political commitment of the OSCE participating States to continue the work with a view to elaborate comprehensive and substantive Document-Charter on European Security, worthy of adoption at the OSCE Summit.

Has agreed that

1. With the aim of completing the work on a Document-Charter in 1999, the Chairman of the Security Model Committee at an early meeting of the Committee will present a work programme for the drafting of a Document-Charter. Drafting will be based on Copenhagen Decision No. 5 and a detailed structure of a Document-Charter, derived from that decision, which will be presented to the SMC by its Chairman by the end of March 1999.
Progress in drafting will be assessed at reinforced PC meetings in 1999.
2. The negotiation on the Document-Charter will build on what has been achieved thus far and will continue to reflect, *inter alia*, practical efforts to strengthen the work of the OSCE in all its dimensions, as well as to develop further co-operation with other organizations and institutions.
3. Further development of the Platform for Co-operative Security, as a part of a Document-Charter, should also include provisions relating to the subregional dimension of security in the OSCE area.

3 MC(7).DEC/3.

*Decision on the Further Operational Strengthening of the OSCE*⁴

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 3 taken last year in Copenhagen,

Welcoming the Permanent Council Decision No. 257 and the Secretary General's report on the implementation of this decision (MC.GAL/1/98/Rev.1 Restr.),

Aware of growing operational activities of the Organization and in particular the build-up of the Kosovo Verification Mission, resulting in a significantly increased workload for the OSCE Secretariat,

Willing to increase the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the OSCE operations,

Recognizing the need to further strengthen the OSCE capabilities for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area, and in particular the need to enhance the operational capacities of the OSCE Secretariat,

1. Tasks the Permanent Council, as a matter of priority, to consider expeditiously requests of the Secretary General concerning the staffing of the OSCE Secretariat contracted personnel in relation to the need to provide adequate support for enhanced operational activities of the OSCE.
2. Decides that work on further operational strengthening of the OSCE will be considered by the Permanent Council.
3. Further decides that the Permanent Council in mid-1999 will review progress achieved in this respect.
4. Requests the Chairman-in-Office to prepare a progress report, taking into account findings of the Permanent Council meeting referred to above.

*Decision on Enhancement of the OSCE'S Operational Capabilities Regarding Roma and Sinti Issues*⁵

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the existing OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, and

Recalling the decision taken by the Budapest Summit to appoint within the ODIHR a Contact Point for Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) Issues,

4 MC(7).DEC/4.

5 MC(7).DEC/5.

1. Decides to enhance the capability of the OSCE regarding those issues by strengthening the existing ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. Among its priorities will be:
 - to enhance the OSCE's interaction with the governments of the participating States, with representatives of Roma and Sinti communities, as well as with international organizations, initiatives and NGOs relevant to Roma and Sinti issues, and in particular to secure further mutual reinforcement of co-operation with the Coordinator for Roma in the Council of Europe with a view to avoiding duplication of effort, including the establishment of regular consultations with those organizations, initiatives and NGOs in order to develop synergies and common approaches designed to facilitate full integration of Roma and Sinti communities into the societies they live in, while preserving their identity;
 - to enhance co-operation among OSCE institutions and missions/field presences with respect to Roma and Sinti, if applicable;
 - to develop, on the basis of input from participating States, the OSCE institutions, and in particular the HCNM, Roma and Sinti communities, NGOs, and international organizations and other institutions and initiatives, a work programme which should include, *inter alia*, seminars, workshops and clearing houses;
 - to collect information from the participating States on legislative and other measures related to the situation of Roma and Sinti with a view to making it available to the OSCE community, as well as to other interested international organizations, and to elaborating additional reports on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.
2. Further decides that the Contact Point should deal solely with matters concerning Roma and Sinti.
3. Tasks the Permanent Council with devising appropriate ways to ensure adequate resources to implement this decision.

Decision on the Location of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities⁶

The Ministerial Council,

- Accepts with gratitude the commitment of the Netherlands to continue providing the High Commissioner on National Minorities with premises in The Hague and its readiness to renovate, enlarge and refurbish them;
- Affirms its understanding that this commitment, initially covering the pe-

6 MC(7).DEC/6.

riod up to and including the year 2004, has been made regardless of the person holding the office of High Commissioner on National Minorities; and

- Notes with appreciation that the commitment represents a significant contribution to the OSCE.

*Decision on Central Asia*⁷

The Ministerial Council,

Expressing its support for the enhancement of the OSCE's activities in Central Asia, among other things through the newly established OSCE Centres in the region,

- Expresses the need for co-ordination among various international organizations and institutions with respect to activities in Central Asia;
- Requests the Chairman-in-Office to prepare a report concerning various possibilities for the OSCE to strengthen this co-ordinated approach;
- Tasks the Permanent Council to consider this report before the summer recess.

*Decision on the Chairmanship in the Year 2000*⁸

The Ministerial Council decides that Austria will exercise the function of the OSCE chairmanship in the year 2000.

IV. Chairman's Summary

The OSCE Ministerial Council held its session in Oslo to review the role and activities of the OSCE, and especially the Organization's contribution to meeting current risks and challenges to security.

Discussion at the meeting focused on the OSCE's involvement in Kosovo, the OSCE's role in and contribution to European security, as well as operational capabilities of the Organization. The current stage of negotiation on a Document-Charter on European Security was assessed and specific suggestions were made with regard to the future work on that issue.

⁷ MC(7).DEC/7.

⁸ MC(7).DEC/8.

Ministers discussed regional conflicts in the OSCE area and the Organization's efforts contributing to their settlement. A number of operational issues relating to the strengthening of the OSCE's activities were considered.

The discussion has found its reflection in the adoption by the Ministers of several documents listed below.

Ministers adopted the Oslo Ministerial Declaration, issued a Statement on Kosovo, and approved the following decisions:

- on Georgia,
- on Moldova,
- on a Document-Charter on European Security: The Way Ahead,
- on the further operational strengthening of the OSCE,
- on the enhancement of the OSCE's capabilities regarding Roma and Sinti issues,
- on the location of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities,
- on Central Asia,
- on the next OSCE Chairmanship,
- on the date of the next OSCE Summit.⁹

The Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, submitted to the Ministerial Council his Activity Report for 1998 and a Progress Report on the Development of a Document-Charter on European Security.

In addition to the issues contained in the above-mentioned documents, the Ministers discussed questions reflected in this Summary.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office made a trip from 23 to 26 November to the countries of the South Caucasus region, including the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic. In the course of his trip, he met with the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh and got acquainted with the situation in the area of conflict. All parties agree that the OSCE Minsk Process is the only suitable framework for the continuation of the peace process. The parties reiterated their commitment to maintain the cease-fire. Upon the suggestion of the Chairman-in-Office, all parties agreed to an exchange of prisoners of war as one confidence-building measure.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office has received the report of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Conference on their efforts in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict. The Chairman-in-Office welcomes the vigorous activity by the Co-Chairs during 1998. He accordingly urges the parties in conflict to resume negotiations in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group without de-

9 Editor's note: see PC/DEC/283.

lay in order to promptly define a mutually acceptable basis for comprehensive settlement of the conflict. He calls also on the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to continue their efforts to facilitate negotiations and search for a solution. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office expresses the firm conviction that all parties should demonstrate political resolve and a willingness to take into account all legitimate interests and concerns. In this way, through the assistance of the Co-Chairs, this conflict can and should be settled in order to establish lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus region.

Ministers expressed appreciation of the efforts of the Chairman-in-Office, supported by the OSCE community, with regard to the Kosovo crisis. Concerning the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission of the OSCE (KVM) emphasis was put on the extraordinary challenge of this task. Ministers welcomed the use of the Vienna-based ad hoc open-ended committee on Sandjak, Vojvodina and Kosovo as the channel of information regarding the operation of the KVM and conditions in Kosovo as well as the informal venue for the discussion of OSCE decisions with respect to the KVM. In this context, the commitment of the Lisbon Summit was recalled to transparency in action and relations with one another among OSCE States, and how this could be reflected best in OSCE decision making.

Ministers congratulated the parties to the agreements on confidence and security-building measures and sub-regional arms control under Dayton for progress achieved in their implementation and encouraged the further development of co-operation among the parties. They thanked the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, General Jean, for his contribution to this process.

Satisfaction was expressed about the agreement reached among the interested parties on the mandate for negotiations on regional stabilization, as foreseen under Article V of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Ministers thanked the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Jacolin, for the work done on the mandate enabling the negotiation process to start.

The OSCE's important role in Albania was underlined, including in its new function as Co-Chairman, together with the European Union, of the group of "Friends of Albania" in concerting the efforts of concerned countries and international bodies.

Ministers reiterated their support for the OSCE's involvement in Belarus, in particular in helping the authorities there to comply with their OSCE commitments. They stressed the importance of constructive co-operation between the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group and the host country.

Ministers appreciated the work of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Russian Federation. The personnel of the Group deserve special praise for

carrying out tasks in a very insecure environment where hostage-takings are a matter of continuous and grave concern.

The readiness of the OSCE to contribute, through its mission, to progress in the peace process in Tajikistan was reiterated.

During the discussion the hope was expressed that Kazakhstan will work closely with the OSCE, including on how to improve its electoral processes.

While reviewing the operational activities of the OSCE, including these of the missions and institutions, the Ministers commended OSCE personnel for outstanding work and stressed the different nature of tasks carried out in the field by the OSCE, ranging from preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention to post-conflict rehabilitation and promotion of dialogue and co-operation.

Ministers stressed the importance they attach to the effectiveness of the OSCE's operational activities. Acknowledging the challenge posed to the OSCE by growing field operations, they thanked the Secretary General for his report on the implementation of OSCE decisions on the enhancement of operational capacities of the Secretariat.

Ministers stressed the importance of the implementation of the Common Concept for the Development of Mutually-Reinforcing Institutions. They assessed the co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions as developing very well.

The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was referred to as one of the means for peaceful settlement of disputes. Ministers stressed that the signature and ratification of the 1992 Stockholm Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE, establishing the court, would contribute to the use of this instrument.

During the discussion organizational and financial aspects of the functioning of the OSCE were touched upon.

Ministers emphasized that the work in the human dimension and democracy building, extending to the individual, plays a crucial role for comprehensive security. They commended in this regard the excellent work carried out by the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Special gratitude was expressed to Mr. Max van der Stoep for his readiness to continue to serve as High Commissioner.

The need for improvement in the compliance with and implementation of all commitments in the human dimension did not diminish, in particular with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Ministers referred, *inter alia*, to the standing commitment of the OSCE to address problems of continuing violations of human rights, such as involuntary migration, threats to independent media, electoral fraud, manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism,

xenophobia and anti-Semitism. Unreserved condemnation of all acts and practices of terrorism was expressed as well as the commitment for enhanced co-operation to eliminate that threat to security, democracy and human rights. In the human dimension stress was laid specifically on the need to better accommodate persons belonging to national minorities within State borders, the importance of their effective participation in public decision making, and the enhancement of harmonious coexistence of minorities and majority populations. Problems of statelessness were touched upon. Ministers recalled OSCE commitments regarding equal opportunities between men and women. They agreed to continue to pursue the objective of full and true equality between men and women as a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society.

In discussions concerning the economic dimension, reference was made to the need for further promotion of free market economies and social progress, economic and environmental co-operation throughout the OSCE region. The need for the elimination of discrimination in trade, and of barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services, capital and information in accordance with relevant norms and agreements was mentioned. Ministers welcomed the activities of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental activities.

Referring to the threats posed by the uncontrolled accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons, several Ministers noted with satisfaction the launching of discussion in the Forum for Security Co-operation context on how the OSCE can best contribute to meeting this challenge, without duplicating existing initiatives. They welcomed the envisaged entry into force on 1 March 1999 of the Ottawa Convention on the ban of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and on their destruction, drawing attention to the humanitarian significance thereof.

With reference to co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation relevant provisions of the OSCE Budapest Document 1994 were recalled in the context of positive experience of the activities of the Vienna-based Mediterranean Contact Group, the well-established tradition of Mediterranean seminars and regular high-level consultation of the OSCE Troika and the partners.

Ministers expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of Norway for the excellent organization of the Ministerial Council Meeting.

V. Reports to the Oslo Ministerial Council Meeting

Chairman-in-Office's Activity Report for 1998

1. During 1998 the OSCE's contribution to European security underwent a process of qualitative refinement and enlargement in rapid response to risks and challenges. The Organization's political mission of enhancing peace and stability in the OSCE area through consolidation of common values, broadly understood conflict prevention and promotion of co-operative security has been constantly put to the test by the challenges posed by existing and emerging potential conflict. Activities aimed at furthering compliance with OSCE principles and commitments continued to be a responsibility requiring great attention by the Organization.

2. The OSCE faced a variable and complex security environment that mobilized the development of its operational capabilities and stimulated its mission of creating solidarity and partnership among participating States in meeting common challenges. The evolving crisis in Kosovo challenged the OSCE's abilities to adapt itself adequately to the requirements of conflict prevention. While the institutions and numerous missions of the OSCE continued to pursue their tasks, the Organization expanded its presence in Central Asia and created conditions for similar enhancement in Transcaucasus. The commitment of the OSCE to refining its role within a non-hierarchical security system for Europe resulted in the active consideration of a future OSCE Charter on European Security. This consideration was backed up by the development of dynamic co-operation with other international organizations and institutions, furthering their mutual reinforcement in pursuit of common goals and objectives.

3. During 1998 the OSCE has been reaffirming its key role in fostering security and stability by applying instruments for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Long-term missions and representatives of the OSCE in the field have continued to serve throughout the area as effective, responsive and flexible tools of preventive and mitigating action in the face of the manifold risks and challenges to security and stability. The OSCE has continued to prove its reliability as a mechanism for promoting dialogue, solidarity, partnership and co-operation. It has maintained its focus on aiding the implementation of basic principles and commitments, including the fundamental aspects of greater respect for human rights and the building of democracy.

4. In all its endeavours the OSCE has been working closely together with relevant international organizations and institutions. This co-operation, based

on the Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually-Reinforcing Institutions, as defined by the 1997 Copenhagen OSCE Ministerial Council, has been guided by the principles of pragmatism, responsible burden-sharing and the use of the comparative advantages of all the actors involved. The range of OSCE contacts with its partner organizations and institutions in 1998 was unprecedented, both at the headquarters level and in the field. It encompassed, in addition to the activities of the Chairman-in-Office, those of the OSCE institutions and of its missions and representatives throughout the OSCE area.

5. The operational activities of the OSCE in 1998 included the consolidation and adjustment of activities as well as the assumption of new mandates. In addition to several continuing efforts, operations of a new type, such as compliance verification and police monitoring, have been initiated by the OSCE, leading to the defining of new potential capabilities in the Organization's conflict prevention role. In the field of preventive diplomacy and in contributions to crisis management and post-rehabilitation efforts, stress was laid on early warning on risks and challenges.

6. Eight months elapsed in 1998 before the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was persuaded by the international community to cease warfare in Kosovo and to start withdrawing in substantial numbers its special forces from the province. Subsequent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (Nos. 1160, 1199 and 1203) reflected and defined the international community's positions on the Kosovo crisis and the requirements for FRY compliance. It was nevertheless only the threat of military intervention that prevented Belgrade from continuing its pacification activities in the province with its toll of death and displacement for many civilians. The OSCE reacted immediately to Serb repression of the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo. This was reflected in the statement issued by its Chairman-in-Office on 2 March, followed by an action plan of the Chairman-in-Office for Kosovo and the Permanent Council Decision No. 218 urging the FRY to halt its excessive use of force in the province and to initiate a genuine dialogue with Kosovo Albanian representatives. The Chairman-in-Office also pointed to the need to draw up status proposals on Kosovo and to hold round-table talks in the FRY with international participation as crucial aspects of the search for political solutions. The OSCE continuously pursued the objectives of reinstating the mission of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Felipe González, and of ensuring a permanent OSCE presence in the FRY, including Kosovo. For several months the Chairman-in-Office maintained dialogue on the level of ambassadors with Yugoslav authorities on the question of the FRY's participation in the OSCE. Such participation was, however, used by the FRY as a condition for the return of the OSCE to the country, a demand that led to the suspension of the talks. Pursuant to Security Council resolution No. 1160, the Chairman-in-Office began providing to the United Nations monthly information on the situation in Kosovo and on the measures taken

by the OSCE in response to that crisis. In March the OSCE strengthened its field presence in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to make its monitoring efforts more effective.

7. In the autumn of 1998 intense negotiations between the United States special envoy, Mr. Richard Holbrooke, and Belgrade led to the acceptance by the FRY of political talks and brokerage between the parties to the Kosovo conflict. Agreement was reached on the establishment of a regime to verify compliance by the FRY with the requirements of the international community. The OSCE showed itself ready to contribute to the concerted international effort to put an end to violence in Kosovo through the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission in October. The relevant Agreement signed on 16 October in Belgrade by the Chairman-in-Office and the FRY has opened fresh prospects for an end to repression in Kosovo and the start of a return to political dialogue between the parties to the conflict. At the same time, the OSCE has been faced with the extraordinary task of organizing a huge and unprecedented verification operation, thus opening a qualitatively new chapter in OSCE conflict prevention activities.

8. During 1998 the OSCE continued to fulfil the role assigned to it under the Dayton General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (GFAP). Both confidence- and security-building measures under Article II and the sub-regional arms control under Article IV of Annex 1-B to the GFAP were consolidated. The work on the mandate for negotiation on regional stabilization under Article V was advanced towards acceptance. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the OSCE contributed significantly to the efforts of the international community with regard to the consolidation of State structures, democracy building and human rights implementation. This was done in line with the recommendations of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC). While OSCE tasks in connection with the general elections held in September were in the forefront of the activities of its mission, further support was provided through action on behalf of democratization, human rights including those of returnees, and the build-up and functioning of democratic institutions such as the office of the ombudsman. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the complementary nature and the mutual reinforcement of the activities of different international organizations and institutions have been proving their value. The OSCE's contribution to the preparation and carrying out of the elections in that country proved to be on the right track, in light of the fact that the voters there have opted for a more pluralistic political spectrum. The dedication of the OSCE election personnel deserves high praise.

9. The continuous presence of the OSCE mission in Croatia has been contributing to the strengthening of that country's efforts in the fields of post-war confidence building, return of refugees, and the further development of democratic standards. The implementation of international obligations by Croatia was a precondition for OSCE assistance to government and local authorities as work continued towards furthering tolerance, reconciliation, the rule of law and a civil society. The OSCE embarked on a new mandate in Croatia and a new dimension in the development of its own capabilities through the establishment of a police monitoring operation in the Danubian region of that country. The assumption by the OSCE of the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations Police Support Group in the Danubian region was completed in October 1998. Integrating the Serb local community into Croatian society and ensuring sustainable implementation of the refugee return programme continued to remain challenging tasks, as did assistance in drafting legislation covering human rights, the judiciary, the media and elections.

10. The prevailing political instability in Albania challenged the OSCE to increase its determination and efforts to assist that country in fostering political dialogue and the amalgamation of democracy and the rule of law through the strengthening of its institutions. This goal was pursued jointly with other international organizations and institutions. The OSCE continued to provide a flexible co-ordinating framework for international support for Albania, *inter alia*, in its new role as co-chairman, together with the European Union, of the group of "Friends of Albania", which brings together concerned countries and international bodies and was established in September 1998. The international ministerial conference on Albania held in October in Tirana with the participation of the OSCE welcomed the comprehensive reform programme presented by the Government and laid down a number of priorities for the stabilization and development of the country. The subsequent strengthening of the OSCE Presence in Albania demonstrated the Organization's resolve to continue its assistance efforts. Earlier in the year a monitoring component was established as part of the Presence for the purpose of providing analysis of the situation in Kosovo and on the border between Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

11. The mandate of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje has been implemented with a view to supporting sustainable internal stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which has been jeopardized in an unpredictable way by the crisis in neighbouring Kosovo. The situation in the country has remained stable and calm in the course of 1998, allowing the OSCE mission to concentrate its work on co-operation with the Government in promoting the internal aspects of stability, including respect for human rights, elections and economic opportunities.

12. The OSCE's Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus pursued a constructive dialogue with the Government and representatives of different segments of Belarusian society on a number of issues relating to the building of democratic institutions and civic society. The Group offered advice regarding the drafting of electoral legislation, the establishment of an ombudsman's office, the penal code and the code of criminal procedure, and also regarding projects regarded by the Group as important, such as the legislative project on the electronic media. The Group also monitored compliance with international commitments in the fields of human rights, the rule of law and democracy building, acting as a catalyst for democratic values and projects between governmental and non-governmental forces in Belarus. In spite of great efforts, meaningful progress was difficult to achieve. A round-table to overcome the constitutional crisis would be instrumental to promote democracy in Belarus. Belarus should play its role as a democratic member of European organizations. This would also lead to the full observance of human rights in Belarus.

13. During this year the withdrawal of Russian troops, ammunition and equipment from the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova as well as an overall political settlement to the conflict over Trans-Dniestria have been issues of concern to the OSCE. This long-standing commitment to a search for solutions to both questions was reflected in the holding by the OSCE of meetings on military transparency and political issues in July and October of 1998. Offers of practical assistance in the destruction of ammunition and continued attachment to an approach to the problem of troop withdrawal based on sequenced, achievable steps have been remaining at the focus of the OSCE's attention. The contributions of Russia and Ukraine as mediators to efforts aimed at the political solution of the conflict over Trans-Dniestria should be noted.

14. The 1998 year saw continuing positive political transformation in Georgia towards a more open and democratic society and movement towards a market economy. There was some progress in the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict over South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region, in particular with regard to the military security situation and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. However, no meaningful progress was achieved with respect to a peaceful solution of the conflict over Abkhazia, Georgia, although the search for a settlement has been stepped up and there are some grounds for optimism.

15. The OSCE continued its efforts to advance the work of resolving the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The co-chairmen of the Minsk Group continued their work with the parties with a view to an early resumption of negotiations. The monitoring of the line of contact by the Personal Representative

of the Chairman-in-Office and his staff was essential for the consolidation of the cease-fire regime and for building confidence between the parties.

16. The visit of the Chairman-in-Office to the Caucasus in November underscored the importance the OSCE has been attaching to its continuing efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of conflicts in that region. In Georgia the Chairman-in-Office emphasized the OSCE's long-standing commitment to work, through its mission, for the advancement of a political settlement of the South Ossetian conflict and to contribute to confidence building between the parties to the dispute on the future status of Abkhazia. The possibility of the opening of an OSCE office in the Gali region was also discussed. As regards Nagorno-Karabakh, the Chairman-in-Office called on the parties concerned to demonstrate the political will to negotiate and compromise in the interest of achieving a mutually acceptable and mutually advantageous resolution of the conflict. An exchange of prisoners of war was agreed during the visit. Furthermore, Armenia and Azerbaijan gave positive response to the suggestion of the Chairman-in-Office to establish OSCE offices in Erevan and Baku. The Chairman-in-Office signed memoranda of understanding between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the three countries aimed at deepening co-operation in the fields of democracy and human rights.

17. The OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Russian Federation, continued to support and facilitate humanitarian assistance and to monitor the evolving internal situation including respect for human rights. The OSCE was the only international organization present in Chechnya. Developments there do not provide ground for optimism. The frequent kidnappings there are a matter of grave and continuing security concern. The extremely complex situation in Chechnya remained a major obstacle to the work of the Assistance Group, leading, among other problems, to temporary difficulties in ensuring the appropriate level of staffing in Grozny and its permanent presence there.

18. The OSCE assisted in the task of national reconciliation in Tajikistan, among other ways by providing advice on the development of legal and democratic political institutions and processes. The OSCE continued its monitoring of the human rights situation, thereby promoting compliance with OSCE principles and commitments in Tajikistan. It should be noted that although there has been some progress in the implementation of the peace agreement, implementation of the vast majority of the protocols is behind schedule.

19. In April the Chairman-in-Office paid visits to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. These visits confirmed the willingness of the host countries to advance their integration within the framework of OSCE principles and activities, a long with their desire, shared by all participating States, to strengthen the OSCE community. The implementation of the Chairman-in-Office's recommendations drawn from his trip to Central

Asia led to the establishment of OSCE centres in Almaty, Ashgabad and Bishkek. This gives the OSCE and the countries involved a unique opportunity to intensify co-operation in all relevant spheres, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security, and with a view to strengthening regional links and stability, and preventing the emergence of risks and challenges to stability. The human dimension aspects of co-operation have been reinforced through memoranda of understanding between ODIHR and, respectively, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The memoranda were signed by the Chairman-in-Office at the Ministerial Council meeting in Oslo.

20. OSCE activities in Ukraine concentrated mainly on human rights and economic projects aimed at assisting in the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments by strengthening and stimulating the process of overall democratization in the country. Clear progress in carrying out the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine has resulted in serious consideration being given to the scope and modalities of future co-operation between the OSCE representation in Ukraine and the host country authorities.

21. The OSCE missions to Estonia and Latvia continued to perform several useful and concrete functions as agencies promoting and assisting social integration in both countries. By pursuing this goal and contributing to the implementation of a number of related projects, they have had a stabilizing effect on interethnic relations. OSCE representatives in Estonia and Latvia continued to assist the relevant governmental and inter-governmental bodies in solving problems relating to the legal status and situation of Russian military pensioners in both countries. In August, in line with the relevant bilateral agreement between Latvia and the Russian Federation signed in 1994, the Skrunda radar station in Latvia was switched off, marking the beginning of the dismantling of that installation. The Skrunda radar inspection regime, established by the OSCE at the request of the parties, and the work of its representative in the relevant joint commission contributed to the success of this task undertaken by the OSCE.

22. While consolidating and developing its operational activities, the OSCE was actively engaged, pursuant to the decisions of the 1997 Copenhagen Ministerial Council, in preparing a Document-Charter on European Security. Considerable progress was achieved in this work, as noted in a separate report. This progress allows the OSCE ministers gathering in Oslo to call on the incoming Chairman-in-Office to organize the drafting of the future document with the aim of adopting it at the next meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States. The OSCE's partner organizations and institutions played an active part in the development of the concept of a Platform on Co-operative Security, which is aimed at strengthening the mutually reinforcing character of the relationships in place among organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive and co-operative security within the OSCE area.

23. As regards human dimension issues in 1998, apart from assistance in comprehensive implementation of commitments, the OSCE put strong emphasis on the supervision and monitoring of elections. Co-operation between the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE on electoral observation was strengthened and improved in several cases through joint efforts with the Council of Europe. The new methodology for electoral assistance and observation developed by the ODIHR, which includes the monitoring of the entire election process, has proven to be efficient and reliable in terms of assessing compliance with OSCE commitments. Numerous projects were prepared and run by the ODIHR in co-operation with several OSCE missions and other international and national institutions. They strengthened the role of the OSCE in the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and helped in the build-up and consolidation of democratic institutions in several participating States. The modalities for OSCE implementation meetings on human dimension issues, agreed upon in July, helped to integrate more closely the human dimension into the daily work of the OSCE and also to increase the contributions of relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to OSCE activities. The Warsaw meeting on human dimension issues held in October-November provided a framework for thorough discussion of compliance with OSCE commitments. The OSCE developed further, through the ODIHR and in other ways, its role vis-à-vis the regional conference on problems of migration in and around the Commonwealth of Independent States, and it focused particular attention on issues of equality of opportunity between men and women. The OSCE worked on formulating a more effective response to the problems of Roma and Sinti ethnic groups.

24. The High Commissioner on National Minorities continued to contribute to the promotion of comprehensive security in the OSCE area, especially in regions where tensions involving national minorities might have potential consequences for peace and stability. The range of the High Commissioner's activities was very broad and concentrated on efforts aimed at assisting Governments in responding to the political and human rights aspirations of persons belonging to national minorities. Among the numerous initiatives to this end it is worth while mentioning the international conference on "Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity" organized in October in Locarno. Benefits of decentralization and subsidiarity as means of accommodating diversity in society and, ultimately, of contributing to the resolution of minority-related issues, were discussed.

25. The Office of the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media became operational in the first quarter of 1998. The OSCE media representative has established an extensive network of contacts with Governments and with international and non-governmental organizations and is co-operating constructively, *inter alia*, with the Council of Europe and the ODIHR. The work of the Office has focused primarily on early warning activities and on rapid response to serious cases of non-compliance with OSCE commitments regarding freedom of expression and the media.

26. OSCE activities in the economic dimension have been intensified during the year. The Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities has begun to implement actively his mandate. This has resulted in much closer OSCE co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Commission, and in better interaction with the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. An expanded network of contacts with non-governmental organizations and the private sector has also been put into place. The successful Sixth Meeting of the Economic Forum held in June of this year in Prague, along with the regional seminars organized in the run-up to next year's Economic Forum, helped to raise the profile of the Organization's economic dimension.

27. In 1998 the OSCE has reinforced its network of co-operation channels with other international organizations and institutions. A number of high-level consultations on specific subjects have been held during the year. These have led to operational conclusions and the strengthening of co-operation frameworks involving OSCE institutions and missions. The OSCE has strengthened its role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, through, *inter alia* the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission which has been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. Memoranda on co-operation were concluded between the Secretary General of the OSCE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ODIHR and the UNHCR, and the ODIHR and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The OSCE maintained close co-operation and held consultations with several United Nations agencies, the Council of Europe and NATO. The Kosovo Verification Mission of the OSCE became an important testing ground for co-operation between the OSCE and NATO. The information exchange among international organizations and institutions has increased, with the OSCE in a position to provide useful data thanks to its strong field presence.

28. In accordance with the relevant decision of the Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting, a group of experts was established in the OSCE to review possible ways of further enhancing the Secretariat's operational capacities. As a result of its work several relevant problems were defined and recommendations set out on how best to approach them. Based thereon

decisions were taken on adjustments to the structure of the Secretariat, carried out by the Secretary General. During 1998 the OSCE devised a "strategy for capacity-building and training for conflict prevention and human rights". This strategy is aimed at improving the ability of OSCE institutions and missions to carry out their mandates, to strengthen their internal performance, and in this way to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of OSCE activities. The strategy envisages a number of short- and long-term measures in pursuit of its objective. The challenge of the Kosovo Verification Mission requires an appropriate response in terms not only of the continuing reform of the OSCE Secretariat but also of adequate training.

29. In 1998 the OSCE maintained and developed good contacts and co-operation with the partners for co-operation - Japan and Korea. The partner's continued interest in OSCE activities and work was recognized. Their contribution and willingness to sustain it in support of the efforts of the international community, including the OSCE, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo is highly appreciated. In May the OSCE welcomed Jordan as a new Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation. Co-operation between the Mediterranean partners and the OSCE participating States has been stepped up during the year in the framework of monthly meetings of a Contact Group that brings all of them together and serves as a useful instrument of dialogue and exchange. The OSCE invited the Mediterranean partners to send their representatives on visits to its missions and to participate in election monitoring operations organized by it. This year's OSCE Mediterranean seminar was regarded by all who took part as another significant element in the dialogue between the Organization and the partners.

30. During the year the Chairmanship followed the guidelines governing the method of work that had been submitted by the Chairman-in-Office to the Permanent Council on 15 January. Efforts were undertaken to strengthen existing interaction and complementarity between the OSCE and other international organizations dealing with European security. The number of contacts established and the numerous forms of interaction demonstrate that this goal has become a reality. Another aim was to make the early warning system more effective. The flow of early warning information within the OSCE framework in 1998 can be regarded as good. However, the capability to process that information and the linkages permitting co-ordinated action once early warning has been received needs further improvement, even though expedient holding of special plenary sessions of the Permanent Council in Vienna on short notice was used quite frequently. The idea of conducting periodic, brief evaluations of OSCE activities was implemented to a limited extent (reinforced meetings of the Permanent Council) and deserves further study. Furthermore, it was the Chairmanship's intention to preserve a multi-dimensional system of consultations in the OSCE in keeping with the democratic nature of this Organization. Here, the record is quite satisfactory, con-

sidering the number of informal open-ended and bilateral consultations held. 31. It is worth while pointing out that during this year the Chairman-in-Office and the Chairmanship established very close co-operation with the Secretary General and the OSCE Secretariat, as well other OSCE institutions and representatives in the field. The co-operation within the OSCE "Troika" worked well. The Chairman-in-Office paid official visits to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These visits as well as consultations in several other countries provided an opportunity to discuss matters of interest to the Organization.

Chairman-in-Office's Progress Report on the work in 1998 on a Document-Charter on European Security

The OSCE occupies a key place in the new system of security in Europe and has an important role to play in meeting new risks and challenges to security as an organization specializing in conflict prevention, broadly understood. It is also a source of norms and principles, a promoter of the notion of comprehensive and indivisible security and the organizer of an integrative and flexible framework for co-operation among different organizations and institutions.

To perform effectively this new role, the OSCE has to be equipped with new tools. The work on the Document-Charter on European Security is therefore of particular importance.

Summary of Main Activities

The basis for the work within the Security Model Committee under the Polish Chairmanship was Copenhagen Decision No. 5 on Guidelines on an OSCE Document-Charter on European Security. In accordance with this Decision, two additional working groups have been established in order to deal with specific elements of the Document-Charter. In addition, the Security Model Committee was given the task of conducting negotiations on other issues not covered by the working groups.

All the specific elements referred to in the Copenhagen Decision No. 5 were discussed thoroughly. The basis for the debates within the working groups were working papers prepared by the chairmen of both groups. These working papers are based on proposals tabled earlier. Thanks to this approach, discussions on the Document-Charter entered a qualitatively new stage, i.e., substantive, organized and structured exchanges of views and deliberations on the content of the future Document-Charter.

This method of work seems to have achieved its main purposes: the advancement of goal-oriented discussions, the delineation of areas of emerging common understanding and the identification of the most difficult problems. The chronology of work on the Document-Charter in 1998 is contained in Annex 1.

On a number of issues considerable progress was achieved. At the same time, significant differences of opinion on many questions were registered. The common understanding is, however, that at this juncture there is a need to turn gradually the discussions into a joint drafting process.

In the view of the Chairmanship, the drafting process would be facilitated by adoption of the structure of the Charter, based on the work done so far. This is why an indicative and non-exhaustive table of contents of the future Charter has been presented by the Chairman-in-Office. In addition, the Chairman-in-Office, in co-operation with the Troika, has prepared a comprehensive vision on the basic framework of the Charter, which is contained in Annex 2. This Annex illustrates a very significant negotiating progress, which has been achieved in the course of 1998.

In accordance with the Copenhagen Decision, the Chairman-in Office, in co-operation with the Secretary General, has been called upon, pending the elaboration of the Platform for Co-operative Security as part of Document-Charter, to work actively to step up the OSCE's co-operation with international organizations and institutions, basing his activities on the Common Concept adopted in Copenhagen. During the Polish Chairmanship it was possible to intensify further the OSCE's co-operation with a number of international organizations and institutions. The non-exhaustive list of OSCE contacts in this respect is contained in Annex 3. This list illustrates the intensity and comprehensive character of the OSCE's practical co-operation with other organizations and institutions in 1998. At the same time, the principal partners of the OSCE took a very active part in the elaboration of the concept of a "Platform for Co-operative Security". Among the most important events in this regard were two informal meetings of the Security Model Committee with the participation of representatives of international organizations and institutions. Both these meetings provided an opportunity for a discussion of the experience gained from co-operation and contacts in the past, with a particular focus on co-operation in the field. They emphasized the need for pragmatic co-operation, based on the principle of using comparative advantages. At the same time, there was agreement that co-operation needed to be based on the principle of the equal status of the various organizations and the recognition of their distinctive characteristics.

Specific Issues

New risks and challenges to security

The basic working assumption was that the Document-Charter should offer a framework and general principles for identifying new risks and challenges to security, and that in so doing the participating States should consider what ought to be the appropriate role of the OSCE, including how it can best facilitate international efforts in tackling those new risks and challenges. Another assumption was that participating States should, in this context, continue to be guided by a comprehensive concept of security, the indivisibility of security and the principle that no OSCE participating State should seek to enhance its own security at the expense of another.

A common understanding started to emerge that, in view of the evolving nature of new risks and challenges in a changing security environment, an all-inclusive definition is probably neither possible nor desirable. In this context, it was noted that the Lisbon Summit Declaration as well as the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model and the Copenhagen Ministerial Decision on guidelines for a Document-Charter, identify a number of new risks and challenges.

It has been suggested that a number of issues should be added to those mentioned in the Lisbon and Copenhagen Documents. These suggestions need to be discussed further.

It was also emphasized that other international organizations were already dealing with many of the issues relating to new risks and challenges. The point has been made that unnecessary duplication should be avoided, and the question raised what added value the OSCE could give to the efforts already being undertaken by other international organizations. A number of suggestions have been made as to what role the OSCE could play in dealing with new risks and challenges. These suggestions need further examination.

Politico-military aspects of security

Agreement was reached to the effect that politico-military aspects, including arms control, are integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security. Full implementation and further development of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures are essential for enhancing political and military stability and security.

There is an emerging common understanding regarding the idea that, when considering any possible new measures for enhancing transparency, predictability and co-operation, participating States should be guided by the continuing importance of existing agreements. Building on the results achieved, with a view to strengthening the security of all participating States, future work on arms control, confidence- and security-building measures and on other politico-military aspects should not only address new and emerging challenges but also promote greater transparency, openness and co-operation

in the politico-military field.

Although they have not gained consensus, proposals have been put forward with a view to ensuring that States refrain from stationing nuclear weapons on territories where they are not now present, establishing nuclear-free zones in the OSCE area, and guaranteeing the security of participating States that are not members of a military alliance.

Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation

There was a common understanding that early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation are priority objectives in enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area. As a regional arrangement within the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is an organization of first resort for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its area. That is why it is of particular importance to continue efforts to further enhance the OSCE effectiveness as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

In discussions the participants stressed the need to assure conditions permitting full use of all available mechanisms and instruments. In this context, it was specifically noted that the early warning system needs further improvement and consolidation, *inter alia*, by ensuring the comprehensive analysis of all early warning signals received from different institutions and missions/field operations.

Discussions were initiated on a number of issues, including the relevance of systematizing of available instruments, mechanisms and procedures, establishing of a list of their possible tasks and purposes, and adopting general rules regarding their mandates. Ideas were also expressed about the need to change current procedures for the appointment of the heads of OSCE operations in the field, the role of the Chairman-in-Office in the management of such operations, reporting procedures used by heads of operations' and recruitment of staff.

It was also pointed out that, when working together with humanitarian organizations, the OSCE should take into account the distinctive character of those organizations. The need to establish principles guiding such joint work, such as a humane attitude, impartiality and non-discrimination, was also underlined.

It was impossible to finalize discussions on all these issues because of very significant differences of opinion among participating States.

Expression was also given to the need to improve the training of personnel involved in activities having to do with early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, among other ways by establishing of a system to which partner organizations of the OSCE might contribute, especially in their main areas of specialization.

The OSCE role with regard to police operations

Discussion participants pointed out that OSCE police operations can make an important contribution to building and consolidating democracy and promoting the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Such operations also contribute to the "uniqueness" of the Organization and are consistent with its role as a primary instrument in conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

A common understanding was reached that the OSCE should develop capabilities that would allow for the provision of appropriate assistance in police activities if requested by any participating State, and that there is a need to consider the usefulness of including a police component in all present and future OSCE missions/field presences.

Considerable progress was achieved with regard to identifying possible forms of OSCE involvement in police operations and the principles on which such operations should be based. There was agreement that the OSCE should be active primarily in the monitoring of local police forces to ensure, *inter alia*, that human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected, that it should organize different forms of training, including "Training of Trainers" programmes, and that it should develop mechanisms to advise local police forces, on issues including the strengthening of law and order and the maintenance of a safe and stable environment. There were also suggestions that the OSCE should be ready to conduct more robust operations.

The need for strict compliance by the OSCE police missions with the norms and principles of the OSCE and with international law, and in particular with international humanitarian law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, was stressed.

On a few issues it has not so far been possible to reach a common understanding. Opinions differ on whether OSCE police operations should be seen

as a multidisciplinary task in the context of the Platform for Co-operative Security. Furthermore, differences emerged with regard to the need to establish a chain of command different from that of other missions/field operations, and on issues relating to the exact terms of operation mandates.

Assistance in adherence to/implementation of principles, norms and commitments

There was a common understanding that compliance with OSCE principles, norms and commitments contributes to the creation of a common and indivisible security space and increases the security of all OSCE participating States. Furthermore, it was underlined that respect for commitments, including the willingness of each participating State to enhance its compliance and remain open to OSCE institutions in this regard, is an essential aspect of co-operative security.

Discussions focused on three main topics: action in case of identification of non-compliance, assistance in enhancing compliance, and measures in cases where efforts to enhance implementation are unsuccessful.

On the first topic, there was an agreement regarding the need to involve all OSCE institutions in the monitoring of compliance with OSCE principles, norms and commitments. The need to establish a mechanism through which cases of alleged non-compliance could be clarified and discussed was also stressed.

There was also broad agreement that all the participating States as well as all OSCE structures and institutions should provide appropriate assistance to States experiencing difficulties in meeting their OSCE commitments. In this context, emphasis was placed on the need to make full use of all the existing instruments and procedures.

It was not possible to reach a consensus on the nature of the OSCE action the OSCE should take in the case of clear, gross and uncorrected violation of OSCE principles by a participating State. Two main views were advanced. One was that the OSCE should apply punitive measures, including a recommendation to participating States to suspend political, economic and other kinds of co-operation with the State in question, a decision to refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council, with a possible recommendation for the imposition of sanctions, denial of the violating State's right to speak in the deliberations of the Permanent Council or its subsidiary organs, and the denial of the rights to participate in the decision-making proceedings of the Permanent Council. The other view is that the OSCE should use exclusively co-operative measures.

Jointly considered actions

The main assumption in the work on this issue was that in the event of threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any OSCE participating State or in case of internal breakdown of law and order on the territory of any participating State, timely and immediate reaction by participating States is required. There was also agreement regarding the fact that the participating States should explore possibilities of co-ordinating their actions in such cases with other security-related organizations in the OSCE area.

It was also stressed that any action undertaken by the OSCE and/or its participating States will be without prejudice to the overriding responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for maintaining peace and international security.

Agreement was registered that any action in case of internal breakdown of law and order that might include, *inter alia*, consultation, discussions in various bodies of the OSCE, OSCE mediation, as well as co-ordinated responses, in particular within the terms of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992, including responses as regards peacekeeping activities, must be in conformity with OSCE norms and principles, and in particular with the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of a participating State.

With regard to cases of threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any participating State, it was stressed that the participating States should take any necessary action jointly and promptly, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 51.

A common understanding was reached that participating States should withhold assistance or support to States that fail to meet their obligation to refrain from threat or use of force, that participating States will act jointly to ensure that the State threatening or using force is held accountable to the OSCE and/or the international community, and that participating States should consider cases of threat or use of force in the competent political, security and defence organizations of which they are members.

There was no agreement as to whether the decision to jointly refer a dispute to the United Nations Security Council on behalf of the OSCE whenever, in the opinion of participating States, action by the Security Council may be required, in particular within the terms of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, may be taken, if necessary, in the absence of the consent of the States or State party to the dispute. It was a common understanding, however that participating States should provide collective support, in addition to the required individual support, for such measures as may be adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Human dimension

During the debate it was underlined that the human dimension is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are recognized as being of direct concern to all participating States and it is agreed that the comprehensive approach to security requires improvements in the implementation of all commitments in the human dimension.

It was also reaffirmed that human dimension commitments are directly applicable and that participating States are accountable for their failure to respect the commitments they undertake.

The need for close co-operation with other relevant international organizations according to the "Platform for Co-operative Security" concept was also underlined.

The main topics which were addressed in discussions were democracy building, elections, national minorities, refugees/migration/migrant workers and institutional issues.

It was possible to make significant progress on most concrete provisions. However, considerable differences persist on questions relating to persons belonging to national minorities.

Economic and environmental issues

The common view in discussions has been that economic and environmental questions should never be considered in isolation or for their own sake but rather as an integral part of the efforts being made in connection with early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. This is why the participating States should take the steps necessary to ensure early detection of security risks and challenges caused by economic, social and environmental problems. Opinions differed on the possibility of establishing a formal system/mechanism of indicators for identifying crisis situations.

There was agreement that, in accordance with the concept of the Platform for Co-operative Security, the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension should provide political impetus for work carried out by specialized economic and financial bodies, and that the OSCE - as a Europe-wide security organization - is well placed to provide such an impulse in support of the reform efforts needed to permit the integration of transition economies into the world economy. However, differences of principle persist regarding the need for the OSCE to go beyond this role and to develop additional capabilities in this area.

The main topics being considered in discussions are: the overall role of the OSCE and institutional matters, early warning system, post-conflict rehabilitation, the role of OSCE missions/field operations, co-operation with international organizations and institutions and NGOs, as well as possibilities for establishing a special Foundation for the OSCE Economic Dimension.

Platform for Co-operative Security

The main assumption guiding the work was that comprehensive security in the OSCE area requires co-operation and co-ordination among participating States and relevant organizations and institutions of which they are also members. Participating States agreed on the need to strengthen the non-hierarchical, mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions, utilizing comparative advantages, with a view to fostering a foundation for common, comprehensive and indivisible security in the OSCE area. To this end, they have chosen to co-operate on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security. Through the Platform, participating States will develop complementary and mutually reinforcing relations between international organizations and institutions engaged in strengthening comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

There was a common understanding that issues of comprehensive security cannot be regarded in terms of any single dimension. Co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations in the field of the human dimension and the economic dimension should be further promoted. Co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations is also an important dimension with regard to assisting participating States in their compliance with OSCE commitments. In line with Platform principles it was suggested that police activities should be based on close co-ordination and utilization of comparative advantages. With regard to new risks and challenges, the approach should be differentiated according to the nature and specificity of the risks. The potential of the OSCE through the Platform in co-operating with other international organizations to assist Central-Asian states should be further explored. At the same time, it was underlined that, while broadening the scope, it is important to avoid a dilution of the Platform concept by attempting to apply the same arrangements to all other organizations equally.

There was also agreement regarding the need for improved exchange of information, including regular contacts and liaison arrangements, with other international organizations and institutions, but the idea of establishing formal framework agreements between the OSCE and other international organizations as a basis for co-operation at all levels has not found support.

The OSCE as a forum for regional and subregional interaction

The understanding that regional/subregional co-operation aimed at serving local needs, solving local problems and building mutual confidence among States in individual regions constitutes a valuable contribution to the overall security of the OSCE community was at the basis of all discussions. Furthermore, it was commonly understood that the work on a Document-Charter offers an opportunity to utilize further the potential of the regional/subregional dimension as an integral part of the Organization's activity and thus to contribute to the indivisibility of security throughout the OSCE area.

Delegations are in agreement that the OSCE should support and encourage regional/subregional efforts by participating States, and contribute with information to all other OSCE member States about ongoing regional/subregional processes. For their part, participating States should seek to ensure that the aims, principles and norms of regional/subregional agreements, organizations, arrangements and initiatives in which they participate are consistent with OSCE principles and norms. Most delegations also seem to agree that the Document-Charter should contain an indicative list of possible areas for regional/subregional or bilateral co-operation.

Consensus has, however, not been found on a proposal to let the OSCE, at the request of the States participating in subregional processes, exercise the powers and functions of a guarantor for implementation of regional/subregional agreements and decisions. There is also a need for further discussions on a proposal to allow the Permanent Council regularly review progress achieved in regional/subregional processes, determine new areas and recommend forms of regional/subregional efforts. It has also been proposed to permit the OSCE to establish a Conference of Subregional Organizations and Associations in order to exchange experience and ensure the broadest possible examination of issues involved in maintaining stability and security in the OSCE area, but this suggestion also requires further study.

The OSCE role in connection with peacekeeping (in light of the overall OSCE role in conflict prevention)

A number of views regarding the OSCE's role in connection with peacekeeping have been identified. One view is that the OSCE should not play a military role in peacekeeping operations, since other international organizations or coalitions of States have the necessary capabilities for conducting such operations. The OSCE has proven capabilities in the fields of "conflict prevention" and "humanitarian assistance", which require no military resources but civilian personnel and tasks.

Another view is that the OSCE should adopt measures to enhance its capabilities for peacekeeping operations, including the performance of their own peacekeeping operations, participation in such operations conducted at the decision of the United Nations, and also the enlistment of other organizations and groups of States for OSCE peacekeeping operations.

The third approach around which a common understanding may be emerging is conceptually based on the Helsinki Document 1992, which divides the OSCE's involvement in peacekeeping into three categories: The OSCE could make contributions to multifunctional operations in areas where it has comparative advantages; the OSCE could request support from other organizations for conducting peacekeeping operations on its behalf; the OSCE itself could lead and conduct peacekeeping operation.

There seems to be broad agreement that the OSCE has a vital role to play in connection with multifunctional peacekeeping operations in areas where it has comparative advantages. Further, there is broad agreement that the possibility of the OSCE requesting other organizations to make their resources available should be kept open. There may be an emerging consensus on the advisability of keeping the options open with regard to OSCE-led military peacekeeping. There is no agreement on the proposal to earmark military units for OSCE peacekeeping contingents and to set up a single military command structure under the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat.

Security and co-operation in adjacent areas

The point of departure for all discussions was the assumption that strengthening of security and co-operation in adjacent areas, in particular the Mediterranean, was an important factor for stability in the OSCE area and that closer co-operation with all partners for co-operation would be required in order to promote the norms and values shared by the OSCE participating States.

There seems to be general agreement about the aim of expanding co-operation with the partners. A number of concrete proposals have been put forward regarding both the content of and the modalities for such co-operation, i.e. the need to enhance the substantive content of the informal open-ended Contact Group's programme, strengthening of the institutional and procedural aspects of co-operation between the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (MPC) and the Conflict Prevention Centre, and invitations to attend meetings of the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Security Model Committee. These proposals will have to be discussed further.

Suggestions for co-operation with Japan and the Republic of Korea have also been made, relating for example to joint conduct of operations in Central Asia and the establishment of close contacts between the OSCE and the Asia Regional Forum. These ideas would also need further clarification and elab-

oration.

Annex 1

Chronology of Work on the Document-Charter in 1998

The Polish Chairmanship started work on the Document-Charter at the beginning of 1998. On 15 January a programme for the initial phase of work on the Document-Charter was established. Understanding was also reached on the need to look for practical means of enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE throughout its field of activity and work so as to intensify its co-operation with other international organizations and institutions while negotiations on the Document-Charter are in progress.

On 23 January the Security Model Committee was presented with the first work programme for the process which is to lead to the adoption of the Document-Charter.

The first outline of basic assumptions for the Document-Charter was distributed on 18 February. Unfortunately, owing to differences of opinion among delegations, it was not possible to reach a common understanding on these basic assumptions.

The reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council which took place on 27 March 1998 decided that three working bodies, i.e. the Security Model Committee and two Working Groups (A and B), should be assigned the task of working on the content of the Document-Charter. In addition to its negotiating tasks, the Security Model Committee was also tasked with supervising and reviewing the work of the Working Groups.

On 3 July an informal meeting of the Security Model Committee was convened with the participation of representatives of North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Western European Union, the European Union Commission, the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth Independent States in order to discuss issues relating to development of the "Platform for Co-operative Security", and in particular to the contribution which international organizations and institutions might make to the OSCE's work on this concept.

The reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council on 17 July reviewed the work on the Document-Charter. At this meeting the Chairmanship presented a report on enhancement of the OSCE's co-operation with other international organizations and institutions in accordance with Decision No. 5 of the Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting.

On the basis of the progress achieved in the first half of the year, the Security Model Committee decided to increase the frequency of meetings of the Working Groups.

On 1 October the Security Model Committee initiated its work on the manner in which the progress achieved so far should be reflected. Discussions concentrated on three possible variants:

1. A non-negotiable progress report to be presented by the Chairman-in-Office;
2. A progress report together with documents containing guidelines for further work on certain separate items under discussion and highlighting the areas requiring special attention;
3. An annotated framework, i.e. a progress report accompanied by an annotated agenda for further work, consisting of:
 - Documents containing guidelines for further work;
 - A Chairman's perception on the question of structure;
 - Recommendations for a further work programme.

On 29 October a second informal meeting of the Security Model Committee devoted to discussion of issues relating to the "Platform for Co-operative Security" concept was held with the participation of Geneva- and Vienna-based United Nations agencies, and in particular International Atomic Energy Agency, OCHA, ODCCP, United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The last reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council in 1998 took place on 12 November and was attended by the Chairman-in-Office. There was a common understanding that in Oslo the OSCE should try to confirm its continued political commitment to work on the Document-Charter on European Security and to record, wherever possible, the negotiating progress made on various issues, and that the drafting process should start and should result in a Document-Charter that would reflect the aspirations of all OSCE States, create a common vision for the twenty-first century and thus be worthy of adoption at the OSCE Summit.

Annex 2

Basic Framework of the Charter on European Security

New Risks and Challenges to Security

I. General Considerations

1. A common and indivisible security space in the OSCE area is a joint responsibility of the OSCE participating States. They have committed themselves to addressing the security concerns of all member States in solidarity.
2. The end of the bloc to bloc confrontation has established human rights and democracy as the common values of all our countries. At the same time, however, the new openness and freedom have created an environment conducive to the emergence of new risks and challenges to security.
3. The Lisbon Summit Declaration on a common and comprehensive security model for Europe for the twenty-first century, has tasked the participating States with "refining the existing tools and developing additional ones in order to encourage participating States to make greater use of the OSCE in advancing their security."
4. The Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen decided that the Document-Charter "should serve the needs of our peoples in the new century by addressing risks and challenges to security, thus contributing to a common security space within the OSCE area" and called on participating States to "examine an appropriate role for the OSCE, including ways in which the OSCE can facilitate international efforts, in addressing new risks and challenges to security".
5. The OSCE has already done some work in this field, notably through the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The FSC has developed principles governing conventional arms transfers and non-proliferation. The Code of Conduct adopted by the FSC in 1994 deals with some aspects of terrorism.
6. The appointment in 1998 of a Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will assist our understanding of these aspects of security.

II. Principles

1. The OSCE participating States have committed themselves to act in solidarity to promote full implementation of the principles and commitments of the OSCE enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other OSCE documents. We need to work together to deal with new risks and challenges.
2. The Document-Charter will offer a framework and general principles for identifying new risks and challenges, for affirming existing commitments, for

encouraging development of new processes, and for interrelating these new processes with the processes already going on in other organizations.

3. In doing so, the participating States will examine an appropriate role for the OSCE, including ways in which the OSCE can facilitate international efforts in addressing new risks and challenges to security.

4. The participating States will continue to be guided by the comprehensive concept of security of the OSCE, the indivisibility of security, the principle that no OSCE participating State should seek to enhance its own security at the expense of another, and the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

III. Identification of New Risks and Challenges

1. The Lisbon Summit Declaration, the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model and the Copenhagen Ministerial Decision regarding guidelines on a Document-Charter provide identification of a number of new risks and challenges.

2. The Lisbon Summit Declaration (Articles 7,9,12) refers to: illegal arms supplies, violations of human rights, such as involuntary migration, and the lack of full democratization, threats to independent media, electoral fraud, manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

3. The Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model (Article 2) notes that human rights are not fully respected in all OSCE States. Ethnic tension, aggressive nationalism, violations of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as serious difficulties of economic transition, can threaten stability and may also spread to other States. Terrorism, organized crime, drugs and arms trafficking, uncontrolled migration and environmental damage are of increasing concern to the entire OSCE community.

4. The Copenhagen Ministerial Decision (No. 5, pt. (g)) refers to violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

IV. The Evolving Nature of New Risks and Challenges

Issues that need to be addressed

1. The evolving nature of new risks and challenges in a changing security environment probably means that an all-inclusive definition is neither possible nor desirable. The future may yet hold additional new risks and challenges.

2. It has been suggested to add the following issues to the above-mentioned, agreed areas of new risks and challenges:

Within the politico-military dimension:

- Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery means
- Breakdown of public order
- Human trafficking
- Smuggling of components and materials of WMD

Within the human dimension:

- Prevention of family reunification
- Gender discrimination
- Non-respect of rights of migrant workers

Within the economic dimension:

- Disruption of the flow of energy and natural resources
- Economic disparities
- Impediments to free trade
- Non-compliance with agreements in the economic field

V. New Risks and Challenges to Security and a Possible Role for the OSCE

Issues for further discussions

Other international organizations are already engaged in many of the areas described above. The point has been made that unnecessary duplication should be avoided. The question is therefore what added value the OSCE could give to the efforts already undertaken by other international organizations.

The suggestion has been made that this question could be answered in the following way:

- One of the principal roles of the OSCE is its function as a tool of early warning in emerging security risks and challenges. The OSCE's missions and various institutions are important elements of the Organization in performing its early warning tasks.

Therefore, missions must be able to follow the emergence and manifestations of new risks and challenges in a more conscious manner, reporting on destabilizing developments which come to their attention. This could be done by including in the mandate of missions, where necessary, relevant provisions, as well as providing mission personnel with information and training which would enable them to observe developments with a more trained eye. In case the inclusion of civilian police components in OSCE field missions is adopted, these civilian police components should be trained in identifying the

emergence of new risks and challenges and their repercussions for regional stability, reporting on these issues.

- A round table may be organized, parallel to the work on the Document-Charter, to discuss new risks and challenges and to help provide input for what the OSCE can further do in this area in the context of the Document-Charter.
- A focal point may also be established in the Secretariat to map out OSCE strategy in addressing new risks and challenges. This may be done before the adoption of the Document-Charter in order to provide input to the work on the Document-Charter. The Document-Charter may then in turn elaborate on the tasks of the focal point.
- In addition to an enhanced early warning function of the OSCE in the field of new risks and challenges as outlined above, the participating States through the Document-Charter may commit themselves to start work on a "Code of Conduct" to address new risks and challenges, co-ordinating of national policies on the issue and developing their co-operation with one another in this field.
- Seen in this framework, the OSCE participating States are entitled to receive information on what measures are being taken by other participating States to adhere to their commitments relating to issues which fall under "New Risks and Challenges". This may be exemplified in the Document-Charter. In this context, any participating State may at any time request clarification from another participating State, directly or within the framework of regular Permanent Council meetings, in connection with that State's implementation of OSCE commitments. The clarification may also be requested within the framework of FSC meetings on issues relating to its mandate (e.g. Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security). The participating States requested, will undertake to provide a clarification within a fixed period of time. Any bilateral or multilateral consultations may involve the Chairman-in-Office or his representative, as appropriate. A participating State suffering from the consequences of non-compliance by another participating State, following the application of the provisions mentioned above, will undertake to inform all other participating States in the Permanent Council (and/or FSC).
- The OSCE institutions, upon request, may also be tasked, within their respective competence, with providing objective assessments on compliance with OSCE commitments by participating States.
- The OSCE, through supportive public statements, can perform an important political role in addressing new risks and challenges. This role could be further elaborated in the Charter.
- Solidarity is not just a question of participating States working together bilaterally or through the OSCE. Co-operation between organizations or co-operation with a participating State through other organizations are

also important elements. Therefore, there is a need to have a person or personnel in the OSCE Secretariat with relevant experience and qualifications to prepare for co-operation and contact with other institutions and organizations in jointly addressing new risks and challenges. This task could also be performed by the focal point at the Secretariat.

Practical preparatory work cannot be postponed until the Document-Charter has been adopted. In order to define more clearly how the OSCE can facilitate international efforts in addressing new risks and challenges, a meeting between representatives of organizations and institutions dealing with new risks and challenges should be organized in the first half of 1999. The Security Model Committee could draw on both civilian and military expertise from international organizations with experience in this field to address the political and operational aspects of how the OSCE can contribute to ongoing work on new risks and challenges in international forums, with a view to avoiding duplication but ensuring that any OSCE-specific added value would be maximized.

The above suggestions need to be discussed further.

Politico-Military Aspects of Security

I. General Considerations

1. Politico-military aspects, including arms control, are integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security. The strong commitment of the OSCE participating States to full implementation and further development of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures is essential for enhancing political and military stability and security within the OSCE area. Through the Document-Charter the positive trends of co-operation, transparency and predictability will be strengthened.

2. The participating States have undertaken a variety of obligations and commitments in the field of politico-military aspects of security, including arms control. Such obligations and commitments are legally or politically binding and vary in their substance and geographical scope, being global, OSCE-wide, regional or bilateral. Full implementation of these obligations and commitments is essential for building the collective and individual security of the participating States, irrespective of whether or not they are parties or signatories to such agreements.

3. The work on this chapter of the Document-Charter will have to be seen in connection with other ongoing processes in the politico-military sphere.

II. Principles

The following principles will guide the further work of participating States in the field of politico-military aspects of security:

- indivisibility of security;
- maintenance and enhancement of security of all participating States, regardless of whether or not they belong to politico-military alliances;
- maintenance and enhancement of transparency and predictability;
- ensuring democratic political control of military forces;
- no participating State, organization or grouping will strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others;
- no participating State, organization or grouping can have any superior responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE area, or regard any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence;
- all participating States will ensure full implementation of arms control agreements at all times;
- participating States will ensure that arms control agreements continue to respond to security needs in the OSCE area;
- complementarity between OSCE-wide and regional approaches;
- each participating State will maintain only such military capabilities as are commensurate with legitimate individual or collective security needs, taking into account its obligations under international law;
- all participating States have the right to choose or change their security arrangements, including treaties of alliance.

III. Development of the Document-Charter in the Field of Politico-Military Aspects

1. When considering any possible new measures to enhance transparency, predictability and co-operation, participating States will base themselves on the continued significance of already existing agreements. The CFE Treaty establishes a core of military stability and predictability, which is fundamental to the security of all participating States of the OSCE. The Vienna Document has brought about increased transparency and mutual confidence as regards military forces and military activities of all OSCE participating States.
2. The Code of Conduct has defined important norms for politico-military aspects of security.
3. On a regional level, Articles II, IV and V under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina constitute an important part of the OSCE's efforts to strengthen security and stability.
4. In addition, the Treaty on Open Skies, once it has entered into force, can make a major contribution to transparency and openness.

5. Building on the results achieved and in order to strengthen the security of all participating States, future work on arms control, confidence- and security-building measures as well as other politico-military related aspects will address emerging and new challenges and will further develop transparency, openness and co-operation in the politico-military field.

6. In this connection, the following suggestions have been made:

- Ways and means to contribute to a strengthening of the non-proliferation regime so as to counter the threat of spreading weapons of mass destruction will be considered. OSCE participating States, irrespective of whether they belong to politico-military alliances and arrangements, shall refrain from placing nuclear weapons on territories where they do not exist at present.
- OSCE participating States shall take measures to implement the idea of the creation of nuclear- weapon-free zones in the OSCE region, in conformity with internationally recognized principles for the creation of such zones and as a necessary and important component of the new security architecture.
- Special attention must be paid to respect for the security interests of countries not belonging to military alliances and groupings. Their security shall be guaranteed by a whole set of pan-European, subregional and national measures, including the implementation of arms control measures, on the basis of the principle of indivisibility of security and universality of participation in the guaranteeing of such security.
- The Document-Charter should, based on the principles referred to in Section II, help to promote co-operative responses to challenges and risks that may be dealt with through politico-military measures. In further elaborating such measures, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and, as appropriate, the Permanent Council, as forums for dialogue and co-operation, should be involved.

The above suggestions will have to be discussed further.

Early Warning, Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, Including the OSCE Role with regard to Police Operations

I. General Considerations

1. Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation are priority orientations in enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area. The OSCE role in this field is well defined in OSCE documents and, in particular, in the Helsinki Document 1992.

2. The OSCE has already established an internationally recognized niche for

itself as an organization specializing in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. What yet has to be done is to confirm that the OSCE is able to act effectively and be a respected partner in this realm. The OSCE will remain an attractive partner for co-operation as long as it is in a position to offer a specific contribution to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and does not pretend to be the only source of wisdom. That is why particular attention should be devoted to the question of promoting synergies in this area. Due consideration should be given, in co-operation with OSCE partner organizations, to how best to create an efficient, comprehensive and internally complementary system based on the comparative advantages of different organizations.

3. The procedures and mechanisms at the disposal of the OSCE are efficient and useful. There is a need, however, to ensure their full synergy, to create one homogeneous system, to process efficiently information received from all the different sources, and to make a link between deliberations of political organs and operative actions of the OSCE in Vienna and in the field. This would contribute to increasing awareness of developments endangering peace and stability in the OSCE area.

4. Recent experience has shown that present crisis-management and post-conflict-rehabilitation operations increasingly involve police activities as part of the international community's overall effort. As OSCE's experience in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania has demonstrated, successfully implementing mandates to promote human rights extends beyond interaction with strictly civil authorities to include monitoring of police operations. That is, certain elements of police operations are already an integral part of an OSCE mission's broader mandate to address rule-of-law issues. In areas of conflict or where conflict threatens, control over the police by individual political leaders or parties frequently make the police an obstacle to the building of democracy. Furthermore, in such situations the police are often one of the main perpetrators of human rights violations. International police operations therefore provide an important contribution to building and consolidating democracy, and enhancing respect for human rights. Such operations contribute to the "uniqueness" of the Organization.

5. The OSCE should draw on the experience gained by other organizations in the field. The United Nations has the widest experience in civilian police activities. However, other relevant international organizations can play a role in such activities. Several organizations have been or are engaged in various forms of international police operations. There is a need to make the best possible use of the comparative advantages of the relevant organizations. Discussions of OSCE police activities have therefore to be seen also in the wider context of the Platform for Co-operative Security. Which organization is best suited to carry out a specific task in a specific country has to be decided on a case-by-case basis according to the actual circumstances.

6. Broad membership, flexibility to respond quickly to changing circumstances, and a critical role in European conflict prevention and resolution efforts make it a logical choice for the OSCE to develop a capability in the field of police activities. The OSCE police operations, together with existing activities, could represent a continuum of efforts, where each would be linked to and reinforce the others. Without such operations, the effect of other tasks carried out by the OSCE could be weakened in comparison to what it would be if those tasks were supplemented by police training or monitoring. Such operations could also contribute to the integration of the country involved (together with its police service) into the Euro-Atlantic community of shared values. Finally, in some cases where police operations are desirable, other organizations might not be willing to get involved because of the character of the situation, their priorities or their membership.

7. Recent developments in the OSCE area call for the early establishment of the OSCE concept for police operations. This is why there is a need to elaborate basic guidelines in this regard even before the Document-Charter on European Security which will reflect the final shape of the concept, is adopted.

8. As a regional arrangement within the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is an organization of first resort for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its area. That is why it is of particular importance to continue efforts to further enhance the OSCE's efficiency as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

II. Principles

1. The participating States proceed from respect for the main responsibility of the United Nations as laid down in its Charter for maintaining peace and security, as well as the principles of international law and justice. OSCE activities relating to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation should be implemented in full conformity with the United Nations Charter.

2. Activities involving early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation should be based on full respect for OSCE norms, principles and commitments, including those contained in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States set forth in the Helsinki Final Act. The activities in this respect should be impartial and balanced in character.

3. The participating States are committed to continuously developing the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. Action in this respect should be aimed primarily at conflict prevention, and the OSCE's goal should be to deal with the "grass roots" of conflicts at the earliest possible stage in their development.

4. The participating States are committed to increasing the OSCE's role with regard to police operations. To this end, close co-operation with the international organizations having relevant experience in conducting police operations, especially the United Nations, should be established.
5. Whenever deciding on new OSCE missions, or extending the mandate of an existing mission, the question could be asked whether the inclusion of a police element in the Mission's work would be appropriate.
6. The OSCE should be ready, when requested by a participating State, to provide appropriate assistance with regard to issues relating to police activities. Such assistance should consist, *inter alia*, of the provision of various forms of police training, advice on police reform/restructuring, and police monitoring.
7. The participating States agree on the need for the OSCE to continue evolving into an organization that is more operational and that will also remain flexible and effective.
8. The participating States reaffirm their commitment, adopted by the Rome Ministerial Council Meeting, concerning the legal capacity of the OSCE institutions and regarding privileges and immunities (CSCE/4-C/Dec.2), and in particular the privileges and immunities of members of OSCE missions and representatives.

III. Early Warning, Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation

Issues that need to be addressed

1. Early warning system

The need to improve the early warning system concerns all OSCE bodies and missions/field presences. The OSCE Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate, possibly on the basis of the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre as well as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, could consolidate its practice of submitting to the Chairman-in-Office's period (e.g., quarterly) report on possible challenges in the OSCE area. The same kind of reports could also be prepared by the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), ODIHR and Representative on Freedom of the Media.

2. Systematization of available instruments, mechanisms and procedures

In the course of discussions on this subject the view was expressed that there was a need to establish an indicative list of possible instruments, mechanisms and procedures for "operative OSCE activities", ranging from personal and special representatives of the Chairman-in-Office to OSCE presences in the field.

3. Systematization of aims of instruments, mechanisms and procedures

There is shared opinion about the need to establish a list of possible tasks and purposes of mechanisms and procedures for "operative OSCE activities", ranging from fact-finding to contributing to the settlement of disputes and the restoration of law and order.

4. Systematization of mandates

There is a proposal to establish general rules concerning mandates of mechanisms and procedures for "operative OSCE activities" - preparation, initiation, discontinuation, adoption, precise nature.

5. Appointment of the heads of "operative OSCE activities"

The view was expressed that there is a need to establish procedure for consultations on the appointment of heads of "operative OSCE activities".

6. Normalization of management

There is a suggestion to establish a procedure to be followed by the Chairman-in-Office on important issues relating to the functioning of mechanisms and procedures for "operative OSCE activities".

7. Reporting

A proposal was made to establish formal rules relating to submission by heads of "operative OSCE activities" of their written and/or oral reports, as well as concerning the examination by participating States of the recommendations contained in these reports, including States directly affected by the content of these reports.

8. Recruitment of staff

The view was expressed about the need to change the present system of recruitment, both in relation to the body responsible for the selection of candidates (CPC) and regarding the basic principles of recruitment (geographical balance and budgetary proportionality).

It is also suggested to confirm the application of the principle of secondment to "operative OSCE activities" and to establish rules regarding the duration of such secondment (one year with possible extension for one more year).

9. Training

The need to improve training of personnel involved in activities relating to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation was noted. It is suggested that such training could be organized in co-operation between the Troika and the OSCE institution in question.

The opinion was also expressed that a system to which partner organizations of the OSCE might contribute, especially in relation to their main field of specialization, could be established.

10. Co-operation with humanitarian organizations

It was restated that while co-operating with humanitarian organizations the OSCE should take into consideration the distinctive character of those organizations. The need to establish principles of such interaction was also underlined (humane attitude, impartiality, non-discrimination).

IV. Police Operations

Types of police operations the OSCE might conduct

Police operations in general can include a broad spectrum of activities. At present, the most likely areas of operation are:

- passive and active monitoring of local police to ensure, *inter alia*, that human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected;
- different forms of training (in the field and in the classroom), including conduct of "Training of Trainers" programs; and
- advising local police, as part of OSCE activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, *inter alia* on issues related to strengthening law and order and maintaining safe and stable situation.

The door should not be closed to more complex and demanding missions. It cannot be excluded that the OSCE could be called upon to take on tasks like those carried out by unarmed police. This would probably presuppose a partnership with a military mission (such as SFOR). In future missions the OSCE could also link the civilian police activities of international organizations to OSCE crisis management operations.

In this regard, the OSCE could also determine the particular suitability of certain national police elements for use in any possible OSCE co-ordinated operation with more robust monitoring requirements.

Today, it seems highly unlikely to envisage armed OSCE police units carrying out executive policing. However, due regard should be paid to the consideration of the idea of the OSCE police operations' contribution to restoring public order, ensuring legality and promoting national reconciliation.

Main considerations that should be addressed in further work

1. Building on, *inter alia*, the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Code of Conduct, the Document-Charter should provide guidelines for future OSCE police activities.
2. It should be explicitly stated in the Document-Charter that OSCE police

activities are an integral part of its tasks in the field of conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation.

3. The OSCE should address police activities in the Document-Charter as a multidisciplinary task concerning various organizations. The need for close co-ordination according to the Platform for Co-operative Security principles and the Common Concept should therefore be a guiding principle. It should be clearly stated that there is a need to make use of the comparative advantages of the various organizations and to avoid duplication of work.

4. The relationship between the police missions and police reform with reform in other areas, such as the judiciary and prison system, as well as changes in the legal framework in which police services operate, should also be addressed in the Document-Charter. In this context, the need to establish close contacts with other international organizations should also be reflected.

5. The OSCE should state in the Document-Charter its willingness in principle to contribute both to the monitoring of and to the provision of training and advice to local police forces as part of its crisis management activities.

6. Consideration could also be given to the possibility of the OSCE offering, where appropriate, to serve as a flexible framework for co-operation of crisis management efforts, including police activities.

7. The inclusion of civilian police components in OSCE field missions makes it necessary to strengthen, at least on a temporary basis, the operational capacity of the Organization. A person or personnel with relevant experience and qualifications should be identified and made responsible for preparing for OSCE police operations. This should be accompanied by the endowment of the Secretariat and, more specifically, the CPC with the means to ensure adequate support for OSCE police activities.

Furthermore, the participating States should provide names, qualifications, etc. of persons able to perform such tasks as planning and implementation of various kinds of police operations.

8. Standard operational procedures as well as a profile for mission members tasked with police monitoring functions could be drawn up, which could be used as the basis for discussing and agreeing on mandates for police missions of various kinds. The appointed person/personnel tasked with preparing for OSCE police operations should take an active part in this process. The OSCE could work with the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations to draw on those standards already developed by the United Nations for use in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. A mandate by the OSCE itself might suffice for the OSCE police activities, although a United Nations mandate might be required in some cases.

A mandate for executive policing may be conferred only by a decision of the United Nations Security Council.

10. The Head of mission/field presence should be responsible for the on ground management of activities involving civil police.

11. The need for strict compliance by the OSCE police missions with the

norms and principles of the OSCE and with international law, including international humanitarian law, and in particular with provisions of the United Nations Charter and relevant decisions of the United Nations Security Council, should be stressed.

12. It might prove useful to differentiate between OSCE missions entirely dedicated to police activities and the - probably more likely - case of police monitoring elements in OSCE missions as an integral part of their overall mandate.

13. The possibility of the OSCE drawing upon the resources of other organizations might be considered.

14. Appropriate staffing of missions should be ensured. To this end, the OSCE should develop, in consultation with the United Nations DPKO CIVPOL Unit, an international roster of suitable persons for police operations, particularly monitoring and training.

15. OSCE participating States might wish to organize courses aimed at standardizing programmes for police training. Such programmes could include such subjects as: human dignity in policing; policing in a democratic society; modern policing skills; specialized skills in relation to combating corruption, organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, etc. Such courses could be organized in a framework of an OSCE Police Academy (at a fixed location or in a mobile training team format) or they could consist of a set of OSCE police standards which could be implemented through co-operative activities with existing police monitoring/training programs and institutes (in Hungary, Italy, Poland, Sweden; Switzerland and elsewhere).

16. OSCE participating States should declare their readiness to provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary for the conduct of OSCE-mandated police operations.

Questions to be answered

- (a) Should the chain of command in the case of police operations be different from the one applicable with regard to OSCE missions, i.e., should the Chairman-in-Office be replaced by Permanent Council (political guidance) and the Secretariat by a single military command structure (administration and operations)?
- (b) Should the mandate define a deadline for concluding the OSCE police operation or should this depart solely on the fulfilment of operation's objectives?

A list of other issues related to this topic that should be discussed

- OSCE mission experience to date with police monitoring and United Nations lessons learned;
- Examination of police monitoring/training conducted in the OSCE area; possible lessons learned;
- Mission mandate/specific operational authorities for OSCE police monitoring;
- Mission organization, structure, staffing and reporting channels;
- Personal safety of OSCE police monitors;
- Where and how police monitoring may contribute to personal safety and access for international organizations and NGOs participating in humanitarian relief activities;
- Qualifications and selection of personnel;
- Whether and how police monitoring may support civil human rights monitoring;
- Possible standards by which to measure police/paramilitary force conduct;
- Comparison of advantages/disadvantages of armed as opposed to unarmed police;
- Comparison of advantages/disadvantages of uniformed as opposed to non-uniformed police monitors;
- Role that the OSCE might play in follow-on training to improve police/paramilitary conduct;
- Concrete support for local police reform efforts;
- Interaction between judicial authorities and police/paramilitary leadership;
- How corrections/penal policy is implemented and its consistency with international standards and Helsinki principles;
- The nature of the police/prison system relationship and how judiciary/prosecution authorities interact with the police;
- The role criminal investigative authorities play in police enforcement and its effect on observance of human rights.

Assistance in Adherence to/Implementation of Principles, Norms and Commitments

I. General Considerations

1. The participating States proceed from the fact that compliance with OSCE principles, norms and commitments contributes to the creation of a common and indivisible security space and increases the security of all OSCE partici-

pating States. Respect for commitments, including the willingness of each participating State to enhance its compliance and to remain open to OSCE institutions in this regard, is an essential aspect of co-operative security.

2. Acts of non-compliance with OSCE principles and commitments degrade the common security space to the detriment of all OSCE participating States.

3. As a regional arrangement within the terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is an organization of first resort for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its area.

II. Principles

1. The participating States recognize that they are accountable to their citizens and responsible to one another for respect of OSCE norms and principles and for the implementation of their commitments. They recognize that the OSCE commitments are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not refer exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned, since respect for these commitments constitutes one of the foundations of the international order.

2. The participating States have committed themselves to act in solidarity in order to promote full implementation of previously agreed on principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, in the Charter of Paris as well as in other OSCE documents such as the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security. They also have an obligation to act in solidarity in order to prevent violations of OSCE norms and principles on the illegal threat or use of force and to protect democratic institutions and human rights.

3. The participating States encourage co-operation between organizations, within the framework of the Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually-Reinforcing Institutions, and/or co-operation with participating States through other organizations, in order to enhance compliance with OSCE principles, norms and commitments.

4. The participating States acknowledge that compliance is ultimately the responsibility of each individual State.

5. The participating States are fully committed to entering into a dialogue in cases of difficulties in implementing OSCE commitments and, in that spirit of co-operation, they will also provide assistance to any participating State facing such difficulties.

6. In accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter, the participating States will provide support to those States whose security is threatened by the non-implementation by another participating State of its commitments and they will refrain from supporting States that seriously contravene OSCE principles, norms and commitments.

7. The participating States will at all times co-operate with other participating States and with the OSCE, including its institutions, to receive their representatives on their territory, as well as to guarantee or facilitate their free access to persons and institutions, in accordance with the laws of the receiving State.

8. Any action undertaken by the OSCE and/or its participating States will be without prejudice to principle VI of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States set out in the Helsinki Final Act.

III. Action in Case of Identification of Non-Compliance with a View to Action by the OSCE

1. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and any other relevant OSCE institution will monitor, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of OSCE commitments in their respective fields of activity, and may report to the Chairman-in-Office any shortcomings in the implementation of these commitments that they may have identified, thereby fulfilling their early warning function.

2. Any participating State may at any time request clarification from another participating State, directly or within the framework of regular Permanent Council meetings, in connection with that State's implementation of OSCE commitments. Clarification on issues relating to the mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) may also be requested in the framework of FSC meetings. The participating State requested will provide, within the same framework, a clarification within a specified period of time (to be agreed upon in general or on a case-by-case basis). Any bilateral or multilateral consultations may involve the Chairman-in-Office or his representative, as appropriate.

3. A participating State facing difficulties in implementing OSCE principles and commitments, following the application of the provisions mentioned above will undertake to inform all other participating States in the Permanent Council of the nature and extent of the difficulties it is facing. The participating State in question may request the convening of an emergency meeting of the Permanent Council or the Senior Council or a meeting of the reinforced Permanent Council, as appropriate.

4. The Chairman-in-Office may alert other relevant international organizations to the difficulties facing a given State.

IV. Assistance in Enhancing Compliance

1. The participating States are committed to exploring, both individually and through the international organizations to which they belong, the assistance they can provide to another participating State to help that State meet its commitments. Such assistance may include any advice or activity aimed at improving the implementation record of the State concerned. Such assistance may also be provided, as appropriate, by the Chairman-in-Office, the Troika, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities or any other OSCE institution acting in accordance with its respective mandate.

2. The participating States encourage the use of the full range of OSCE instruments in finding ways of enhancing compliance. Apart from an assessment as to the relevance of instruments already existing or the possibility that the OSCE may, where necessary, have recourse to new tools, these instruments include, but are not limited to:

- Encouragement of dialogue;
- Submission of the matter to the Permanent Council; and/or, if appropriate, to the Forum for Security Co-operation;
- Consideration of the matter by Review Conferences and/or Human Dimension Implementation Meetings;
- Dispatch of personal representatives of the Chairman-in-Office, fact-finding missions or rapporteurs;
- Convening of roundtable meetings bringing together representatives of the OSCE, interested Governments and parties concerned;
- Assistance by the OSCE, its institutions and structures, in particular, by providing assistance that may include the organization of seminars or training programmes, the raising of funds, the taking of measures of a legal, economic, financial or military nature, or any other activity aimed at improving the implementation record of the State concerned;
- Conciliation and arbitration, where applicable and upon decision of the States involved, involving the submission of the matter to the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration;
- Consideration of the situation and, where appropriate, submission of recommendations by the OSCE institutions in accordance with their respective mandates;
- Establishment of an OSCE mission of long duration;
- Convening of a special meeting of the reinforced Permanent Council or Senior Council.

V. Measures in Cases Where Efforts to Enhance Implementation Are Unsuccessful

1. Participating States may at any time initiate a general discussion if they believe that a participating State has failed to demonstrate a co-operative approach to the enhancement of implementation of OSCE commitments.

2. There may be cases in which despite all efforts of participating States, a participating State proves itself persistently unwilling to implement commitments or to seek or receive assistance. Actions and measures taken in such cases should not exclude dialogue and should be taken with a view to restoring partnership. Very much as a last resort and by way of exception, the participating States may examine the possibility of the temporary suspension of a participating State from part of the work of the OSCE (decision making). Any decision to this effect would be subject to reconfirmation at the end of a specified period (or could of course be revoked by consensus at any time).

In cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violation of OSCE principles and its commitments and continued absence of co-operation by a participating State, the Chairman-in-Office, at the request of a participating State, may convene a special meeting of the Permanent Council, where necessary with the participation of high-level representatives, or a Senior Council meeting in order to discuss the case and suggest action to remedy the situation. The exceptional circumstances when all the above-mentioned measures have been exhausted and when all offers of assistance have failed to secure implementation, the agenda of the meeting, and any decisions it may take may be adopted without the consent of the State concerned. The meeting may also decide to convene a meeting at ministerial level.

In such cases, the participating States may decide to make their co-operation with this State subject to certain conditions and, where necessary, take corrective measures. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

- recommendation to participating States to suspend political, economic and other kinds of co-operation;
- decision to refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council, with possible recommendation for the imposition of sanctions;
- denial of the right to speak in the deliberations of the Permanent Council or its subsidiary organs;
- denial of the right to participate in the decision-making of proceedings of the Permanent Council.

Question to be answered

Who will determine the existence of "clear, gross and uncorrected" violations of the OSCE norms, principles and decisions, and how will this be done?

3. In all cases a participating State remains bound by the commitments it has undertaken within the framework of the OSCE.

Jointly Considered Actions

I. General Considerations

1. The security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of the others.

2. In the event of the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any OSCE participating State or in the event an internal breakdown of law and order on the territory of any participating State, timely and immediate reaction by participating States is required.

II. Principles

1. The participating States, guided in particular by the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris and reaffirming the principle of the indivisibility of security, are committed to act promptly and in solidarity in the event of the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any OSCE participating State. They will render assistance to participating States in the event of an internal breakdown of law and order. The participating States are also committed to explore possibilities of co-ordinating their actions in this regard with other organizations concerned with security in the OSCE area.

2. By taking measures that it deems appropriate, with due respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the principle of solidarity, every participating State will assist any other participating State or States subjected to the threat or use of force against its sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence. Assistance will also be provided to participating State or States facing an internal breakdown of law and order. All participating States will be informed about such measures of assistance.

Any common action by OSCE will not limit the rights of OSCE participating States to provide - individually or jointly - other assistance to a State subjected to the threat or use of force or facing an internal breakdown of law and order.

3. Any action undertaken by the OSCE and/or its participating States will be without prejudice to the overriding responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for maintaining peace and international security.

III. Assistance in the Event of an Internal Breakdown of Law and Order

In accordance with principle VI of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States set out in the Helsinki Final Act.

1. The Chairman-in-Office will initiate without delay consultations with the OSCE participating States and especially with the State seeking assistance, as well as discussions in various bodies of the OSCE. The participating States will consider jointly the nature of the situation as well as possible ways and means of providing support to the affected State.
2. The OSCE will offer its mediation in the search for a peaceful solution.
3. The participating States will devise co-ordinated responses, in particular within the terms of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992, including responses as regards peacekeeping activities.

IV. Action in the Event of the Threat or Use of Force

Taking fully into account the principal role of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining peace and international security:

1. The Chairman-in-Office will initiate without delay consultations with the OSCE participating States and especially with the State subjected to threat or use of force against its sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence, as well as discussions in various bodies of the OSCE. The participating States will jointly consider the nature of the situation as well as possible ways and means of providing support to the State subjected to the threat or use of force.
2. The OSCE will offer its mediation in the search for peaceful solution.
3. The participating States will devise co-ordinated responses, in particular within the terms of Chapter III of the Helsinki Document 1992, including responses as regards peacekeeping activities.
4. The participating States will withhold assistance or support to States that fail to meet their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of a State or in any other manner inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and with the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States set out in the Helsinki Final Act.
5. The participating States will act jointly to ensure that the State threatening or using force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political inde-

pendence of any OSCE participating State is held accountable to the OSCE and/or the international community.

6. The participating States will consider cases of the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any OSCE participating State in the competent political, security and defence organizations of which they are members, with a view to giving concrete expression to the implementation of the principle of solidarity. This commitment do not affect the rights and obligations of the participating States arising from, *inter alia*, the international agreements and treaties to which they are parties to.

7. The participating States may decide to refer jointly a dispute to the United Nations Security Council on behalf of the OSCE whenever in their opinion action by the Security Council may be required, in particular within the terms of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Such a decision may be taken, where necessary, in the absence of the consent of the States or State party to the dispute.

8. The participating States will provide collective support, in addition to the required individual support, for such measures as may be adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

9. The participating States will take any necessary action, jointly and promptly, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and in cooperation with other relevant security organizations of which they are members, in the event that any participating State threatens to use or uses force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any participating State, especially where such action is directed against any participating State unable to provide for its own defence. Such action will be without prejudice to the overriding responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for maintaining peace and international security.

Human Dimension

I. General Considerations

1. The human dimension norms and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE documents have proved instrumental in the profound changes that have taken place within the OSCE area in the last decade.

2. The human dimension is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are recognized as being of direct concern to all participating States.

3. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security requires improvement in the implementation of all human dimension commitments. This will further

anchor the common values of a free and democratic society in all participating States, which is an essential foundation for our common security.

4. The recently adopted decisions on strengthening the human dimension process as well as on the closer integration of the human dimension into the work of the Permanent Council create conditions for more focused discussions on issues of immediate concern to the OSCE community.

II. Principles

1. The participating States reaffirm that their human dimension commitments are directly applicable and that States are accountable for their failure to respect the commitments they undertake.

2. The participating States, in accordance with the principle of accountability, recognize that they are responsible to their citizens and to one another for respect of OSCE norms and principles and for their implementation. Accountability implies the right of each citizen and participating State to expect Governments to explain their actions and the commitment of Governments to respond to such requests. The participating States recognize their vested interest in exercising fully and robustly this right to raise concerns about the human rights situation in a participating State for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity in the OSCE area.

3. The participating States are fully committed to supporting continuing efforts of the ODIHR, the HCNM, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE missions/field presences in enhancing respect for human dimension principles, norms and commitments, thus contributing to stability and security in the OSCE area, and to developing co-operation and complementarity of action with other organizations active in the area of human dimension concerns, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security principles.

Main considerations that should be addressed in further work

III. Democracy Building and Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

1. The OSCE and its institutions and instruments should further develop practical programs to foster democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law in the OSCE area. The ability to react in a flexible and quick manner to emerging needs should be increased and the participating States should be encouraged to forward their requests for assistance to the relevant OSCE institutions and instruments. In particular the ODIHR should develop further its short-term advisory missions ("democratization teams").

2. The OSCE should develop close co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions, including the conduct of joint needs-as-

assessment missions, consultations on the development of projects and co-operation wherever possible in implementing them.

3. Particular attention should be paid to the development of ombudsman/human rights protection institutions, which together with an independent judiciary can provide national remedies for human rights violations.

4. Manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, which may create a potential threat to peace and stability in the OSCE region, should continue to be tackled, and the participating States should mutually assist each other in efforts to combat them.

5. Further steps to ensure full equality of rights for women and men should be undertaken, including measures to ensure that where OSCE activities deal with issues affecting women and men in different ways full account is taken of gender-specific aspects. In particular the gender-related aspects of conflict prevention and crisis management should be analysed.

6. Measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children, in particular all forms of traffic and sexual exploitation, by, among other means, ensuring adequate legal protection against such acts, should be discussed. The ODIHR could be charged with collecting information provided by the participating States on the legislative and administrative steps taken so far in this field and with reporting on this matter at OSCE meetings on implementation issues.

7. The need to combat all forms of prejudice and discrimination, *inter alia*, on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, or political conviction should be emphasized.

IV. Elections

1. Further steps should be taken to ensure that elections in the OSCE area are held in accordance with OSCE commitments. Moreover, the participating States should accept a commitment to invite international observers to elections below the national level.

2. Expression should be given to support for the enhancement of OSCE electoral assistance work and the strengthening of internal procedures to devise remedies against infringements of electoral rules, with the participating States invited to provide the ODIHR in a timely fashion with draft electoral laws and draft amendments to these laws for review so that possible comments can be taken into account in the legislative process.

3. The ODIHR should be ready to serve as an interagency co-ordinator in the electoral field and should be entrusted with continuing and developing its election-related activities, both in the area of assistance to participating States and observation of elections. The election methodology developed by the ODIHR, which has proven an efficient and reliable means of assessing whether elections are held in accordance with OSCE commitments, should be endorsed. The ODIHR should be given the task of continuing to observe elections in accordance with this methodology, which includes the observation of the entire electoral process, and the participating States should be ready to provide the necessary resources for this purpose, including candidates for key positions in election observation missions.
4. The participating States should follow-up promptly on the recommendations made by the ODIHR after an election. The ODIHR should offer to the State concerned its assistance in implementing those recommendations and should report to the Permanent Council on the status of their implementation.

V. National Minorities

1. The participating States, reaffirming the importance of principle IV of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States set out in the Helsinki Final Act, should ensure that persons belonging to national minorities enjoy all human rights and are able to exercise their fundamental freedoms both individually and in community with others. Failure by States to implement their commitments in this area has been a major cause of threats to security. At the same time, it has to be emphasized that national minorities must employ only peaceful means, such as elections, referendums, plebiscites and petitions, to exercise their rights.
 2. The conditions for better protection and further promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities of national minorities should be created.
 3. In view of the repeated cases of forced migration and obstacles to return of refugees, highlighting to the gap between norms and their implementation, there is a need to reaffirm commitments in this area, as laid down in paragraph 10 of the Lisbon Declaration.
 4. Self-administration is recognized as one of the means of protecting and promoting the identities of national minorities and to enhance their harmonious co-existence.
- The participating States have evolved different forms of democratic government, ranging from federal to unitary systems. Some States are emphasizing the importance of constitutional citizenship based on equal rights as a fundamental prerequisite to deal with national minorities.

Self-administration may be implemented in different forms from case to case. In some cases, a maximum degree of self-administration may be necessary. The aspirations of national minorities should be asserted by peaceful means, the rights of other minorities should be respected and protected, and the territorial integrity of the State should not be called into question. In settlements where a national minority forms the majority, local self-administration should be implemented in such a way that the rights of other minorities living in the area are not infringed.

Subsidiarity in national or regional State structures and in the organization and administration of the State may also be considered as one of means of implementing the self-administration of national minorities.

5. Close co-operation between neighbouring States in cases where there are ethnic populations living on both sides of their common border in order to secure permanently mutual respect for their territorial integrity, should be encouraged.

6. The High Commissioner on National Minorities should be ready to offer participating States his good offices and to advise them on issues relating to the preparation of statutes for local self-administration.

7. Prominence should be given to the important role of bilateral and international agreements, in particular the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in guaranteeing minority rights.

VI. Institutional Issues

1. The Permanent Council should be encouraged to include human dimension issues in its weekly agenda in order to bring those issues into the forefront of OSCE concern.

2. In order to ensure that OSCE missions/field presences are sensitive to human dimension issues, mission members, including Heads and Deputy Heads of Missions, should receive training. The training should be geared toward the promotion of human rights as an integral part of conflict prevention. It should also sensitize Mission members to issues of equal rights for women and men, as well as to rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

3. The OSCE missions/field presences should be instructed to identify actions that should be undertaken by the State hosting the mission/field presence which would improve that State's compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments, and suggest how the ODIHR might bring its expertise to bear. To this end the ODIHR should assist missions/field presences in enhancing their human rights reporting and the appropriate lines of communications between the ODIHR and the missions/field presences should be further developed.

4. The ODIHR should concentrate its efforts on pragmatic and focused projects, in co-operation with participating States, other OSCE institutions

and missions/field presences, as well as with the relevant international organizations. In view of the fact that many human dimension issues have economic or freedom of expression aspects and in order to maximize impact and avoid overlap, the ODIHR should co-ordinate its efforts with the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

5. The ODIHR should be encouraged and given sufficient resources to expand its focus to the all States in the OSCE area. ODIHR can play a key role in assisting the States strengthen judicial structures and electoral systems, and develop NGOs with the capability of addressing human rights and the integration of national minorities into mainstream society.

Economic and Environmental Issues

I. General Considerations

1. The radical changes that have taken place during the last decade in Europe, in particular the end of bloc-to-bloc military confrontation, brought on the one hand an expansion of economic liberties and of the market economy, while on the other hand they focused increased attention on the non-military components of security - including those of an economic and environmental nature.

The new security situation, characterized by a multitude of risks and challenges affecting all participating States, calls for a comprehensive approach to security. Thus the economic and environmental questions should never be addressed in isolation or for their own sake but rather as an integral part of the efforts aiming at early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, for all of which the OSCE is a primary instrument in its area. Interlinkages between the economic and the human dimension are particularly relevant in this context. Democracy and the rule of law, as well as compliance with OSCE commitments in relation to human rights and the promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and compliance with the commitments undertaken within the economic dimension, all contribute to a stable political system which, in turn, is an essential factor for economic and social development and for the success of economic reforms.

2. The tangible link between prosperity and security has become increasingly evident in the OSCE area. This nexus is particularly marked in countries in the process of moving from planned to market-oriented economies. Achievement of an acceptable balance between long- and short-term needs, and the establishment of an economy that provides for a stable and adequate standard of living, contribute significantly to the reduction of political instability. In the wake of conflict, scarce resources and economic hardship work to

heighten political tensions, impeding recovery efforts and diminishing the prospects of long-term peace. A transparent market economy may contribute to fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech and religious tolerance.

II. Principles

1. The participating States are committed to take the measures necessary for the early detection of security risks and challenges caused by economic, social and environmental problems.
2. The participating States are of the opinion that the OSCE's ability to cope with economic and environmental issues should be enhanced but in ways that neither duplicate existing efforts, nor replace efforts that could be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations or entities. In evaluating ways in which the OSCE can foster economic and environmental stability, there is a need to focus on those areas in which the OSCE has a clear advantage - e.g. establishing politically binding norms, creating political impetus for the implementation of these commitments, providing early warning, on-the ground monitoring, and co-ordination and mediation assistance.
3. The OSCE is uniquely qualified, through its broad membership, its consensual decision-making process, its on-site missions, and its unparalleled history as a norm-setting organization, to identify threats, focus political attention and foster co-operative responses. By improving its ability to address economic and environmental threats and opportunities, the OSCE would also improve its ability to prevent conflict and to foster prosperity throughout the OSCE area.
4. The participating States stress that general principles for international co-operation in areas covered by the economic and environmental dimension are:
 - promotion of a stable and transparent legal, institutional and regulatory framework and of the rule of law as essential conditions for economic actors to develop initiatives in trade, investment, finance, etc.;
 - shaping of international economic relations through bilateral and multilateral agreements. Membership in the relevant international organizations and adherence to the relevant international conventions is the most efficient way of securing the adoption and implementation of generally accepted rules and disciplines which help to develop economic co-opera-

tion; it is thus instrumental in achieving full integration of all participating States in the world economic system;

- encouragement of various integration processes that are underway in Europe and throughout the world. These processes can prove beneficial for ensuring overall stability and security, provided they respect a certain number of criteria, such as voluntary participation, openness to all interested countries, transparency, non-discrimination, and conformity with rules and principles applicable world-wide;
- securing of sustainable economic development by establishing a stable macroeconomic and financial framework, providing an appropriate standard of social security, protecting and preserving the environment, and creating the conditions for a solid scientific and technological base.

International co-operation based on the general principles referred to above should aim at achieving objectives that include progress towards:

- the free and orderly movement of goods, services, capital and persons;
- an integrated, modern infrastructure for transport, energy and telecommunications, open for competition;
- employment promotion policies as well as employment-related training, development of management skills and lifelong learning, with emphasis on international exchange programmes;
- co-operation in science and technology, with emphasis on preserving and developing the scientific potential and guaranteeing the protection of intellectual property;
- enhancing the role of civil society and NGOs in economic and social development as well as cross-border co-operation.

5. The participating States reiterate that the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension should provide political impetus to work carried out by specialized bodies. The OSCE - as a Europe-wide security organization - is well placed to provide such an impulse in support of the reform efforts necessary to permit the integration of economies in transition into the world economy.

To this end, close interaction between the various international organizations and institutions is required, since the new risks and challenges can be effectively confronted only through their combined expertise and resources. The OSCE should play a political role in reinforcing such interaction among all relevant international organizations and institutions as well as regional, sub-regional and transfrontier co-operation organizations and initiatives in accordance with the concept of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

The aim should be to enhance complementarity and promote synergies, thus making optimum use of available resources, while fully maintaining the independence of the individual organizations and institutions. The OSCE should concentrate its efforts on priority areas and retain its flexible approach in re-

lation to tensions and crisis situations.

6. The participating States proceed from the conviction that promoting economic and social rights is of fundamental importance for ensuring that every individual can enjoy a decent life and develop freely. They also agree that the OSCE has an important role to play with regard to the promotion of human rights and democracy in supporting economic reform and social policy.

Main considerations that should be addressed in further work

III. Overall Role of the OSCE and Institutional Matters

1. The OSCE should, through its Institutions and in other ways, act as a forum in which economic and environmental issues can be raised, drawing upon expertise from all available sources.

2. Regular meetings of, and consultations among, senior representatives of the relevant organizations and institutions should be considered. This could help in co-ordinating their activities and, where necessary, their co-operative work programmes.

3. Regular review of the implementation of commitments, which makes it possible to identify difficulties and devise means of overcoming them within a co-operative approach, is of particular importance. The review process should be enhanced to make it as relevant as possible. The OSCE should build upon the already existing practice, according to which reviews of implementation may be conducted in the framework of the Economic Forum, at Review Conferences, or at special conferences held pursuant to a decision of the Permanent Council. The results of such reviews should be brought to the attention of the OSCE decision-making bodies.

4. The Economic Forum, as well as the OSCE economic dimension seminars, should serve as forums for the exchange of information, experience and best practices, familiarization with OSCE principles and values, increase of public awareness, involvement of the business community and NGOs, dialogue on co-operative solutions, etc.

5. The Permanent Council, in its deliberations on economic and environmental issues, should focus its attention on identifying threats and priority areas and fostering co-operative responses.

6. The OSCE should be ready to identify and address domestic and transboundary environmental issues that may result in significant human and economic costs, and, *inter alia*, to foster regional or multilateral responses, acting, as appropriate, as a co-ordinating force by identifying key actors and agencies, providing political impetus, monitoring progress, and mediating as needed. Key issues that could be addressed in such a framework include: the allocation of shared natural resources; transboundary pollution, energy supply security, mass migration in response to environmental catastrophe, and regionally sustainable development plans.

IV. Early Warning System Regarding Economic and Environmental Risks

1. The OSCE should, in co-operation with relevant organizations and institutions, take practical steps to develop a mechanism and a system of indicators that would provide early warning of the development of crisis phenomena in the economies of participating States.

The OSCE should focus on identifying the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, discussing their causes and potential consequences, and draw the attention of relevant international institutions to the need to take appropriate measures to alleviate the difficulties stemming from those risks. Rather than trying to match the economic expertise of a specialized organization, the OSCE should seek ways of using its strengths to add value where it has expertise.

2. The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, acting under the authority of the Secretary General, should serve as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts to identify and address these threats.

Questions to be answered

(a) Is there a need/is it possible to establish a formal system/mechanism of indicators for identifying crisis situations?

(b) If yes, what should be the modalities of such a system/mechanism?

3. The OSCE Missions can play an important role in the early warning system. In their reports regarding economic and environmental issues, which could subsequently be debated by the Permanent Council, they should concentrate on identifying threats to security stemming from economic and environmental problems. This is to alert the State concerned, but also other Participating States, and specialized organizations, that there is an economic problem that could, if untreated, or treated as a purely technical/financial difficulty, lead to a wider security problem, either within the state concerned or more widely.

V. Post-Conflict Rehabilitation

1. The OSCE should assist the efforts of the international community in connection with post-conflict rehabilitation. The Chairman-in-Office should ensure that relevant international organizations are better informed about the

needs of participating States experiencing difficulties in the post-conflict rehabilitation of civil society and the national economy.

2. The OSCE Missions/field presences should work with local authorities, international organizations, NGOs and financial institutions to develop and co-ordinate rational economic development programmes, as well as assisting local authorities in their efforts, *inter alia*, to make the transition to a free market economy, to develop regional and sub-regional strategies to foster economic stability, to provide a stable platform for broader policy goals and initiatives - also in multiethnic societies - to facilitate the return of refugees, and to support sustainable economic development.

VI. Role of OSCE Missions/Field Presences

1. OSCE Missions/field presences should have the tools to monitor those threats to national or regional economic stability that have the potential to lead to instability, political turmoil, or even conflict. In this regard, attention should be paid to those issues that impede the development and maintenance of transparent market economies throughout the OSCE area, including (but not limited to): the impact of organized crime; lack of transparency in economic regulation; inadequate or confusing legal frameworks; haphazard application of laws; excessive government control/regulation of market forces; post-conflict economic collapse; threats to regional economic stability.

2. OSCE missions/field presences can also assist in fostering improved economic transparency.

3. Although the OSCE is not a scientific or technical organization, its Missions/field presences could still take a more proactive role with regard to environmental threats - specifically by identifying key environmental threats and flash points; focusing high-level attention at the PC on key problems and indicators; facilitating regional approaches to environmental issues both by focusing broad, high-level attention on key issues, and possibly through the mediation provided in expert discussions; providing assistance in co-ordination of external resources (funding, technical expertise, leveraging NGOs) to address specific threats; and fostering the development of environmentally-oriented NGOs.

Platform for Co-Operative Security, Including OSCE as a Forum for Interaction of Regional and Subregional Groupings and Peacekeeping

I. General Considerations

1. On the basis of paragraph 5(e) of the Copenhagen Decision, including the Common Concept, participating States agree that security in the OSCE area requires co-operation and co-ordination among participating States and relevant organizations and institutions of which they are also members. Participating States wish to strengthen the non-hierarchical, mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions, with a view to fostering a foundation for common, comprehensive and indivisible security in the OSCE area. To this end, they agree to co-operate on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.
2. Through the Platform, participating States will develop complementary and mutually reinforcing relations between international organizations and institutions engaged in strengthening comprehensive security in the OSCE area. To this end, participating States agree to encourage mutual trust and transparency in relations between international organizations and institutions through dialogue, exchange of information, co-operation and co-ordination.
3. Paragraph 5(e) of the Copenhagen Decision, including the Common Concept, represents an important step forward in the development of the Platform, and the main focus should now be on identifying practical aspects of co-operation and on preparing the ground for further development of the principles in the Common Concept.

II. Basic Concepts

1. The Platform is concerned with promotion of comprehensive security.
2. The principles of the Platform apply to any organization or institution concerned with comprehensive security whose members individually and collectively decide to adhere to it.
3. The development of the Platform should take place in the overall context of the role of the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.
4. The Platform is based on the concept that no one organization can, by itself, effectively address the multifaceted challenges to security. An effective interplay is required.
5. Mutual co-operation should be based on a non-hierarchical approach. At the same time, there is a need to maintain and further develop political and operational coherence among all bodies dealing with security challenges.
6. The comparative advantages of each organization should be utilized and strengthened. Each organization should concentrate on the tasks it can do best.

7. The OSCE could serve as a flexible framework for inter-institutional co-operation. This role of the OSCE should be further clarified and developed.

II. Contacts and Co-operation with Other Organizations

1. In Copenhagen, participating States agreed on practical steps towards further development of co-operation between the OSCE and those bodies which subscribe to the Common Concept: regular contacts, including meetings, through a regular framework for dialogue, increased transparency and practical co-operation, including identification of liaison officers or points of contact, cross-representation at appropriate meetings and other contacts intended to increase understanding of each organization's conflict prevention tools.

2. As a follow-up to the above mentioned Decision, including the Common Concept, the Secretariat has established practical co-operation with several organizations, both at headquarters level and in the field.

3. Co-operation with the Council of Europe is well advanced through, *inter alia*, structured meetings at the level of Ministers and Secretaries General. This co-operation has reinforced the Platform as a central component of co-operation between the two bodies. The tripartite meetings between the OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe and the "2+2" meetings between the OSCE and the Council of Europe constitute other examples of co-operation at a high level.

4. The Secretariat has also established contact with the European Commission and the Western European Union, and deliberations on various forms for co-operation at headquarters level as well as in the field have started.

5. The co-operation with NATO has intensified: the OSCE Chairmanship, the Troika and the Secretariat have all visited Brussels, and representatives of NATO have visited Vienna to meet their counterparts. A central theme in these meetings has been to increase practical co-operation in connection with crisis situations in areas where both organizations are involved.

6. With some other international organizations the OSCE has also developed extensive co-operation in the field, *inter alia*, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo.

7. In order to further improve the co-operation with other organizations, in line with the above-mentioned decision from Copenhagen, two informal meetings with other international organizations were held in Vienna during the course of 1998. On 3 July NATO, WEU, the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States participated, and on 29 October the following United Nations agencies took part: UNDP, OCHA, UNHCR, UNHCHR, IAEA, ODCCP and UNESCO. Both meetings provided an opportunity for a discussion of experience derived from co-operation and contacts in the past, and possible improvements for the future, with special focus on co-operation in the field. At the meetings the need for pragmatic co-operation, based on the principle of utilization of comparative advantages, was em-

phasized. At the same time, there was agreement that co-operation would have to be based on the principle of equal status of the various organizations and on recognition of their distinctive characteristics.

8. As a means of further intensifying the dialogue between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions, participating States agree that special meetings could be convened on a regular basis. Such meetings may take place in a technical format, including consultations between officials from the secretariats, or in a political format to bring together representatives of participating States as well as officials from the secretariats.

IV. OSCE as a Forum for Regional and Subregional Interaction

Basic principles

1. In the Copenhagen Decision Ministers agreed to offer the OSCE as a potential forum for interaction of regional and subregional groupings in the OSCE area, with the aim of facilitating exchanges of information and of developing a pragmatic approach to addressing challenges, including those arising in the field of post-conflict rehabilitation.

2. Regional/subregional approaches to security have become a central part of overall efforts to provide for security and stability in the OSCE area. Regional/subregional co-operation aimed at serving local needs, solving local problems and building mutual confidence among States in individual regions constitutes a valuable contribution to the overall security of the OSCE community.

The work on a Document-Charter offers an opportunity to further utilize the potential of the regional/subregional dimension as an integral part of the Organization's activity and thereby contribute to the indivisibility of security in the whole OSCE area. Furthermore, the Document-Charter should offer a framework and general principles for regional/subregional co-operation on a non-hierarchical basis, encourage new processes, interrelate these processes and assure their coherence with the work and norms of the OSCE.

3. However, the Document-Charter should not aim at establishing a rigorous, inflexible framework encompassing an exhaustive list of any kind of regional/subregional co-operation, as such co-operation depends on a variety of regional/subregional circumstances.

4. Regional/subregional approaches to security should be based on the following considerations:

- indivisibility and comprehensiveness of security;
- the regional/subregional dimension as an integral part of common security in the OSCE area;
- transparency;
- participation on a voluntary basis;
- regional/subregional approaches compatible with and complementary to wider co-operative security frameworks, on a non-hierarchical basis;
- regional/subregional approaches compatible with the global system of collective security as defined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, states directly concerned should act first;
- regional/subregional efforts respond to specific regional/subregional demands;
- no leading status for any one State;
- regional/subregional processes not at the expense of third parties;
- compliance with norms and commitments provided by the OSCE.

The role of the OSCE

A number of suggestions have been made on the OSCE as a forum for regional and subregional interaction:

- The Document-Charter should include an indicative list of possible areas for regional/subregional or bilateral co-operation, without necessarily creating new institutions. Such a list could include, *inter alia*, the following areas: Protection of national minorities, border co-operation, measures in the areas of political, (including with regard to so called new risks and challenges) economic, humanitarian, educational, environmental and cultural co-operation as well as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.
- Furthermore, both the OSCE as an organization as well as the individual participating States may take concrete steps to further utilize the potential of the regional/subregional dimension.
- The OSCE should support and encourage regional/subregional efforts by participating States, and contribute with information to all other OSCE participating States about ongoing regional/subregional processes.
- Based on the concept of solidarity, the OSCE should stand ready to support regional/subregional activities, upon request by States participating in such processes. On request, OSCE instruments such as the CPC, ODIHR, HCNM, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should provide expert advice for regional processes.

- The OSCE will facilitate implementation of agreements concluded under its aegis or with its support, and will also stand ready to fulfil a repository function for regional/subregional agreements.
- On request of the States participating in subregional processes, the OSCE may exercise the powers and functions of a guarantor for the implementation of regional/subregional agreements and decisions.
- The OSCE will endeavour to ensure that the development of co-operation within the regional/subregional dimension of security does not entail the strengthening of the security of certain regions/subregions at the expense of the security of other regions/subregions.
- The Permanent Council should, on a regular basis, review progress achieved in regional/subregional processes and determine new areas as well as recommend forms of regional/subregional efforts.
- The OSCE may decide to establish a Conference of Subregional Organizations and Associations in order to exchange experience and ensure the broadest possible examination of issues involved in maintaining stability and security in the OSCE area. The Conference will meet in session once every two years at the headquarters of the OSCE, and the Conference may recommend to the OSCE the implementation of specific projects and programmes aimed at strengthening security and co-operation within the OSCE area and at enhancing the effectiveness of the regional/subregional dimension in the work of the OSCE.

Many of the above-mentioned suggestions will need to be discussed further.

The role of participating States

The following suggestions have been made of the role of participating States in connection with regional and subregional groupings:

1. Participating States will seek to ensure that the aims, principles and norms of regional/subregional agreements, organizations, arrangements and initiatives in which they participate are consistent with OSCE principles and norms.
2. Participating States will exchange experience among various regional/subregional structures in which they are participating as a means of enhancing benefits obtained from regional/subregional interaction elsewhere in the OSCE area. To this effect, participating States should keep the OSCE and the Secretary General informed about their activities.
3. Participating States will co-operate with the OSCE, its institutions and representatives.
4. Participating States will refrain from supporting States that seriously contravene OSCE principles and commitments.

V. *The OSCE role in Connection with Peacekeeping (in the Light of the Overall OSCE Role in Conflict Prevention)*

The guidelines on an OSCE Document-Charter on European Security (Copenhagen Decision No. 5, paragraph 5, last section of subparagraph (e)) task us to rigorously examine the OSCE's appropriate role connected with peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind relevant OSCE documents.

Principles and definitions

1. Examination of the OSCE's role in connection with peacekeeping should be based on earlier decisions and documents. However, this cannot be done in a vacuum; due account must be taken of the developments that have taken place in the recent years in the field of peacekeeping, and also of the OSCE's own evolutionary process.

2. The Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter III on Instruments of Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management, paragraph 17, states that:

"Peacekeeping constitutes an important operational element of the overall capability of the CSCE for conflict prevention and crisis management intended to complement the political process of dispute resolution. CSCE peacekeeping activities may be undertaken in cases of conflict within or among participating States to help maintain peace and stability in support of an ongoing effort at a political solution."

3. The Helsinki Document 1992, in its Chapter III on Instruments of Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management, Paragraphs (18), (22), (23), (24) and (25), sets forth a set of principles applicable to the OSCE's possible involvement in peacekeeping operations. As such, they are in conformity with the United Nations definition of the term "peacekeeping" as set forth in the Secretary General's "Agenda for Peace" (1992).

4. Budapest Document 1994 Chapter I, on Strengthening the CSCE, reads as follows:

"3. The Heads of State or Government have directed that the future role and functions of the CSCE will include the following:

9.- to further its principles and develop its capabilities in conflict resolution, crisis management and peacekeeping and in post-conflict rehabilitation, including assisting with reconstruction;"

5. In the Budapest Document reference is also made to a possible OSCE peacekeeping operation in the event of a peace agreement in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. In paragraph 4 of Chapter II, Regional Issues, it is stated that the settlement of the conflict would make it possible to deploy multinational peacekeeping forces as an essential element for the implementation of such an agreement. In this context, it was decided that a High-Level Planning

Group should be established, with the task, among other things, of making recommendations on the size and characteristics of the force, command and control and logistics.

6. The discussions have revealed two different interpretations of the Copenhagen Decision regarding peacekeeping and its relation to other CSCE and OSCE documents, such as the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Budapest Document 1994. According to one position, the ministers in Copenhagen mandated a critical examination of earlier decisions based on experience gained in cases such as Bosnia. Another approach is that these earlier decisions are valid and should therefore not be questioned. The lack of a common understanding on this issue has influenced the discussion of the topic, since it is closely linked to the overall question of the role which the OSCE should have in the field of peacekeeping.

7. In the discussion, a number of terms, such as "peacekeeping operations", "peace enforcement operations", "peace operations" and "conflict settlement activities" are used, often interchangeably. There is a lack of clear definition or understanding of these terms. In the discussion some delegations have underlined a need for taking into account the development of peacekeeping during the last decade. According to this view, the "classical" or more traditional form of peacekeeping is now replaced by multidimensional and complex operations embracing both military and civilian tasks. Instability is seen as a continuum progressing from political, economic, and military stability first to tensions, then to full-blown crisis, then on open conflict, to post-conflict management and rehabilitation, and, finally to a restoration of stability. Experience from Bosnia-Herzegovina seems to support this argument.

It follows from this perspective that different organizations are differently equipped to deal with different stages of the continuum, and that the appropriate point for their engagement is usually best determined by their comparative advantages.

8. The report by the NACC Ad Hoc Working Group on Co-operation in Peacekeeping to the meeting of the NACC in Athens, Greece, on 11 June 1993, could also serve as a useful basis for seeking a common or universal definition of the term "peacekeeping". In part I, 1, Definitions, it is stated that there is no single generally accepted definition of peacekeeping. However, reference is made to Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, which traditionally has laid the foundation for the United Nations understanding of the term "peacekeeping". In this context we must remember that the term as such is not mentioned in the Chapter. Peacekeeping operations - as they developed during the years immediately following the adoption of the United Nations Charter - are rooted in the basic principle of peaceful settlement of conflicts, as described in this Chapter.

OSCE and peacekeeping - On what terms?

1. The discussion of an OSCE role in connection with peacekeeping has been based on three major contributions.
2. According to one view, the OSCE should not play a military role in peacekeeping operations, since other international organizations or coalitions of States have the necessary capabilities for conducting such operations. Establishing a military capability within the OSCE framework would for all practical purposes be a duplication of other organizations' capabilities and resources. The OSCE has proven its capabilities in "Conflict Prevention" and "Humanitarian Assistance", which require no military resources but rather civilian personnel and tasks.
3. Another view is that the OSCE should adopt measures to enhance its capabilities for peacekeeping operations, including the performance of its own peacekeeping operations, participation in such operations conducted by decision of the United Nations, and also the enlistment of other organizations and groups of States for OSCE peacekeeping operations. According to this position the OSCE participating States should also designate or earmark military units that can be deployed as OSCE peacekeeping contingents. These contingents would include national military, police and civilian personnel. Furthermore, it is foreseen that a single military command structure would be established under the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat.
4. This suggestion contradicts the views of a number of other delegations. In their view, this would duplicate the resources and structures that are established in other international organizations and contexts. Reference is also made to the Platform and the view that the OSCE should concentrate on activities where it has shown itself to have comparative advantages.
5. The third approach around which a common understanding may be emerging is conceptually based on the Helsinki Document 1992. It divides the OSCE's involvement in peacekeeping into three categories:

The OSCE and multifunctional peace operations

In such operations the OSCE should make contributions in areas where it has comparative advantages.

The OSCE requests support from other organizations for conducting peacekeeping operations on its behalf

Such a request would require the Permanent Council (PC) to set the general objectives of the operation and the supporting organization would have to report periodically to the PC on progress achieved in implementing its mandate.

OSCE-led operations

Although this scenario, in which the OSCE would be asked to take on an operational responsibility for a military peacekeeping operation, at present seems unlikely, the possibility should not be excluded. In the first instance, however, the OSCE should seek to make use of capabilities available in other organizations building on the Platform for Co-operative Security. As was made clear by the Helsinki Document 1992, OSCE-led operations could only be conducted with the consent of the parties directly concerned and would not entail enforcement actions.

6. In this compromising view the OSCE's peacekeeping activities are regarded as an integral part of the whole cycle of the Organization's conflict settlement activities. Every option is kept open. The organizational and operational structures of any kind of operation should be decided by the task at hand, the goal of avoiding duplication of effort being kept in mind.

7. Most delegations have stressed the need to keep all options open. According to this view, one should not exclude the possibility of the OSCE performing a peacekeeping operation including military tasks and forces.

The relationship between the OSCE and other international organizations - hierarchical or equal?

1. In the Common Concept for the development of co-operation between mutually reinforcing institutions, adopted in Copenhagen, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to working on a co-operative basis with other organizations and institutions that are prepared to deploy their resources in support of the OSCE's work. Particular attention was drawn to co-operation in conflict prevention and crisis management.

2. One position appears to underline the idea that the OSCE should play a leading role in its area by comparison with other European and Euro-Atlantic organizations, and this, in the view of some delegations, suggests a hierarchical relationship between the organizations. What we are referring to here is the term "collective security", which - according to some delegations - indicates a hierarchical system of organizations. A number of delegations prefer the term "co-operative security", which suggests a more equal and pragmatic relationship between the organizations.

3. In the discussion so far, the experience acquired in Albania has been highlighted. This experience has shown that the OSCE can provide a co-ordinating framework for the combined "soft" peacekeeping efforts of other members of the international community. The Platform should be the primary tool for the promotion of dialogue and co-operation, ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication of effort among the institutions, organizations and countries concerned.

4. A number of other delegations have also stressed the importance of the Platform and the Common Concept, with regard to peacekeeping operations, as in other contexts.

Mandates for peacekeeping operations

1. Another important question that needs clarification relates to the role of OSCE mandates. One view is that the OSCE is not in a position to accept mandates other than for its own field activities. NATO or other international organizations could therefore, according to this view, launch a peacekeeping operation without prior approval and/or mandate from the OSCE. An OSCE mandate is not a prerequisite for an international community action. However, a political endorsement from the OSCE is seen as desirable.

2. Another position is that a mandate from the OSCE or the United Nations Security Council is needed, even in circumstances where the OSCE itself does not play an active role in the operation. The OSCE as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter is highlighted, and a mandate from the OSCE is seen as being of crucial importance both for the legitimacy of the operation and also as a sign of respect for the validity of international law. Peace enforcement, however, would require special authorization by the Security Council.

3. According to the third approach there is no legal requirement for an OSCE request to be based on a Security Council resolution, as any action taken will be with the consent of the parties to the conflict. However, it would be politically desirable to secure full Security Council support for OSCE peacekeeping operations wherever possible.

The way ahead

1. There seems to be broad agreement that the OSCE has a vital role to play in connection with multifunctional peacekeeping operations in areas where it has comparative advantages.

Most delegations seem to agree that the OSCE has no role to play in connection with peace-enforcement operations.

2. There seems, furthermore, to be broad agreement that the possibility of the OSCE requesting other organizations to make their resources available should be kept open.

3. There may be an emerging common understanding on the advisability of keeping the options open with regard to OSCE-led military peacekeeping.

4. There is no agreement on the proposal to earmark military units for OSCE peacekeeping contingents and to set up a single military command structure under the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat.

VI. Development of the Platform

1. There is a need for more transparency with regard to activities of other organizations. Improved exchange of information, including regular contacts and liaison arrangements, will improve transparency and help avoid overlapping, double-work and misperceptions. In the further development of the Platform, important developments in other forums, such as NATO/EAPC/PfP, EU, WEU and the Council of Europe, must be taken fully into account.
2. Practical experience (Bosnia, Albania and Kosovo) indicates that conflict prevention and crisis management will be a main focus of the Platform's operational value in the short term.
3. A proposal to establish formal framework agreements between the OSCE and other international organizations as a basis for co-operation at all levels has not found agreement.
4. Issues of comprehensive security cannot be regarded as belonging to any single dimension. The Platform should be multidimensional, including, among others, the human dimension and the economic dimension. At the same time, in broadening its scope, it is important to avoid a dilution of the Platform concept by attempting to apply the same arrangements to all other organizations equally.

Practical modalities through which the Platform can be developed.

5. Co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations in the human dimension should be further promoted. The Council of Europe and the competent United Nations agencies are especially relevant in this regard, and representation of certain organizations at future implementation meetings could lead to closer co-operation.
6. Co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations is also an important means of assisting participating States in their compliance with OSCE commitments. Specific measures to this end could include, *inter alia*, participating States inviting organizations of which they are members to inform the OSCE of measures taken to assist compliance with OSCE commitments, or examining ways in which these organizations could directly assist the OSCE in specific cases.
7. In line with the Platform principles, police activities should be based on close co-ordination and utilization of comparative advantages.
8. The Platform should also enable the OSCE and other organizations to enhance, in a coherent manner, continuing and future efforts in the economic dimension.

9. With regard to new risks and challenges, stress is laid on the fact that the approach should be differentiated depending on the nature and specific characteristics of the risks.

10. The potential of the OSCE to assist Central Asian States, through the Platform and in co-operation with other international organizations, should be further explored.

Security and Co-operation in Adjacent Areas. Co-operation with Partners for Co-operation

I. General Considerations

1. The OSCE participating States have on a number of occasions declared that strengthening of security and co-operation in adjacent areas, particularly in the Mediterranean region, is of great importance for the stability of the OSCE region.

2. The Mediterranean partners have been involved in the Organization's activities in one way or another since the start of the CSCE/OSCE process. Since the Budapest Summit of 1994 the dialogue has been institutionalized in regular meetings of the Mediterranean Contact Group. The Mediterranean partners for co-operation (MPC) today comprise Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

3. Japan and the Republic of Korea have enjoyed a status somewhat different from that of the MPC. They were recognized as "partners for co-operation" in December 1995.

4. While the MPC receive invitations to attend meetings on a case-by-case basis, Japan has, since the Helsinki Summit in 1992, had a permanent invitation to attend all meetings of the CSCE/OSCE (Summit, Ministerial Council, Senior Council and Permanent Council meetings). Japan is given the opportunity to make contributions without taking part in the decision-making process.

II. Principles

1. In the Guidelines on an OSCE Document-Charter on European Security, adopted at the Copenhagen Ministerial Council meeting, the participating States referred to their relations with the partners for co-operation (Decision No. 5, paragraph 5 (j)), as follows:

"Recognizing the indivisibility of security, they affirm that strengthening security and co-operation in adjacent areas, in particular the Mediterranean, is an important factor for stability in the OSCE area. They will consider closer co-operation with all partners for co-operation in order to

promote the norms and values shared by the OSCE participating States. They will also encourage partners to draw on OSCE expertise."

2. On this basis it would seem that there is general agreement on the necessity - even the desirability - of expanding co-operation with the partners. In the discussion so far, a number of concrete proposals have been put forward with respect to both the content of the co-operation and the modalities for implementing it.

III. Co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

1. In the Budapest Decision (1994) it is stated that: "In order to consider proposals that originate in the Contact Group, seminars and high-level consultations, the Chairman-in-Office will invite during the course of the year representatives of these non-participating Mediterranean States, as appropriate, to any meetings of the Permanent Council solely devoted to 'Mediterranean Issues', or to the Senior Council when "Mediterranean Issues" are placed on the agenda. The Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation, with the consensus of the participating States, may also invite representatives of these non-participating Mediterranean States to meetings devoted to 'Mediterranean Issues'."

2. The Lisbon Document 1996 states that: "We are committed to further developing the dialogue with our Mediterranean partners for co-operation, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. In this context, strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean is important for stability in the OSCE region. We welcome the continued interest displayed by the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, Japan, and the Republic of Korea in the OSCE, and the deepening of dialogue and co-operation with them. We invite them to participate in our activities, including meetings as appropriate."

3. A number of concrete proposals have been tabled with respect to co-operation with the MPC. It has been stated that the interest in security and co-operation in the Mediterranean has increased considerably in recent years. It is also noted that the OSCE needs to seek ways of making a specific contribution to stability in regions adjacent to the OSCE area, based on a non-discriminatory approach.

4. A number of delegations have underlined that the dialogue with the MPC should not interfere with the activities of other existing structures such as the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean process. This process is regarded by a group of participating States as the primary vehicle for dialogue between the EU and all States of the Mediterranean region (not only the MPC).

5. A group of countries has enumerated a number of ideas regarding strengthened co-operation with the MPC. These are:

- (a) The substantive content of the informal open-ended Contact Group's work should be increased. The Group was established within the framework of the Permanent Council at the Budapest Summit in 1994. The agenda could be expanded to include, in addition, the question of implementing OSCE commitments in all areas with a view to encouraging the partners to respect the OSCE's basic values. The partners could benefit from experience in areas such as the human dimension, regional co-operation and confidence- and security-building measures.
 - (b) The MPC should be encouraged to contribute to OSCE activities:
 - By proposing subjects relevant to the OSCE's sphere of competence for discussion, drawing inspiration from the expertise of the ODIHR and the CPC;
 - By sending guest observers for election-monitoring operations or by sending representatives for short-term visits to OSCE missions in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 233.
 - (d) Possibilities for increasing local awareness of the OSCE by arranging conferences and seminars should be further exploited.
 - (e) The procedures for participation by the MPC in the work and meetings of the OSCE should be improved. Concrete proposals in this respect are invitations to Summit and Ministerial Council meetings, invitations - at the expense of the MPC themselves - to all seminars organized by the OSCE, invitations to attend certain meetings of the Permanent Council, invitations to attend as observers some of the meetings of the Security Model Committee and, lastly, participation as observers in certain meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation, FSC Implementation meetings, Review Meetings and meetings concerning the human dimension and the economic dimension.
6. Other proposals have been put forward, focusing also on the institutional and procedural aspects - and possible results - of co-operation with the MPC:
- Through the Document-Charter one should offer the OSCE's expertise for the establishment of structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean analogous to those already existing within the OSCE for conflict prevention, early warning and preventive diplomacy;
 - The OSCE should invite the Mediterranean partners for co-operation to the plenary meetings of the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Security Model Committee;
 - The OSCE should establish an MPC-CPC information exchange with the aim of setting up a Mediterranean Conflict Prevention Centre;
 - The OSCE should promote the establishment of a sub-regional arrangement for confronting, in a more focused manner, the economic, demographic, social, cultural and environmental problems already threatening the region. Such a mechanism could help in developing and elaborating a

- sustainable network of confidence- and security-building measures;
- The implementation of commitments under the economic dimension relevant for the Mediterranean region should be considered;
- The human dimension is also a field for potential constructive co-operation with the MPC. The OSCE could utilize experience gathered by the ODIHR and the HCNM.

Some of the above proposals will have to be discussed further.

IV. Co-operation with Partners for Co-operation (Japan and the Republic of Korea)

1. It has been suggested that strengthened co-operation with Japan and the Republic of Korea could, in particular, be related to the regional security dimension. Joint activities in connection with field missions in Central Asia are regarded as the most visible initial feature of the Euro-Asian co-operation.
2. Closer contacts, as called for by Japan, could be considered in connection with the Asia Regional Forum (ARF), which is regarded as the OSCE's closest counterpart in Asia.

These ideas need further clarification and elaboration.

V. Issues for Further Consideration

1. In the discussion on co-operation in adjacent areas, there seems to be broad consensus on the need for further strengthening of the co-operation with partner States. Special stress is laid on the need for giving the co-operation and dialogue more substance and content.
2. The discussion up till now has to a considerable degree focused on co-operation with the MPC. Even though the importance of this is not questioned, concern has been voiced regarding the balance between co-operation with the MPC and the other partners for co-operation.
This will probably not be a question of "either-or" but rather of finding an appropriate balance between co-operation with the MPC and the other partner States.
3. Some of the proposals tabled have concrete procedural and/or institutional implications. This is a point that needs further elaboration and clarification, as some delegations have opposed the creation of new institutions or organizational structures within the OSCE. However, there seems to be broad agreement on the need to vitalize the regular meetings of the Contact Group for the MPC. Some steps have already been taken, for example by arranging a special session of the Contact Group dedicated to the work on the Document-Charter.

VI. Co-operation with Other Non-Participating States

It is agreed that the OSCE should also be receptive to applications for co-operation with the OSCE by other non-participating States. This is regarded as necessary in order to develop the regional security dimension and to involve all States concerned with regional security in the OSCE area. Applications for closer links with the OSCE should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Annex 3

Indicative List of Contacts between the Representatives of the OSCE and International Organizations and Institutions in 1998

3-4 December (Strasbourg): Participation of Personal Adviser of the representative on Freedom of the Media in Steering Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe.

23-26 November: Visit to the Trans-Caucasus States, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, by the Chairman-in-Office, with the participation of representatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

20-26 November (Brussels): WEU organized CRISEX 1998 - a high level Crisis Management Exercise to which the OSCE, EU, United Nations and NATO were invited as observers.

20 November (Warsaw): Seminar on "Lessons identified and learned from Peace-keeping Missions", organized by the Ministry of National Defence of Poland, and attended by representatives of the United Nations, NATO, WEU and several high-level military experts from OSCE participating States.

20 November (Geneva): Humanitarian Issues Working Group of the Peace Implementation Council chaired by the UNHCR, attended by representatives of the OSCE, NATO, European Commission, Council of Europe, ICRC, among others.

19 November (Vienna): Addresses by Mr. Daniel Tarschys, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva to the Permanent Council.

13 November (Geneva): Preparatory meeting with the participation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Secretariat and the UN/ECE for the parliamentary conference on "Regional and sub-regional economic co-operation", to be held in Nantes, in October 1999.

10-11 November (Sarajevo): Workshop to discuss the future work of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the 1999 municipal elections, and the Mission's human rights and democratization programmes, with the participation of UNHCR, ECMM, United Nations Civil Affairs (UNCA), International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and SFOR (Stabilization Force).

6 November (Geneva): consultations among the OSCE, UNHCHR, UNHCR and ICRC to discuss practical co-operation in Kosovo.

6 November (Vienna): OSCE - NATO/SHAPE consultations between staff members of the KVM Support Unit and the OSCE Secretariat and representatives of NATO Headquarters and SHAPE - exchange of information on the preparations of the respective operations in and around Kosovo, and discussion on modalities for co-operation.

5-6 November (Istanbul): OSCE Economic Dimension Seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them - The Case of the Black Sea Region" with the participation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Black Sea Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, and the Danube Commission.

5 November (Warsaw): ODIHR convened target-oriented Meeting on Kosovo with the participation of the delegations of the Contact Group countries, United Nations agencies, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICRC, Council of Europe and the European Commission.

4 November (Strasbourg): participation of the Chairman-in-Office at the 103rd session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

3 November (Brussels): OSCE - NATO consultations on current conceptual issues within the two organizations, in particular on the work of the OSCE Document Charter on European Security, the NATO Strategic Concept and discussions on NATO's role in peacekeeping, the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the crisis in Kosovo (OSCE delegation was headed by the Chairman of the Permanent Council).

30 October (Tirana): "Tirana International Conference" with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Presence in Albania, as well as by representatives of United Nations, NATO, WEU, European Commission, Council of Europe, IMF, World Bank, EBRD, European Investment Bank.

29 October (Vienna): Special informal meeting of the Security Model Committee with the participation of representatives of United Nations Agencies - UNDP, UNHCR, UNDCP, UNHCHR, IAEA, Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNESCO.

26 October - 6 November (Warsaw): Human Dimension Implementation Meeting with the participation of the following organizations: UNESCO, UNDP, UNHCHR, UNHCR, International Labour Organization, European Commission, Council of Europe, EBRD, ICRC.

23 October (Mons): OSCE - NATO/SHAPE consultations on the preparation of the Kosovo Verification Mission. Subsequent meetings were held on 29-30 October 1998 in Vienna, and on 19 November 1998 in Mons.

23 October (Vienna): Reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council on regional issues, to which representatives from the United Nations, UNHCR, UNDP, Council of Europe, EBRD, Black Sea Economic Co-operation, and the ICRC, were invited.

19-20 October (Malta): OSCE Mediterranean Seminar on "The Human Dimension of Security, Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law" with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office representatives and the OSCE Secretary General, as well as UNHCR, NATO, WEU, European Commission, Council of Europe, and the Mediterranean Forum.

19 October (New York): Meeting on the implementation of the prohibitions contained in Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998), of the participating regional organizations, organized by the Department for Peacekeeping operations, and the United Nations Secretariat with the participation of the European Union, NATO, OSCE, WEU, and the Danube Commission.

18-20 October (Locarno): "International Conference on Governance and Participation - Integrating Diversity" organized by the HCNM and ODIHR with the participation of UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, European Commission, Council of Europe, and the Council of Baltic Sea States.

15 October (Vienna): Address by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to the Permanent Council. On the same day, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNHCR.

13-14 October (Stockholm): International Conference on OSCE and Sub-regional Groups: Co-operation between Mutually reinforcing Institutions organized by the Chairman-in-Office, and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in co-operation with East-West Institute, attended by representatives of the European Commission, WEU, Black Sea Economic Co-operation and Central European Initiative.

13 October (Rome): Participation of the OSCE Secretariat representatives in the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union.

7 October (Vienna): Informal meeting of the Permanent Council on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the CIS Migration Conference, with the participation of representatives of IOM, Department for Migration and Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, and ICRC.

5-6 October (Athens): NATO organized "Seminar on Peacekeeping" with the participation of the OSCE Secretariat.

30 September (Brussels): Inaugural meeting of the "Friends of Albania", chaired by the OSCE in co-operation with the EU Council Secretariat.

22-24 September (Tashkent): OSCE Economic Dimension Seminar "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them" with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office representatives and the OSCE Secretary General, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, OECD, Interstate Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

23 September: Joint OSCE, EU, Council of Europe, and WEU Declaration, regarding the dramatic events in Tirana which involved widespread violence.

19 September (Tirana): OSCE/Council of Europe Ministerial Mission to Albania (with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office, the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and the Special Envoy of the European Union Presidency to Albania).

17-18 September (Brussels): NATO organized "Roundtable on Caspian Oil/Gas and International Security", with the participation of representatives of the OSCE Secretariat.

15 September (Vienna): Briefing by the Director of Crisis Management and Operations of NATO to the OSCE Troika and the OSCE Secretariat on NATO planning for military operations in connection with the crisis in Kosovo.

15 September (Tbilisi): Workshop on recommendations of international organizations concerning the return of persons displaced as a result of the Georgian - South Ossetian conflict, organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe.

7-10 September (The Hague): Informal meeting on the issues relating to the Meskhetian Turks, organized by the HCNM, in co-operation with UNHCR and the Open Society Institute (Forced Migration Project).

28-29 July (New York): "Third Meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations", with the participation of the Secretary General of the OSCE.

16 July (Vienna): "2+2" meeting between the OSCE and the Council of Europe at the level of Political Directors (with the participation of representatives of the "Troikas", Parliamentary Assemblies and the OSCE Institutions).

15-16 July (Paris): Joint OSCE/OECD conference on "National and International Approaches to Improving Integrity and Transparency in Government".

13 July (Skopje): Meeting of the Chairmanship, CPC and senior staff of OSCE Missions to BiH, Croatia, Skopje and Albania, with UNHCR, on regional refugee issues relevant to the activities of the OSCE.

7 July (Vienna): Pilot meeting between the OSCE and NATO on early warning and conflict prevention.

- 3 July (Vienna): Special informal meeting of the OSCE Security Model Committee with other international organizations (WEU, NATO, CIS, CoE).
- 1-2 July (Chisinau): OSCE Seminar on the Interrelationship between Central and Regional governments, with the participation of UNDP, UNHCR, European Commission, EBRD, World Bank, CoE, Assembly of the European Regions and ICRC.
- 26 June (Kiev): Donor Conference on the international assistance to the formerly deported peoples of Crimea, chaired by the HCNM.
- 25 June (Vienna): Statements by Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner on Human Rights, and Mr. Søren Jessen-Petersen, Assistant United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the meeting of the PC.
- 23 June (Vienna): Meeting of OSCE HoMs with representatives of UNHCR, UNDP, International Organization for Migration and CoE to discuss the relationship between the OSCE Missions and IOs.
- 23 June (Vienna): Meeting of the Secretary General with Mr. Anne-Willem Bijleveld, Director for Europe, UNHCR.
- 8-9 June (Vienna): Visit of a delegation from the EU Commission, headed by Director Angel Viñas, to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna in order to discuss pragmatic co-operation in various geographic areas, and the possibility of the EC support for specific project proposals submitted by OSCE Missions.
- 5 June (The Hague): Seminar on the relationship between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.
- 4 June (Vienna): Address to the Permanent Council by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the ICRC.
- 2-5 June 1998 (Prague): Economic Forum meeting with the participation of international economic organizations and financial institutions.
- 25-28 May (Warsaw): Human Dimension Seminar on "The Ombudsman and National Human Rights Institutions" with participation of IOs specializing in the relevant field.
- 7 May (Vienna): Address to the Permanent Council by Ambassador Liviu Bota, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Georgia.
- 5 May (Vienna): Meeting of the Secretary General with Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, UNUSG for Disarmament Affairs, to discuss complementarity of regional and OSCE-wide measures, regional approaches to arms control and working group progress.
- 29 April (Vienna): Informal Permanent Council meeting on follow-up to the HD Seminar on the "Promotion of Women's Participation in Society" with the participation of, *inter alia*, UNDP, UNDCP and CoE.
- 17-18 April (Sarajevo): Participation of Chairman-in-Office representatives in the UniDem Seminar on "New trends in Electoral Law in a Pan-European Context" organized by Venice Commission (Council of Europe).
- 3 April (Strasbourg): Tripartite (OSCE, CoE and United Nations with additional participation of WEU) target oriented meeting on pragmatic ways of

co-ordinating action in Albania.

30 March (Vienna): Visit of the Chairman of the CoE's Rapporteur Group on relations between the CoE and the OSCE, Ambassador Evgenyi Prokhorov to discuss ways to enhance co-ordination of activities and avoid unnecessary duplication.

24 March (Geneva): Secretary General's visit to Geneva-based organizations and meetings with Executive Secretary of the UN ECE, Mr. Yves Berthelot, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms. Sadako Ogata, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mary Robinson.

12-14 March (Noordwijk, the Netherlands): Participation of the OSCE representatives in a brainstorming session on the relationship between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

12 March (London): "2+2" Meeting between the OSCE and the CoE with participation of Chairmen-in-Office and Secretaries General.

3 February (Strasbourg): Address by the Secretary General of the OSCE to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers at the level of Deputies.

23 January (Geneva): Seventh High level Tripartite Meeting (OSCE, CoE, Geneva-based United Nations organizations) with additional participation of ICRC.

(...)

Report by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Implementation of Articles II and IV of Annex I-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Article II, Annex 1-B, General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(a) Status of Implementation

- Success of the Review Conference held last February
- No major discrepancies during inspections
- Trial inspections of "specified areas" (challenge inspections)
- Remarkable improvement in the quality of data exchanges and notifications
- Voluntary limitation of training exercises in 1999 under levels permitted by the Agreement
- Beginning of visits to weapons manufacturing facilities and approval of a related Protocol for these visits
- Activation of Military Liaison Missions between the defence staffs of the two entities and agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chiefs of Defence Staff

- Improved co-ordination with the Office of the High Representative and SFOR
- Increase of the number of visits and military contacts between the two Entities
- Organization of a Seminar on Aerial Observation with a practical demonstration and of a Seminar on Civil-Military Co-operation in case of natural disasters with a view to developing a common doctrine for Bosnia and Herzegovina and field manuals for the Entity Armed Forces. They could be tested during a field exercise involving SFOR, OHR and the OSCE at the end of next May
- Creation, within the universities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, of a network of independent security experts who are linked to similar institutions in OSCE countries

(b) Long-Term Objectives

- Contribution of the Personal Representative and of the OSCE Head of Mission to the strategic concepts of the OHR, with the definition of long-term objectives and division of labour between the different institutions concurring in the stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Focus of the action of the Personal Representative and of the OSCE Mission/Department for Regional Stabilization on co-operation, integration, support of the joint institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on reduction of military, financial and social burdens

(c) 1999 Programme

- Consolidation of the results achieved in implementing the notification and inspection regimes, in particular with training of inspectors at weapons manufacturing facilities
- Seminar on Democratic Control of Security Policy and Armed Forces with three goals
 - Establishment or consolidation of joint institutions, in particular the Standing Committee on Military Matters, and of a law on parliamentary control
 - Beginning of a debate on the concepts to be followed for the common security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for its preparation for integration into international security systems
 - Establishment of a financial planning and budgeting system that would permit transparency

- Seminar on peacekeeping with the goal to establish a common doctrine and field manuals for the Armed Forces of the two Entities to allow them to participate in international community efforts
 - Constitution of a Verification Centre at the State level of Bosnia and Herzegovina (to include providing equipment and training); and preparation of a team of inspectors that will allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise its rights and obligations with regard to arms control agreements
 - Consolidation of a network of security institutions and independent experts in the Universities of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Article IV, Annex 1-B, General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sub-Regional Arms Control
- (a) Status of Implementation
- Consolidation of notification and inspection regimes
 - Assistance to the Parties for inspections
 - Destruction of excess weapons (250 after the completion of the reduction period)
 - Success of the Review Conference (June 1998)
- (b) Long-Term Objectives
- Reduction of the exemptions from the Dayton Ceilings with a view to reducing weapons and readiness
 - Assistance to the Parties in assuming the chairmanship of the Subregional Consultative Commission
- (c) 1999 Programme
- Monitoring of holdings of armaments
 - Standing Operating Procedures for the Chairmanship of the Subregional Consultative Commission
 - Homogenization of the software of the Verification Centres
 - Training in and conduct of inspections at undeclared sites (challenge inspections)
 - Workshop to homogenize notifications of relevant data and of conduct of inspections

Report by the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Negotiations under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Special Representative appointed during the Meeting of the Ministerial Council in December 1997 in Copenhagen started consultations on a mandate with a view to presenting initial results by summer 1998

(MC(6).DEC/2).

Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and Turkey have expressed their wish to participate in these negotiations together with the original signatories of the Dayton/Paris peace accords.

Consultations were held during the spring, with visits to capitals. A keen interest in the Article V process was evident, together with a wish to promote security and greater stability, where it is lacking, in south-eastern Europe.

Several versions of the mandate for negotiations were proposed, incorporating amendments from the prospective participating States. Despite some remaining difficulties, a consensus has been reached on important issues: the aim and objectives of the negotiations; the participation of 20 countries despite having very different perspectives derived from, for example, their geographical positions relative to the region or their existing arms control obligations; equal rights and obligations for all participating States; and no additional obligations for countries already implementing existing arms control regimes, such as Article IV or the CFE Treaty. With the final differences resolved and a consensus reached in November 1998, the negotiations will start in January 1999.

Despite the challenge and distraction of the Kosovo problem, strong interest in the Article V process has been sustained. Article V is the first attempt at a regional arms control or confidence-building regime within the OSCE. If successful, it will make a significant contribution to peace and stability in Europe and will produce a manifest endorsement of the concept of the indivisibility of security.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

Cologne, 10 June 1999

I. Participants, Description of Situation

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Union, the European Commission, the Foreign Ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United States of America, the OSCE Chairman in Office and the Representative of the Council of Europe representing the participants in today's Conference on South Eastern Europe; and the Foreign Ministers of Canada and Japan, Representatives of the United Nations, UNHCR, NATO, OECD, WEU, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, acting within their competencies, representing the facilitating States, Organisations and Institutions of today's Conference, as well as the Representatives of the Royaumont process, BSEC, CEI, SECI and SEECP, have met in Cologne on 10 June 1999, in response to the European Union's call to adopt a Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

2. The countries of South Eastern Europe recognise their responsibility to work within the international community to develop a shared strategy for stability and growth of the region and to cooperate with each other and major donors to implement that strategy. Seizing the opportunity to address structural shortfalls and unresolved issues will accelerate democratic and economic development in the region.

3. We will strive to achieve the objective of lasting peace, prosperity and stability for South Eastern Europe. We will reach this objective through a comprehensive and coherent approach to the region involving the EU, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the UN, NATO, the OECD, the WEU, the IFIs and the regional initiatives. We welcome the fact that the European Union and the United States have made support for the Stability Pact a priority in their New Transatlantic Agenda, as well as the fact that the European Union and the Russian Federation have made the Stability Pact a priority in their political dialogue.

4. A settlement of the Kosovo conflict is critical to our ability to reach fully the objectives of the Stability Pact and to work towards permanent, long term measures for a future of peace and inter-ethnic harmony without fear of the resurgence of war.

II. Principles and Norms

5. We solemnly reaffirm our commitment to all the principles and norms enshrined in the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1990 Copenhagen Document and other OSCE documents, and, as applicable, to the full implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the relevant conventions of the Council of Europe and the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations.

6. In our endeavours, we will build upon bilateral and multilateral agreements on good neighbourly relations concluded by States in the region participating in the Pact, and will seek the conclusion of such agreements where they do not exist. They will form an essential element of the Stability Pact.

7. We reaffirm that we are accountable to our citizens and responsible to one another for respect for OSCE norms and principles and for the implementation of our commitments. We also reaffirm that commitments with respect to the human dimension undertaken through our membership in the OSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all States participating in the Stability Pact, and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. Respect for these commitments constitutes one of the foundations of international order, to which we intend to make a substantial contribution.

8. We take note that countries in the region participating in the Stability Pact commit themselves to continued democratic and economic reforms, as elaborated in paragraph 10, as well as bilateral and regional cooperation amongst themselves to advance their integration, on an individual basis, into Euro-Atlantic structures. The EU Member States and other participating countries and international organisations and institutions commit themselves to making every effort to assist them to make speedy and measurable progress along this road. We reaffirm the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance as they evolve. Each participating State will respect the rights of all others in this regard. They will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States.

III. Objectives

9. The Stability Pact aims at strengthening countries in South Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region. Those countries in the region who seek integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, alongside a number of other participants in the Pact, strongly believe that the

implementation of this process will facilitate their objective.

10. To that end we pledge to cooperate towards:

- preventing and putting an end to tensions and crises as a prerequisite for lasting stability. This includes concluding and implementing among ourselves multilateral and bilateral agreements and taking domestic measures to overcome the existing potential for conflict;
- bringing about mature democratic political processes, based on free and fair elections, grounded in the rule of law and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the right to free and independent media, legislative branches accountable to their constituents, independent judiciaries, combating corruption, deepening and strengthening of civil society;
- creating peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region through strict observance of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, confidence building and reconciliation, encouraging work in the OSCE and other fora on regional confidence building measures and mechanisms for security cooperation;
- preserving the multinational and multiethnic diversity of countries in the region, and protecting minorities;
- creating vibrant market economies based on sound macro policies, markets open to greatly expanded foreign trade and private sector investment, effective and transparent customs and commercial/regulatory regimes, developing strong capital markets and diversified ownership, including privatisation, leading to a widening circle of prosperity for all our citizens;
- fostering economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe and the world, including free trade areas; promoting unimpeded contacts among citizens;
- combatting organised crime, corruption and terrorism and all criminal and illegal activities;
- preventing forced population displacement caused by war, persecution and civil strife as well as migration generated by poverty;
- ensuring the safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes, while assisting the countries in the region by sharing the burden imposed upon them;

- creating the conditions, for countries of South Eastern Europe, for full integration into political, economic and security structures of their choice.

11. Lasting peace and stability in South Eastern Europe will only become possible when democratic principles and values, which are already actively promoted by many countries in the region, have taken root throughout, including in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. International efforts must focus on consolidating and linking areas of stability in the region to lay a firm foundation for the transition of the region as a whole to a peaceful and democratic future.

We declare that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will be welcome as a full and equal participant in the Stability Pact, following the political settlement of the Kosovo crisis on the basis of the principles agreed by G8 Foreign Ministers and taking into account the need for respect by all participants for the principles and objectives of this Pact.

In order to draw the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia closer to this goal, respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity, we will consider ways of making the Republic of Montenegro an early beneficiary of the Pact. In this context, we welcome involvement in our meetings of representatives of Montenegro, as a constituent Republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We also note the intention of the European Union and other interested participants to continue to work closely with its democratically elected government.

IV. Mechanisms of the Stability Pact

12. To reach the objectives we have set for ourselves, we have agreed to set up a South Eastern Europe Regional Table. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will review progress under the Stability Pact, carry it forward and provide guidance for advancing its objectives.

13. The Stability Pact will have a Special Coordinator, who will be appointed by the European Union, after consultation with the OSCE Chairman in Office and other participants, and endorsed by the OSCE Chairman in Office. The Special Coordinator will chair the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and will be responsible for promoting achievement of the Pact's objectives within and between the individual countries, supported by appropriate structures tailored to need, in close cooperation with the governments and relevant institutions of the countries, in particular other interested associated countries of the European Union, as well as relevant international organisations and institutions concerned. The Special Coordinator will provide periodic progress reports to the OSCE, according to its procedures,

on behalf of the South Eastern Europe Regional Table.

14. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will ensure coordination of activities of and among the following Working Tables, which will build upon existing expertise, institutions and initiatives and could be divided into sub-tables:

- Working Table on democratisation and human rights;
- Working Table on economic reconstruction, development and cooperation;
- Working Table on security issues.

15. Responsibilities for these Working Tables are referred to in the Annex to this document. The Working Tables will address and facilitate the resolution of the issues entrusted to them by arrangements to be agreed at each table.

16. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table and the Working Tables will consist of the participants of the Stability Pact. The facilitator States, Organisations and Institutions as well as the regional initiatives referred to in paragraph 1 of this document are entitled to participate in the Working Tables and in the South Eastern Europe Regional Table if they so wish. Neighbouring and other countries, in particular other interested associated countries of the EU, as well as relevant international organisations and institutions may be invited as participants or observers, as appropriate, and without any ensuing commitment to the future, to the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and/or the Working Tables, in order to contribute to the objectives of the Stability Pact.

V. Roles of and Cooperation between Participants

17. Work in the Stability Pact should take into account the diversity of the situation of participants. To achieve the objectives of this Pact, we will provide for effective coordination between the participating and facilitating States, international and regional Organisations and Institutions, which have unique knowledge and expertise to contribute to the common endeavour. We look to the active and creative participation by all concerned to bring about the conditions which will enable the countries in the region to seize the opportunity represented by this Pact. Each of the participants will endeavour to ensure that the objectives of the Stability Pact are furthered in their own participation in all relevant international Organisations and Institutions.

Role of the EU

18. We welcome the European Union's initiative in launching the Stability Pact and the leading role the EU is playing, in cooperation with other participating and facilitating States, international Organisations and Institutions. The launching of the Pact will give a firm European anchorage to the region. The ultimate success of the Pact will depend largely on the efforts of the States concerned to fulfil the objectives of the Pact and to develop regional cooperation through multilateral and bilateral agreements.

19. We warmly welcome the European Union's readiness to actively support the countries in the region and to enable them to achieve the objectives of the Stability Pact. We welcome the EU's activity to strengthen democratic and economic institutions in the region through a number of relevant programmes. We note progress towards the establishment and development of contractual relations, on an individual basis and within the framework of its Regional Approach, between the EU and countries of the region. We take note that, on the basis of the Vienna European Council Conclusions, the EU will prepare a "Common Strategy towards the Western Balkans", as a fundamental initiative.

20. The EU will draw the region closer to the perspective of full integration of these countries into its structures. In case of countries which have not yet concluded association agreements with the EU, this will be done through a new kind of contractual relationship taking fully into account the individual situations of each country with the perspective of EU membership, on the basis of the Amsterdam Treaty and once the Copenhagen criteria have been met. We note the European Union's willingness that, while deciding autonomously, it will consider the achievement of the objectives of the Stability Pact, in particular progress in developing regional cooperation, among the important elements in evaluating the merits of such a perspective.

Role of the countries in the region

21. We highly appreciate the contribution and the solidarity of the countries in the region with the efforts of the international community for reaching a peaceful solution on Kosovo. We welcome the efforts so far deployed and results achieved by countries in South Eastern Europe towards democratisation, economic reform and regional cooperation and stability. These countries will be the main beneficiaries of the Pact and recognise that its successful implementation, and the advance towards Euro-Atlantic structures for those seeking it depend decisively on their commitment to implement the objectives of the Pact, in particular on their willingness to cooperate on a bilateral and multilateral level and to promote the objectives of the Pact within their own respective national structures.

Role of the OSCE

22. We welcome the OSCE's intention, as the only pan-European security organisation and as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, to make a significant contribution to the efforts undertaken through the Stability Pact. We reaffirm that the OSCE has a key role to play in fostering all dimensions of security and stability. Accordingly, we request that the Stability Pact be placed under the auspices of the OSCE, and will rely fully on the OSCE to work for compliance with the provisions of the Stability Pact by the participating States, in accordance with its procedures and established principles.

23. We will rely on the OSCE institutions and instruments and their expertise to contribute to the proceedings of the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and of the Working Tables, in particular the Working Table on Democratisation and Human Rights. Their unique competencies will be much needed in furthering the aims and objectives of the Stability Pact. We express our intention, in cases requiring OSCE involvement with regard to the observance of OSCE principles in the implementation of the Stability Pact, to resort, where appropriate, to the instruments and procedures of the OSCE, including those concerning conflict prevention, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the human dimension. States parties to the Convention establishing the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration may also refer to the Court possible disputes and ask for the non-binding opinion of the Court.

Role of the Council of Europe

24. We welcome the Council of Europe's readiness to integrate all countries in the region into full membership on the basis of the principles of pluralist democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Council of Europe can make an important contribution to the objectives of the Pact through its parliamentary and intergovernmental organs and institutions, its European norms embodied in relevant legally-binding Conventions, primarily the European Convention of Human Rights (and the Court), its instruments and assistance programmes in the fields of democratic institutions, human rights, law, justice and education, as well as its strong links with civil society. In this context, we take note with great interest of the Council of Europe's Stability Programme for South East Europe to be implemented, together and in close

coordination with the countries concerned and other international and regional organisations active in the field.

Role of the UN, including UNHCR

25. We underline the UN's central role in the region for peace and security and for lasting political normalisation, as well as for humanitarian efforts and economic rehabilitation. We strongly support UNHCR's lead agency function in all refugee-related questions, in particular the protection and return of refugees and displaced persons and the crucial role undertaken by WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNHCHR and other members of the UN system. We look forward to the active involvement of relevant UN agencies in the South Eastern Europe Regional Table. We note that the UN Economic Commission for Europe has expertise which can usefully contribute to the proceedings of the Working Tables of the Stability Pact.

Role of NATO

26. We note NATO's decision to increase cooperation with the countries of South Eastern Europe and its commitment to openness, as well as the intention of NATO, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace to work in cooperation with other Euro-Atlantic structures, to contribute to stability and security and to maintain and increase consultations with the countries of the region. We call for their engagement, in conformity with the objectives of the Pact, in regional security cooperation and conflict prevention and management. We welcome these stabilization activities aimed at promoting the objectives of this Pact. The enhanced use of NATO's consultative fora and mechanisms, the development of an EAPC cooperative mechanism and the increased use of Partnership for Peace programmes will serve the objectives of overall stability, cooperation and good-neighbourliness envisaged in the Pact.

The members of NATO and a substantial number of other participants underscore that the Alliance has an important role to play in achieving the objectives of the Pact, noting in particular NATO's recent decisions to reach out to countries of the region.

Role of the United States of America

28. Having worked closely with the European Union to launch this Pact, the United States of America will continue to play a leading role in the development and implementation of the Pact, in cooperation with other participants and facilitators. We believe that the active role of the United States underscores the vital importance attached by countries of the region to their inte-

gration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

We note the United States' readiness to support this objective, as these countries work to become as strong candidates as possible for eventual membership in Euro-Atlantic institutions. We welcome the ongoing contribution of the United States, including through economic and technical assistance programmes, and through its shared leadership in International financial Institutions, to the States of South Eastern Europe. The United States will coordinate and cooperate with the other donors to ensure the maximum effectiveness of assistance to the region.

Role of the Russian Federation

29. Russia has played and continues to play a key role in the region. Russian efforts and contribution to achieving a peaceful solution of conflicts there, in particular of the Kosovo crisis, are appreciated. Having been involved at an early stage in the launching of this Pact, the Russian Federation will continue to play a leading and constructive role in development and implementation of the Pact, in cooperation with the EU, the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, international economic and financial organisations and institutions, as well as regional initiatives and individual states. The Russian Federation can make a valuable contribution to activities aimed at promoting peace, security and post-conflict cooperation.

Role of the IFIs

30. The IMF, the World Bank, the EBRD and the EIB, as the European Union financing institution, have a most important role to play, in accordance with their specific mandates, in supporting the countries in the region in achieving economic stabilisation, reform, and development of the region. We rely on them to develop a coherent international assistance strategy for the region and to promote sound macro-economic and structural policies by the countries concerned. We call on these International Financial Institutions to take an active part in the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and the relevant Working Tables.

Role of the OECD

31. We note the OECD's unique strength as a forum for dialogue on medium-term structural policy and best practices. We rely on the OECD in consideration of its well-known competence in dealing with economies in transition and its open dialogue with the countries of South Eastern Europe, to take an active part in the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and to assist in the process of economic reconstruction, the strengthening of good governance

and administrative capacities and the further integration of affected States into the European and global economy.

Role of the WEU

32. We welcome the role which the WEU plays in promoting stability in the region. We note in this respect the contribution to security the WEU makes, at the request of the European Union, through its missions in countries in the region.

VI. Regional Initiatives and Organisations

33. We stress our interest in viable regional initiatives and organisations which foster friendly cooperation between neighbouring States. We welcome sub-regional cooperation schemes between participating countries. We will endeavour to ensure cooperation and coordination between these initiatives and the Stability Pact, which will be mutually reinforcing. We will build on their relevant achievements.

34. We note that the Royaumont process has already established a dynamic framework for cooperation in the area of democracy and civil society. Therefore, Royaumont has a key role to play in this area, particularly within the framework of the first Working Table of the Stability Pact.

35. We note the role of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in promoting mutual understanding, improving the overall political climate and fostering economic development in the Black Sea region. Welcoming its engagement to peace, security and stability through economic cooperation, we invite the BSEC to contribute to the implementation of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

36. We note that the Central European Initiative has established, with countries in the region, a stable and integrated framework of dialogue, coordination and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and parliamentary fields. On the basis of its experience, it has an important role to play in the framework of the South Eastern Europe Regional Table.

37. We note that the South East Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI) has developed an innovative approach to economic and infrastructure related cooperation in the region by facilitating joint decision-making by the South Eastern European countries in its areas of activity. As such, it has a key role to play concerning regional economic issues, in particular the removal of disincentives to private investment in the region, in the framework of the Stability Pact.

38. We commend the South Eastern Europe Cooperation Process as a further successful regional cooperation scheme. We encourage its further development and institutionalisation, including the finalisation of its charter on good-neighbourly relations and cooperation.

39. We note the contribution in the security dimension of the South Eastern European Defence Ministers (SEDM) group, which has brought the countries of the region and other nations into a variety of cooperative activities which enhance transparency and mutual confidence, such as the new Multinational Peace-Keeping Force for South East Europe.

40. We expect the proposed Conference on the Adriatic and Ionian Sea region to provide a positive contribution to the region.

VII. International Donor Mobilisation and Coordination Process

41. We reaffirm our strong commitment to support reconstruction, stabilisation and integration for the region, and call upon the international donor community to participate generously. We welcome the progress made by the World Bank and the European Union, through the European Commission, towards establishing a donor coordination process. This process will closely interact with the relevant Working Table, and will identify appropriate modalities to administer and channel international assistance. The World Bank and the European Commission will also be responsible for coordinating a comprehensive approach for regional development and the necessary donors conferences.

VIII. Implementation and Review Mechanisms

42. Effective implementation of this Pact will depend on the development and the strengthening of administrative and institutional capacity as well as civil society in the countries concerned - both at national and local level - in order to reinforce the consolidation of democratic structures and have longer-term benefits for effective administration and absorption of international assistance for the region.

43. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table and the Working Tables will be convened for their inaugural meetings at the earliest possible opportunity at the invitation of the Presidency of the European Union. They will work to achieve concrete results according to agreed timelines, in conformity with the objectives of the Stability Pact. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will meet periodically, at a level to be determined, to review progress made by the Working Tables. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will pro-

vide guidance to the Working Tables.

ANNEX

Organisation of the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and the Working Tables of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

- A. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will carry forward the Stability Pact by acting as a clearing house for all questions of principle relating to the substance and implementation of the Stability Pact as well as a steering body in the Stability Pact process. The South Eastern Europe Regional Table will provide guidance to the Working Tables.
- B. The Working Tables are instruments for maintaining and improving good-neighbourly relations in the region by constructively addressing and facilitating the resolution of the issues entrusted to them. The objectives of the Working Tables will be in particular:
 - the discussion of issues in a multilateral framework conducive to the definition of ways to address shortfalls and to the settlement of differences by arrangements and agreements, drawing on the expertise and support of participants as well as facilitator States, Organisations, Institutions and regional initiatives, in particular from the OSCE and the Council of Europe;
 - the identification of projects aimed at facilitating the achievement of arrangements, agreements and measures in conformity with the objectives of the Pact. Special attention is to be given to projects which involve two and more countries in the region.
 - where necessary, the injection of momentum in areas where further progress should be achieved.
- C. Each Working Table will address the following range of issues and will decide, as appropriate, whether the establishment of sub-tables, comprising the participants and facilitators, will be necessary;
 - Working Table on democratisation and human rights, which will address:
 - i. democratisation and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; free and independent media; civil society building; rule of law and law enforcement; institution building; efficient administration and good governance; development of common rules of conduct on border related questions; other related questions of interest to the participants;
 - ii. refugee issues, including protection and return of refugees and displaced persons;

- Working Table on economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe and the world; promotion of free trade areas; border-crossing transport; energy supply and savings; deregulation and transparency; infrastructure; promotion of private sector business; environmental issues; sustainable reintegration of refugees; other related questions of interest to the participants, while maintaining the integrity of the donor coordination process;
- Working Table on security issues, which will:
 - i. address justice and home affairs, as well as migratory issues; focus on measures to combat organised crime, corruption, terrorism and all criminal and illegal activities, transboundary environmental hazards; other related questions of interest to the participants;
 - ii. receive regular information from the competent bodies addressing transparency and confidence-building measures in the region. This Table will also encourage continued implementation of the Dayton/Paris Article IV Arms Control Agreement and progress of the negotiations of Article V, and should consider whether, at an appropriate time, further arms control, security and confidence building measures might be addressed, by the competent bodies, taking into account existing obligations and commitments under the CFE Treaty.
 - iii. receive regular information from the competent bodies addressing cooperation on defence/military issues aimed at enhancing stability in the region and among countries in the region, and facilitate the sustained engagement of all concerned to ensure regional security, conflict prevention and management. The work of this Table will complement and be coherent with efforts for the security of this region undertaken by various European and Euro-Atlantic initiatives and structures.
- D. The Working Tables will establish work plans in conformity with the objectives of the Stability Pact. Within the range of their competence, they can establish side tables or call meetings and conferences on matters of a specific or sub-regional nature. In this context, special attention is to be given to fostering the exchange between private citizens (in particular youth), societal groups, entrepreneurs and companies as well as non-governmental organisations and their respective counterparts in the various countries of the region. They will, in particular, pay attention to the coherence and consistency of their work with existing activities and seek to promote complementarity and synergy, as well as avoid duplication, with existing activities.
- E. The Chairmanship of the Working Tables will be established by the

South Eastern Europe Regional Table. The Working Tables will report to the South Eastern Europe Regional Table. The respective chairs of the South Eastern Europe Regional Table and the Working Tables will meet periodically and as necessary to discuss and coordinate the activities of the Working Tables and to monitor progress.

- F. The location and timing of the individual Working Tables should be arranged to facilitate, to the extent possible, the attendance of participants who may take part in more than one Working Table, without excluding different Tables developing their own calendars according to their respective dynamics. Tables could take place either in rotation in the countries of the region or at the invitation of individual countries or of the European Union or in Vienna, at the venue of the Permanent Council of the OSCE.
- G. The host country, or host organisation, should provide at its expense meeting facilities, such as conference rooms, secretarial assistance and interpretation. The European Union has expressed its readiness to bear such expenses when meetings are held at the seat of its institutions.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretary General

Annual Report 1998 on OSCE Activities

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1. Introduction

The Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council held on 18 and 19 December 1997 in Copenhagen took stock of the discussion on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty first century. The participating States decided, among other things, on guidelines for an OSCE Document-Charter on European Security. The Ministerial Council emphasized in its decision that a politically binding Document-Charter should "take a further step with regard to standards and practices of OSCE participating States" and "serve the needs of our peoples in the new century by addressing risks and challenges to security, thus contributing to a common security space within the OSCE area". One of the essential elements of the future Document-Charter will be a Platform for Co-operative Security. The Organization's activities in 1998 were significantly influenced by the decision, pending the elaboration of a Platform for Co-operative Security as part of a Document-Charter, to task the Chairman-in-Office, in co-operation with the Secretary General, to work actively to increase the OSCE's co-operation with other international institutions and organizations. The discussion on a Platform for Co-operative Security as a proposed element of the Document-Charter on European Security reflects the participating States' goal of further strengthening the interlocking and mutually reinforcing nature of co-operation between international institutions and organizations concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security in Europe.

Under the Chairmanship of Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, the OSCE has evolved further as a "primary instrument for conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation". During the reporting period (1 December 1997 to 30 November 1998) the international community was confronted with new challenges to European security and stability. In responding to these crises, the OSCE focused on the need to strengthen pragmatic co-operation among the various international organizations contributing to European security - not as a goal in itself, but rather as a means. The Organization continued its involvement in Albania, where its Presence was given the role of providing a co-ordinating framework for international organizations present in the country. This role was enhanced in connection with the situation in the neighbouring Federal Republic of Yugoslavia province of Kosovo and the renewed unrest in Albania.

The OSCE has repeatedly condemned the excessive and indiscriminate use of force during police and military actions in Kosovo (FRY). The Organization has expressed deep concern about the continued flow of refugees driven by violence across the borders to neighbouring countries. It has also called on all concerned to oppose violence as a means of achieving political ends and called for unconditional and meaningful dialogue, based on full observance of OSCE principles and commitments. On 11 March, the Permanent Council called on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to accept without preconditions

an immediate return of the OSCE missions of long duration to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina and allow the Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representative for FRY, Mr. Felipe González to carry out his mandate, i.e. to assist the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in promoting internal dialogue and democratic reforms as well as to pay special attention to the FRY's adherence to the International Community's demands regarding a solution of the problem in Kosovo.

In July, exploratory talks between the OSCE and the FRY were initiated on the basis of a joint statement by Presidents Yeltsin and Milosevic, issued on 16 June 1998. As a result of the first round, an OSCE Technical Assessment Mission was sent to the FRY, in mid-July. The Mission concluded that high-level international involvement in the negotiation process was essential given the total lack of trust between the two communities in Kosovo. It further expressed concern about the humanitarian situation.

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1160, the Chairman-in-Office has reported regularly to the UN Secretary General on the situation in Kosovo and on measures taken by the OSCE in that respect.

Owing to the continuing deterioration of the situation in Kosovo (FRY), and pursuant to the resolution of the United Nations Security Council calling upon the OSCE to establish a Mission in Kosovo (FRY) to verify the FRY's implementation of Resolutions 1160 and 1199 of the UN Security Council, the Permanent Council decided on 25 October to establish the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) for one year, with the possibility of extensions. The KVM is expected to deploy its permanent presence, consisting of two thousand persons, at as many locations throughout Kosovo as it deems necessary to fulfil its responsibilities. The OSCE will establish co-operation with other organizations to allow the KVM to accomplish all its objectives most effectively. The KVM will, to the extent possible, assist UNHCR, ICRC and other international organizations in facilitating the return of displaced persons to their homes, and the provision of humanitarian assistance to them by the FRY, Serbian and Kosovo authorities as well as humanitarian organizations and NGO's.

The OSCE strengthened border monitoring in Albania and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by enhancing the capabilities of the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje in order to allow for adequate observation of the borders with the FRY and to prevent possible spillover effects. Working closely with monitors from the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM), the border monitoring operation in Albania also helps facilitate the work of UNHCR, the ICRC and other international and humanitarian organizations in the area.

Attempting to deal with the widespread violence and the breakdown of public order in Albania, European organizations spoke with one voice as the first step in concerted international efforts. A joint visit of the OSCE and the Council of Europe to Tirana was followed by a declaration issued by the

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the President of the European Union Council, the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the Chairman-in-Office of the WEU Council on 23 September 1998 which called upon the government and the opposition to show moderation.

In the past year, the OSCE was called upon by its participating States to apply a flexible range of tools in innovative ways. In Croatia, the OSCE took on the unprecedented task of deploying civilian police monitors in the Croatian Danube region following the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Police Support Group (UNPSG). This task includes monitoring of the operational aspects of traditional police work, providing assistance and expertise to Croatian police and other law enforcement authorities in dealing with issues that include community-oriented policing and protection of human rights of displaced persons, refugees and persons belonging to national minorities.

Together with the Croatian government, the OSCE Mission is already playing an important role in reconciliation, the two-way return of refugees and the protection of human rights and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities - tasks it assumed following the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium on 15 January 1998.

The handover from the UN to the OSCE in both cases was seamless, and based on close co-operation. The Croatia example underscores the need for close co-operation among international organizations, and points to the OSCE's ability to respond to new challenges.

The OSCE has continued to play a leading role in the international community's civilian stabilization efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The past year saw the OSCE supervising elections to the National Assembly in Republika Srpska on 22 and 23 November 1997, Mr. Javier Ruperez of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly being appointed by the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office as his Special Representative for the assessment of those elections. While the election was well administered, it had been grafted onto a political environment which falls short of democratic standards. The OSCE also supervised the parliamentary and presidential elections, and the fourth OSCE-supervised elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which took place on 12 and 13 September 1998. During the weeks leading up to the elections, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was engaged in activities designed to promote a fair and democratic election process. The election supervision role in Bosnia and Herzegovina is quite unprecedented, not only in terms of the range of responsibilities of the Organization, but also in its sheer scale.

The OSCE also played an important role in post-conflict military stabilization in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A vital component of its efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina was arms control undertaken under Article IV (the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, aimed at the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska) of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the auspices of the OSCE, the limits established under the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, which came into effect in late 1997, resulted in a significant reduction in the level of arms holdings, with some 6,600 armaments destroyed. An effective inspection regime, routine exchange of information on military forces, and a constructive working relationship with the Subregional Consultative Commission were established. The Article IV process, which is considered a success by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, General Carlo Jean, and the Parties concerned, has been an important confidence-building measure and an essential part of the peace-building process in the region.

Successful implementation of Article IV has always been an implicit precondition for the negotiation of Article V of Annex 1-B, which aims at establishing "a regional balance in and around the former Yugoslavia". In the last few months, the OSCE has been holding consultations on a precise mandate for the negotiations on this Article.

The democracy-building and stabilizing role of the OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina are a key element in the overall strategy of the international community, in which a number of international organizations and institutions play roles in keeping with their comparative advantages.

Turning to other regions, the OSCE's Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus began operating in early 1998, under the direction of Ambassador Hans-Georg Wieck, to "assist the Belarusian authorities in promoting democratic institutions and in complying with other OSCE commitments; and monitor and report on this process". The OSCE has confirmed in this way its commitment to continued support in the transformation of the country into a fully developed democracy.

Reflecting the willingness of the Central Asian States to step up OSCE activities in their respective countries, the OSCE increased the international staff of its Liaison Office in Central Asia and decided to open up new centres in Ashgabad (Turkmenistan), Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), and Almaty (Kazakhstan). These decisions will allow the OSCE to enhance its role in the whole of Central Asia as well as the scope of its co-operation with those States.

But the past year also saw the fulfilment of one of the OSCE's mandates: in line with the "Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on the Legal Status of the Skrunda Radar Station during its Temporary Operation and Dismantling" of April 1994, which the OSCE has assisted in implementing, the Russian Federation on 31 August 1998 fulfilled its obligation to close down the station. The successful implementation of the agreement is an excellent example of how the OSCE can assist participating States in solving difficult bilateral issues.

In the OSCE's work with neighbouring regions, and in the light of the continued interest shown by the Mediterranean partners in becoming better acquainted with OSCE activities, the participating States, wishing to improve the quality of the Organization's interaction with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, have decided that OSCE missions will, on a case-by-case basis, receive representatives of the partners for co-operation for short-term visits, and that the ODIHR will make arrangements for the inclusion of observers sent by them in election monitoring or supervision operations conducted by the OSCE. Jordan was welcomed as a Mediterranean partner for co-operation in May 1998.

There have also been numerous institutional changes in the OSCE, aimed at making the Organization more effective. In fulfilment of a decision taken at the Lisbon Summit Meeting in December 1996, a new institution was created in the OSCE, namely the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Under the guidance of the Representative, Mr. Freimut Duve, the Office has in the past year become a fully functioning institution and has highlighted the OSCE's continuing commitment to freedom of the media. Central to the functioning of this new Office has been the ability of the Representative and his staff to visit countries and assess, at first hand, their governments' commitment to freedom of the media. These visits have been designed to gain exposure to what this new Office has identified as its "Four Constituencies": Governments, Parliaments, non-governmental media organizations (NGOs), and the media practitioners themselves.

As called for by the Lisbon Summit Meeting in December 1996, a Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities was appointed to the Secretariat in early 1998. The Co-ordinator is charged with "strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security". One of his major tasks during the reporting period was the preparation of the Sixth Economic Forum of the OSCE which took place in Prague from 1 to 5 June 1998, and dealt with two issues: the security aspects of energy development in the OSCE area and the economic dimension implementation review conference. The environmental problems that the Central Asian States face today were discussed at a Seminar on Regional Environmental Problems and Solutions in Tashkent, (22-24 September).

With reference to internal matters, the participating States adopted and put in place a new financing mechanism for larger OSCE missions and projects. Following a decision of the Copenhagen Ministerial Council, an open-ended group of experts working in close co-operation with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General submitted to the Permanent Council a proposal on ways of enhancing the Secretariat's operational capabilities which was approved on 1 October 1998. As a result, the Secretary General reorganized the Secretariat on the basis of two main departments: The Conflict Prevention Centre and the Department for Administration and Operations. Work on a

training strategy focusing on the field activities was started. An Information Systems Strategic Plan, a three-year strategic review that examines both critical information system needs and the opportunities provided by information systems technology to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the Organization, was presented. The critical information system needs were agreed upon by the participating States.

II. Activities of the OSCE

1. Political Consultations and Negotiations

The Permanent Council (PC), the main body for political consultations and decision-making of the OSCE, adopted 75 decisions during the reporting period. These decisions provided political guidance for OSCE activities.

Four reinforced PC meetings took place during the review period: on 27 March, 17 July, 23 October and 12 November. The participants reviewed the progress made in developing a Document-Charter on European Security and assessed the OSCE's 1998 activities. The October meeting, held with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office, Professor Geremek, focused on regional issues.

No Senior Council meetings took place in 1998.

The Security Model Committee continued to discuss the question of a Document-Charter on European Security, establishing two working groups (WGA and WGB) on specific subjects. A special informal meeting of the Security Model Committee with representatives of the Western European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Council of Europe took place on 3 July, and one with representatives of United Nations institutions took place on 29 October.

2. *Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation*

Early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation remained the OSCE's primary tasks. Through its missions and its field activities, the OSCE continued to serve as an effective instrument at all conflict cycle phases. During the reporting period the OSCE's field presence was augmented considerably.

The most important development in 1998 was the decision to establish an OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; this field operation is the largest and most complicated ever undertaken by the OSCE. In 1998 the OSCE increased the international staff of its Liaison Office in Central Asia and decided to open centres in Ashgabad (Turkmenistan), Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) and Almaty (Kazakhstan). The OSCE's Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus began operating early in 1998. The OSCE strengthened its border monitoring in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by enhancing the capabilities of the OSCE Presence in Albania and of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje in order to ensure adequate observation of the borders with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to prevent spillover effects from the crisis in Kosovo. The OSCE Mission in Croatia was increased, with the deployment of civilian police monitors in the Croatian Danube region. Further implementation of the arms control provisions of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina led to considerable progress as regards post-conflict military stabilization in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In accordance with their mandates, elaborated by the participating States, the OSCE field missions carried out multifaceted activities, taking advantage of the range of tools available to them. They monitored respect for human rights and assisted in the consolidation of democratic institutions. In addition, some missions carried out specific activities ranging from the integration of non-citizens to police monitoring and civilian stabilization efforts.

2.1 *OSCE Missions*

2.1.1 *Missions of Long Duration in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina*

During 1998, the missions continued to be unable to implement their mandate as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continued to link their reactivation to the country's participation in the OSCE. Following the eruption of the Kosovo crisis in February 1998, the Permanent Council, in its Decision No. 218 of 11 March, called upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to accept the immediate return of the missions. The United Nations Security Council and the Contact Group reiterated that demand on several occasions, but no progress was made until the agreement of

13 October between President Milosevic and United States Special Envoy Holbrooke regarding the establishment of an OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (for information about the Kosovo Verification Mission see chapter 2.2.4).

The ad hoc "watch group" continued to meet regularly, in Vienna, in order to assess analyses of the situation in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina provided by participating States, transmitting information to the Permanent Council on a weekly basis.

2.1.2 Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

The Mission has continued to implement its mandate, which remains unchanged. It began the year with an international staff of four, which was raised by June to eight persons with the addition of temporary border monitors in connection with the crisis emerging in Kosovo (FRY).

The additional focus on border monitoring and the increased risks of 'spillover' from Kosovo (FRY) have characterized the Mission's work. In addition, the Mission has maintained dialogue with the Government and with the minorities in seeking to defuse tensions. It has made particular efforts in the economic dimension - one of its members is focusing on this task - in an attempt to promote the economic growth which is crucial to general stability and security. The Mission has sought to bring business and investment opportunities to the attention of donors, to improve the range and quality of its economic reporting, and to work in tandem with aid and other international organizations and financial institutions to identify sectors for development - thus serving in a certain sense as a catalyst.

The Mission has co-operated closely with the UN, particularly in co-ordinating the efforts of other international and non-governmental organizations to assist the host State with the development of democratic institutions.

Working with the ODIHR and the Government, the Mission contributed to the creation of a new body of electoral law prior to the parliamentary elections in October 1998. The law in question achieved broad support among political parties. The Mission played a key role in support of the ODIHR by arranging for international observation of the elections, recruiting some 50 observers from the local international community and thus significantly reducing the cost of the operation and strengthening it with local expertise. Throughout the electoral period the Mission collaborated closely with the European Media Institute concerning media coverage and it provided the National Broadcasting Council with advisory support and information material. The Mission, in co-operation with the ODIHR, was also active in monitoring the electoral campaigns and the voting in the rounds of elections.

The Mission has continued to support the work of the HCNM. In May 1998 it again organized a national marathon team relay linking the cities of Skopje

and Tetovo, drawing teams from all parts of the community, with over 400 participants from all ethnic groups.

2.1.3 Mission to Georgia

During the period under review the Mission has continued to work on all aspects of its mandate. Although progress has been slower than expected, the visit of the Chairman-in-Office has given fresh impetus to OSCE assistance in the regulation of the conflicts in the country.

As regards the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the security situation in the conflict zone has further improved and co-operation between the two sides in upholding law and order has become routine. Relations between the Mission and the Joint Peacekeeping Force have remained cordial. The efforts of the Mission to bring about more regular meetings between the leaders of the two sides have borne fruit. The meeting of President Shevardnadze with the South Ossetian leader Chibirov in Java in November 1997 was followed by another meeting in Borjomi on 20 June 1998, with the Head of Mission present and intervening in both meetings. These meetings laid the general groundwork for more specific efforts by the negotiators, efforts which, however, have not yet materialized. The Georgian side has shown some hesitation to engage the Ossetian side by putting on the table concrete proposals on how to move towards a political settlement. Russia, mainly as a consequence of the change of government, has allowed a lapse in the work of the Joint Control Commission, which last met in September 1997. For the same reasons, an earlier promise of a Russian-Georgian agreement on economic assistance to South Ossetia remains to be fulfilled. The Mission has constantly urged progress on these matters and will continue to do so.

While the spontaneous return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has picked up speed, the process of organized return still leaves much to be desired. The Mission has regularly provided the political back-up needed for the relevant efforts of the UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council. Moreover, the Mission is co-ordinating international efforts to advise the Georgian authorities on how to solve the question of a return of lost property to refugees and IDPs, a matter of particular importance in the context of a return of Georgian citizens of Ossetian nationality to the interior parts of Georgia.

As a consequence of earlier efforts by the Mission, international economic and humanitarian assistance to South Ossetia - as approved by the Georgian authorities - is now well established. A certain number of organizations, including NGOs, have established their presence in Tskhinvali alongside the Mission, which provides political advice and assistance whenever called upon to do so.

The work of the Mission on the Abkhaz question has significantly increased owing to the reactivation of the leading role of the UN in the relevant nego-

tiations (Geneva process). The Head of Mission, representing the CiO, fully participates in the three-layered mechanism created in November 1997 in Geneva and has confirmed the general commitment of the OSCE to assist in the human dimension of any agreement. However, no substantive progress on the traditional issues in this conflict (constitutional settlement, return of the refugees) has been made as yet. The flare-up of hostilities in the Gali district in May confirmed the Mission's views regarding the urgent necessity of reaching at least a temporary agreement on how to preserve, preferably with international assistance, law and order in the Gali District (Georgian-inhabited, but partly controlled by the Abkhaz). The Head of Mission has consistently appealed to the parties to accept a compromise on the following lines: the creation of safe and stable conditions for a definitive return of the refugees to the Gali district, to be accompanied by credible Georgian guarantees to put an end to partisan activities and by the initiation of measures for the economic rehabilitation of Abkhazia.

In the field of human rights and democratization, the Mission has substantially increased its commitment in terms of manpower: both in Tbilisi and in Sukhumi there are now two Mission members working in the respective human rights offices. Co-ordination with the ODIHR and with other international organizations has been significantly improved, a development to which the visit of Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann as head of a strong multilateral delegation in March 1998 substantially contributed. The Mission was also involved in organizing two visits by the High Commissioner on National Minorities, one to Tbilisi and one to Sukhumi. The Mission has paid particular attention to trials with a political connotation, to the functioning of the new Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman), to human rights education in schools and to the issue of the Meskhetians, deported in 1944. In Sukhumi the Mission has assured the continuing functioning of the Human Rights Office during more than four months of absence of a UN-appointed Head of Office.

2.1.4 Mission to Estonia

Throughout 1998, the Mission has continued to monitor government policy and legislation relevant to the promotion of dialogue and understanding between the communities in Estonia. An amendment to the citizenship law to enable children born in Estonia from stateless parents to acquire Estonian citizenship has been introduced by the Estonian Government and is expected to be adopted by the Parliament.

The Mission has continued to monitor the issuing of aliens' passports, noting that the number of residence permits issued has kept increasing and that a number of residents without documents have obtained either a foreign passport or an alien's passport.

The Mission has been following and supporting the Estonian Government Integration Strategy, under way since the autumn of 1997, which is aimed at establishing a future policy on aliens with the following goals: changing of attitudes related to non-Estonians; significant reduction of the number of persons with undetermined citizenship; development of the Estonian educational system as the central integration factor; improvement in the knowledge of the Estonian language among non-Estonians; adaptation of non-Estonians to the Estonian cultural sphere and their active participation in Estonian society; reduction of regional isolation of non-Estonians (especially in Ida-Virumaa); and political integration of Estonian citizens who are not ethnic Estonians. With a view to promoting wide acceptance of the Integration Strategy among the population as a necessary basis for legislative support, the Mission organized and hosted, in April 1998, a lecture/presentation by the Estonian Minister for Ethnic Affairs, an event which found a very positive echo among Estonian official representatives and the public at large.

The Mission participated in the planning of an international seminar on the issue of establishing an ombudsman institution in Estonia entitled "Ombudsman - Protector of Human Rights" held in Tallinn in September 1998.

The Mission has continued its efforts to contribute to the integration process in Estonia through practical influence, awareness programmes and a number of concrete projects, many of which have been supported by NGOs and national institutions (such as the Estonian Foundation for the Integration of Non-Estonians, established in March 1998) as well as by international organizations and foreign donors (language training programmes for adults; language training for nurses in Ida-Virumaa; language training for teachers in Narva; education of Russian-speaking students in public administration; joint computer and language training for residents of children's homes; youth NGO activities in Narva; the drug users' rehabilitation centre in Narva; and integration of widows and divorcees of ex-Soviet military officers into Estonian society).

The Mission has encouraged the creation of NGOs, supported their work and assisted them in obtaining and exchanging information with a view to creating awareness of the potential for NGOs in civic society.

2.1.5 Mission to Moldova

The signing of the Moscow Memorandum "On the Bases for Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Trans-Dniestria" in May 1997 gave rise to hopes that, in the months to follow, Chisinau and Tiraspol would find the necessary political will to agree on a special status for Trans-Dniestria and resolve the Trans-Dniestrian problem definitively. Although progress in dividing and delegating competences was made during the summer of 1997, and at a special negotiating session held near Moscow in October, no accord was reached. In November, the two sides committed themselves to establishing some twenty working groups in the social-economic sphere. Desultory expert talks continued into the winter, but early in February, after the tabling of a "Draft Declaration of Statehood of the 'Trans-Dniestrian Moldovan Republic'", they came to a halt. On the eve of 22 March 1998 parliamentary elections (which were monitored by the ODIHR, assisted by the Mission to Moldova), Presidents Kuchma and Lucinschi, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Mr. Smirnov met in Odessa and signed a document spelling out ten confidence-building measures, including the opening of the Dubasari Bridge and the introduction of Ukrainian military monitors into the Security Zone. In addition, they signed a protocol calling for the resumption of talks on an overall political settlement.

In accordance with its mandate, the Mission to Moldova "assisted the parties" at all stages of their negotiations. The "political framework for dialogue and negotiations" called for in the mandate has long existed. The parties should now seek to arrive at an accord.

As regards the military situation in Moldova, the Russian operational group now consists of approximately 2,800 officers and men. Some engineering equipment has been withdrawn from Trans-Dniestria, but the withdrawal of the arms and ammunition stored there cannot be said to have begun in earnest. The Mission's mandate calls on it to "encourage the participating States concerned in pursuing negotiations on an agreement on the status and the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of foreign troops." Such an agreement was concluded in October 1994, but it is not yet considered to be in force. Consequently, the instruction to the Mission from the December 1994 Budapest Review Conference to "follow closely" the implementation of the agreement cannot be complied with at present.

On the basis of principles of co-operation with the Joint Control Commission (JCC) agreed upon in 1996 and endorsed periodically since then, the Mission has attempted to facilitate the peace-keeping operations that the JCC supervises. The Mission's contributions have included behind-the-scenes mediation when the work of the JCC became deadlocked, the development of new rules of procedure for JCC meetings, and consultations with the Joint Military Command and with peace-keeping units in the field.

The Mission has extended its mediatory services in areas of particular sensitivity to both sides, such as education and transport. The fact that a compromise was reached this year on the question of School No. 20 in Tiraspol is primarily to the credit of the officials involved, who showed pragmatism and flexibility, but was in part due to early and effective mediation by the Mission's Human Dimension Officer.

The Mission continued to contribute to post-conflict rehabilitation in Gagauzia, dealt with innumerable human rights complaints and provided assistance in improving prison conditions.

The Mission has increasingly sought to communicate directly with the public by seeking access to the media on both sides of the Dniestr River. A major OSCE contribution to public discussion of the Trans-Dniestrian problem was a Seminar on the Relationship between Central and Regional Governments (Chisinau, 1-2 July 1998) organized by the Department for General Affairs of the OSCE Secretariat with the support of the Mission. The Seminar, opened by President Lucinschi and Secretary General Aragona, was attended by experts from OSCE participating States and representatives of international institutions and organizations. Unfortunately, Trans-Dniestrian representatives did not attend the Seminar, which nevertheless received considerable press coverage.

The Mission has established contacts with all parties to the Trans-Dniestrian conflict, in particular by meeting with legislators and actively supporting the principle that parliamentarians should play a role in the definitive resolution of the Trans-Dniestrian problem.

2.1.6 Mission to Latvia

During 1998, the Mission's main focus continued to be on the process of integrating the substantial non-citizen population into the mainstream of Latvian society. This entailed strengthening co-operation with the relevant governmental and other institutions, including key ministries and parliamentary commissions, with governmental agencies like the Naturalization Board and the Department for Citizenship and Migration Affairs (DCMA), with various NGOs and with various international organizations. The Mission was actively involved in the preparation of a public opinion survey designed to make clearer the reasons for the low number of applications for naturalization and encourage initiatives to promote the integration process. It kept in close touch with the DCMA on matters relating to the issuing of non-citizen passports, a process which - it is hoped - will be completed in 1999.

In its first such initiative, the Mission, with financial support from the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, organized a seminar which took place in the port city of Liepaja in May 1998. The seminar brought together representatives of various local communities to discuss their interrelations and ways of improving mutual understanding. The Mission continued to monitor the con-

duct of naturalization tests and to discuss with the Naturalization Board ways of further simplifying the procedures involved.

The Mission intensified its contacts with the institutions concerned with legislation relating to language, employment and education, which have a direct bearing on the promotion of peaceful integration in Latvia. It welcomed the outcome of the 3 October referendum, which is in favour of implementation of the amendments to the Citizenship Law adopted by the Saeima on 22 June 1998. This outcome should contribute significantly to the progress of naturalization.

The Head of Mission in his capacity as OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners continued to work with the Latvian and Russian authorities in the joint commission which handles problems connected with the retired Russian military personnel who stayed on in Latvia after the bulk of Russian forces was withdrawn in 1994.

2.1.7 Mission to Tajikistan

In its capacity as a guarantor of the Tajik Peace Agreement reached in June 1997, the Mission has during the past year concentrated on facilitating the implementation of the Agreement, and particularly of the protocols dealing with political issues, the return of refugees, and military issues. The Mission has been playing an active role in the weekly meetings of the Contact Group that monitors the implementation of the General Agreement. Supporting the Commission for National Reconciliation (CNR), the Mission is continuing to be involved in the issues of constitutional amendment, legislation on political parties, elections and mass media.

Together with the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), the Mission is the focal point for election questions on which the two Missions alternately host meetings attended by representatives of all the international organizations concerned with the issue of elections in Tajikistan.

Since February 1998, the Mission has been an adviser to the CNR on the Protocol of Military Issues and also a member of the Technical Support Group on the demobilization and reintegration of Opposition armed personnel and the reform of Tajik power structures.

In April 1998, after almost two years of planning, an OSCE presence was established in the Garm region. The fruitful work being done there had to be suspended when the security situation deteriorated following the murder of four UNMOT members on 20 July. As a result of that incident, the activities of the three field offices in the Khatlon region were suspended for some six weeks until the beginning of September.

The Mission has been authorized by the Permanent Council to open a field office in Leninabad province, in the north of Tajikistan, and is pursuing the matter with the Tajik authorities.

The Mission has stepped up its work on gender issues, with the establishment in the Khatlon region of a number of support groups to help women still suffering from civil war trauma and with the start of efforts to address the issue of the severe curtailing of women's rights in the Karategin valley area. There is now closer co-operation with the governmental "Women in Development" bureau in matters of policy and legislation relating to women, and support is being provided to local women's NGOs concerned with issues such as violence against women, women and elections, and women in politics and public life. The Mission funded a conference on "Women and Peace", and participated, together with a large Tajik delegation, in a regional OSCE conference on "Women in Public Life".

Pursuant to the Mission's strategy for democratization, the field offices are promoting, in the areas where they are located, the establishment of the rule of law and the building of confidence in the judiciary, law enforcement bodies and other local institutions. Within the framework of its media programme, the Mission supported the re-establishment of two local newspapers and is currently pressing for the establishment of a local radio station in south Tajikistan, its hope being that the successes achieved will be repeated in other parts of the country. The Mission has been organizing lectures on human rights at Dushanbe University, human rights training for teachers and weekly meetings on human rights issues.

Interventions by the Mission have resulted in the release of illegally detained persons, and persistent reporting by the Mission on tensions between local authorities and military units in the Khatlon region has led to the taking of conflict prevention measures and to an improvement in relations there. After the last wave of refugees returned home, at the end of 1997, the Mission monitored their reintegration through its field offices, and it is continuing to provide legal assistance to the entire population.

To encourage the development of political processes, the Mission has during the past year organized and funded conferences and seminars on topics such as national unity. With an eye to the future parliamentary elections and in this context to local capacity-building, the Mission facilitated the sending of observers from Tajikistan to the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

2.1.8 Mission to Ukraine

A general lowering of tensions has continued over the past year in Crimea, the Mission's main area of activity. This has allowed the Mission to concentrate its efforts on the still unresolved economic and social problems of Crimea. Much of the Mission's work relates to issues associated with Crimea's multiethnic population and with the return to Crimea of over 250,000 deported people and their descendants, the overwhelming majority of whom are Crimean Tatars. The Mission is working especially closely with the HCNM and several international organizations, in particular UNDP, the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Like other OSCE Missions, the Mission to Ukraine has a human dimension component in its mandate. This empowers the Mission to continue monitoring and reporting on the situation as regards human rights and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Crimea.

Ukraine has not been able to carry alone the burden of resettling the deported people and their descendants who have returned to Crimea. For that reason, the international community is offering co-ordinated assistance. A second international donor conference, chaired by HCNM Max van der Stoep and held in Kiev in June 1998 as part of a long-term assistance process, raised several million dollars for use in helping with the reintegration of former deportees.

Ukraine's citizenship regulations have been modified so as to facilitate the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by the approximately 95,000 Crimean Tatars now residing in Crimea who are either stateless or still citizens of other former Soviet republics, mainly Uzbekistan. The Governments of Ukraine and Uzbekistan concluded an agreement simplifying the procedures for the relinquishment by more than 65,000 Crimean Tatars of their Uzbek citizenship and abolishing the \$100 fee charged by Uzbekistan. The Mission and the UNHCR are seeking to publicize the modified citizenship regulations among the scattered deportee communities on the peninsula.

The legal framework for an Autonomous Republic of Crimea within the Ukrainian State is not yet complete: the new Constitution adopted by the Crimean Parliament on 21 October 1998 will have to be approved by the Ukrainian Parliament. The Mission, with expert advice from various OSCE sources, has made suggestions regarding this issue to the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities.

The Mission is co-operating with the ODIHR in several matters:

- a pilot project for reforming Ukraine's election complaints and appeals procedures and training judiciary and election officials to resolve election disputes in accordance with international standards. The first stage of this project has been successfully launched;

- the intensification of contacts with the recently established Office of the Ukrainian Ombudsman, the aim being to provide material support and promote information exchange. In order to assist the Ombudsman Office, the Mission arranged for a donors meeting on 29 September 1998 that raised USD 57.000;
- the promotion of further co-operation between the Ukrainian and Spanish Constitutional Courts, including exchanges of visits and information-sharing aimed at improving the management capabilities of the Ukrainian Constitutional Court.

In the economic and environmental fields, the Mission is organizing seminars, conferences and workshops and taking other initiatives as part of an effort to expand Ukraine's participation in OSCE-related activities.

The Mission also follows developments in the area of Freedom of the Media.

2.1.9 Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The OSCE's activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina from December 1997 to November 1998 consisted mainly in implementing the September 1997 municipal election results and conducting and supervising the country's second post-war general elections, held in September 1998. Concomitantly, the Mission focused on establishing a neutral and democratic political environment through the activities of its Human Rights, Democratization and Media Development Departments and on the further implementation of the arms control provisions of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina through its Regional Stabilization Branch.

Elections

After the successful conduct of municipal elections in 136 municipalities, the OSCE was given responsibility for ensuring the installation of effective municipal administrations. This represented a major challenge, as the Provisional Election Commission's rules required that some positions should be held by persons representing minorities and many eligible minority representatives had been displaced during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The exercise, which was co-ordinated by the OSCE-chaired National Election Results Implementation Council (NERIC) and supported by the Office of the High Representative (OHR), was successful: the political parties reached power-sharing agreements in 126 of the 136 municipalities (in the other ten municipalities, power-sharing arrangements were arrived at through OSCE/OHR arbitration). Arbitration awards were implemented in all but one municipality, Srebrenica, so that final certification was granted in 135 of the 136 municipalities. In Srebrenica, an Interim Executive Board under OSCE chairmanship was set up, but its functioning has been hampered by continued

recalcitrance, particularly on the part of the Serbs. Even recently some other municipalities have had their final certification withdrawn as a result of non-compliance with the rules and regulations of the Provisional Election Commission. Efforts are under way, with OHR support, to resolve the outstanding issues.

In September 1998, the Mission faced the challenge of a third round of elections within 12 months - the second post-war presidential, parliamentary and cantonal elections (in addition, elections were conducted in 11 new municipalities). The Mission, which was responsible for the partial registration of voters and for full supervision of the elections at 2,180 polling stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and at 137 in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, introduced scannable ballot counting technology in order to accelerate the counting of approximately 2.4 million ballot papers. The Swiss Support Unit distributed about 2,500 tons of election material, including kits for the international supervisors and observers, and - with SFOR protection - collected ballot papers from polling stations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Despite technical problems which delayed the opening of about 5 per cent of the polling stations, the elections passed off peacefully, with about 70 per cent overall turnout. The results saw Republika Srpska (RS) President Biljana Plavic defeated by Radical Party candidate Nikola Poplasen in the RS presidency race. As in the 1997 RS National Assembly elections, the hard-line nationalist parties lost ground to more moderate forces.

The transfer of responsibilities and technical expertise from international to national election staff intensified in 1998, as evidenced by the appointment of local election officers to all OSCE field offices and of a Bosnian national as Head of Political Party Services. The process will continue in 1999, so as to ensure that a skilled national cadre is in place for future elections. In this connection, the Mission is continuing to work with the OHR and Bosnian experts on the drafting of a Permanent Elections Law.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Department, reporting on a weekly basis, continued to monitor the human rights situation and to investigate and intervene in cases of human rights violations throughout the country. OSCE human rights reports were distributed by the OHR's Human Rights Co-ordination Centre, where they are used by the participating international organizations in formulating and implementing human rights policy. The focus continued to be mainly on property questions and the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Mission contributed greatly to the passage, in April 1998, of property legislation in the Federation which allows hundreds of thousands of persons to reclaim the apartments in which they were living before the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Monitoring of implementation of the legislation, however, has revealed significant obstruction by municipal authorities, re-

quiring intervention by the human rights officers in the field. In September 1998, information supplied by OSCE human rights officers led the High Representative to grant a six-month extension of the deadline for filing claims. Ensuring implementation of the Federation property legislation, and of the property legislation expected to be enacted in the Republika Srpska, will be a priority task of the Mission throughout 1999.

The Human Rights Department continued to assign very high priority to strengthening the national human rights institutions: the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ombudsperson, the Human Rights Chamber and the Federation Ombudsmen. The OSCE assisted these institutions in their investigations, channelled cases to each of them, and ensured compliance with their provisional orders or recommendations. It worked with the OHR and the Venice Commission on a draft law to establish a multiethnic ombudsman institution in the Republika Srpska, a priority for 1999, and on draft legislation governing the already established Federation Ombudsmen.

The Department contributed to judicial reform in 1998. The monitoring of trials continued, and there were further interventions to ensure compliance with the "Rules of the Road". In addition, the Department worked on inter-entity judicial co-operation, on reforming the judicial appointment process and on strengthening the role of the Federation Prosecutor and police through legislative and structural reforms.

The introduction of common license plates resulted in a dramatic increase in the freedom of movement across the inter-entity boundary line, but violence in locations where refugees and displaced persons are attempting to return increased - a challenge for the Human Rights Department in 1999. In addition, discrimination in employment and education and obstacles hampering access to documentation, social benefits and utility services are problems that the Human Rights Department will need to deal with in 1999.

Democratization

Confidence-building activities included roundtables of Bosnian intellectuals on wide-ranging themes such as "Democratic Development and the Dayton Peace Agreement and Political Pluralism", as well as meetings of key religious leaders. At the community level, a number of Democracy Centres and Reading Rooms were opened across the country to provide information on democracy and human rights in some of the most closed communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Democratization Department also organized large numbers of community meetings between potential returnees and officials from their home municipalities.

Through its Civil Society Development Programme, the Democratization Department intensified the development of non-governmental organizations in neglected areas such as the eastern part of Republika Srpska. It co-ordinated the training of 3,000 domestic election observers from 159 local NGOs, a tenfold increase over the number available at the time of the 1997

municipal elections. Political party development was a central focus of the OSCE's efforts in the run-up to the September 1998 elections. The OSCE provided additional assistance in the form of campaign-related publicity materials to 20 parties. Political Party Service Centres throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina provided all political parties free access to office equipment, meeting space and information. These Centres hosted almost 300 press conferences and meetings during the campaign. The "Women in Politics" Programme organized two Bosnia and Herzegovina-wide conferences promoting women politicians and issued publications designed to highlight gender issues during the campaign.

Governance Programmes included training on democratic local governance for new councillors in 107 municipalities, thereby bringing many councillors together for the first time since the war. The Municipal Leadership Programme trained 56 Mayors and Senior Municipal Administrators in the principles and functioning of good governance through seminars and visits with counterparts in Germany and Spain. The Department also carried out a Municipal Management and Return project to assist 35 municipal officials and local leaders in coping with their obligations relating to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Department's Rule of Law Programmes included the creation of and support for what is to be a self-sustaining Legal Aid Network, which has already received over 2,750 cases since its launching in December 1997. The Department organized 24 training sessions for legal professionals on the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Its Youth and Education Programme arranged several seminars aimed at improving democratic structures in schools and liberalizing the school curricula. The Department also initiated a two-year Democratic School Management Programme for school directors from 30 municipalities.

Media Development

As part of the OSCE Mission's role of supervising elections and strengthening democratic structures in Bosnian society, the Media Development Department closely monitored the media in the run-up to the September 1998 general elections. Through the OSCE-related Media Experts Commission (MEC), attempts were made to ensure fair reporting and free and equitable access to the media for all parties that participated in the elections. Daily close monitoring of the media during the political campaigns proved to be a genuine deterrent to the kind of inflammatory language used in the past by media associated with extreme nationalist parties. The monitoring also allowed the MEC to verify compliance with the Provisional Election Commission Rules and Regulations. MEC interventions, which were aimed at guaranteeing even-handed broadcasting in the run-up to the elections, contributed significantly to the most neutral pre-election media environment yet seen in post war Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Media Development Department also

organized presidential debates that took place on the eve of the September 1998 elections. The debates were broadcast live by the national radio and television networks, through a first-time link-up between stations covering all of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Media Development Department also initiated various projects to foster independent media throughout the country. A cross-entity project distributed newspapers and magazines throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, inter-entity journalists' conferences provided training in journalistic standards and encouraged inter-ethnic contacts, and independent media were given small grants to help develop their capacities.

Regional Stabilization

Considerable progress has been made in 1998 in implementing the confidence-building measures and arms control agreements negotiated in accordance with Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Articles II and IV).

In February, the Parties to the "Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina" met in Vienna for the First Conference to Review the Implementation of the Agreement, during which several important decisions were adopted. For example, the Parties agreed on an updated version of the Protocol on Existing Types of Conventional Armaments and Equipment. They also agreed to overcome the difficulties hampering the deployment of Military Liaison Missions (MLM) between the Chiefs of the Armed Forces. This resolution resulted in a permanent exchange of Military Liaison Missions in June.

In 1998, the Parties achieved a breakthrough regarding the subject of Weapons Manufacturing Facilities, by agreeing on a number of visits to such facilities to be conducted during the remainder of 1998 and throughout 1999, and by adopting a Protocol defining the rules and regulations applicable to such visits. In September, the Parties carried out "specified area inspections" in accordance with Section 8 of Article II. These were the first such inspections to be conducted under the Agreement. Finally, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office continued to act as Chairman of the Joint Consultative Commission throughout 1998, and meetings were held every second month. The Personal Representative also continued to nominate international inspectors to participate in each inspection carried out by the Parties under the terms of the Agreement.

Increased transparency and co-operation between all five Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control has been noted throughout 1998. In June, the Parties met in Vienna for the First Conference to Review the Implementation of the Agreement. The Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control are to meet for a Second Review Conference in June 2000.

After being appointed by the Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting as Special Representative of the Chairman in Office to conduct the negotiations on regional stabilization in South Eastern Europe under Article V of the Dayton/Paris agreement, Ambassador Henry Jacolin began his work in February 1998; his team was complete by May.

Consultations were held in the capitals of most of the States involved in this process in April and May. A draft mandate for the Article V negotiations was prepared, circulated and discussed with the 20 States taking part: Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There is clear consensus on the idea that all States will participate on an equal footing, around the same table, in these negotiations.

The participating States are near consensus on a draft mandate for the negotiations, which could start in early 1999, provided the draft mandate is finally approved before the end of 1998.

2.1.10 Mission to Croatia

The Mission to Croatia, established in April 1996 with 14 international staff members, has become - with the expiration of the UNTAES mandate on 15 January 1998 - the main international presence in the country, with 280 international staff members at the Mission's headquarters (in Zagreb), at three co-ordination centres (in Vukovar, Sisak and Knin) and at 16 field offices and seven field sub-offices. The enhanced Mission's mandate is to assist with and monitor the Croatian Government's implementation of domestic legislation, the fulfilment of international commitments pertaining to the rule of law and human rights, the protection of national minorities, and the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Mission's political aim is to consolidate internal peace, assist with political normalization and promote democratization.

The transition from United Nations to OSCE police monitoring in the Danube region - that is, the former UNTAES area in eastern Croatia - took place on 15 and 16 October 1998. In anticipation of an orderly phased hand-over, the deployment of 120 police monitors commenced in late September.

During the past year, the Mission has concentrated on closely monitoring the situation throughout Croatia and on advising and assisting the Croatian Government in matters concerning the return of refugees and displaced persons, the development of democratic institutions, the rule of law, the establishment of trust between nationalities, and compliance with the highest international standards on human rights.

In order to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons, the Mission has encouraged the Croatian Government to establish fair and transparent

return procedures, both for refugees living abroad, especially in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for displaced persons in Croatia. The process established in April 1997 for the organized return of people to and from the Danube region has functioned poorly, owing to refugee occupancy of housing, war damage, insecurity, bureaucratic obstruction and administrative delays; cross-border returns have been minimal. There were no clear provisions for expeditious property repossession, but in June 1998 the Croatian Government, after consulting with representatives of the Mission and other international bodies, promulgated a comprehensive Return Programme that includes such provisions. The Mission has, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Community Monitoring Mission, established Return Facilitation Groups for the co-ordination of international monitoring of and support for the Return Programme.

Following its 1996 and 1997 recommendations concerning electoral legislation, the Mission, together with the Council of Europe and the ODIHR, drew up an internationally supported position paper outlining recommendations for making necessary changes in Croatia's electoral legislation in order to enable future elections in Croatia to be both free and fair. The recommendations cover seven areas: representational rights of Croats living abroad; disenfranchisement of individuals with the right to Croatian citizenship; role of the media in the context of elections; minority representation; election commissions; domestic non-partisan election observers; and campaign resources and financing. The paper was presented to the Croatian Government on 14 August 1998.

The Mission, which has sought to foster freedom of the media, supports the transformation of the State radio-television network into a public service broadcaster. To this end, the Mission organized a visit in March 1998 by a delegation of experts from the Council of Europe. Government officials subsequently stated that the experts' recommendations were drawn upon in the preparation of a bill to amend the present law on broadcasting. If enacted in its present form, however, this bill will not remove concerns about the political domination of broadcasting in Croatia by the governing party. Accordingly, early in October the Mission organized a second visit by Council of Europe experts to discuss the bill with members of the Croatian parliament.

The Mission has been co-ordinating the response of the international representatives in Croatia to the Government's efforts to organize a Conference on Reconstruction and Development. The international representatives have made their support for such a conference dependent upon the Government's promulgating a comprehensive and non-discriminatory reconstruction programme and facilitating the swift implementation of the Return Programme.

On 29 January 1998, the Mission submitted to the Government of Croatia a non-paper outlining 27 points on which the Mission would be focusing its attention; the 27 points relate to the return process, property restitution and

compensation, freedom of the media, electoral reform, amnesty, administration of justice, minority rights, de-mining and reconciliation. Subsequently, the Mission prepared a comprehensive assessment of the progress made by the Government. In the assessment report, which was presented to the Government and made available to OSCE delegations on 20 May 1998, the Mission concluded that since the end of the UNTAES mandate the Government's performance in a number of areas had not met expectations. In a second assessment report, issued on 8 September 1998, the Mission welcomed the momentum created by the adoption of the Return Programme, but pointed to a lack of progress in many key areas, including freedom of the media and electoral reform.

The Mission will continue to issue periodic reports on the Government's progress in meeting international commitments. A third assessment report is to be issued in January 1999.

2.2 Other OSCE Field Activities

2.2.1 Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference

Implementation of the mandate of the Personal Representative depends to a great extent on progress in the negotiations relating to that conflict. In 1998 there has been no significant progress in those negotiations; the plan for ending the conflict presented to the parties by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group was rejected by the Nagorno-Karabakh leaders and, after the Armenian presidential elections of March 1998, also by Armenia (before those elections, the Armenian authorities had accepted it as a basis for further negotiations). The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was foremost on the agenda during the CiO visits to Armenia and Azerbaijan in November: all parties involved in the conflict agreed that the Minsk process is the suitable framework for the continuation of the peace process. The Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh expressed their firm commitments to support efforts to achieve a resumption of peace negotiations. Upon the suggestion of the Chairman-in-Office, all parties involved agreed to an exchange of prisoners of war. The Personal Representative has thus concentrated on:

High-level contacts. The Personal Representative maintained such contacts throughout 1998, an important aspect being assistance with confidence-building measures between the parties to the conflict.

Monitoring. Monitoring has been taking place since May 1998 without incident, contributing to stability along the line of contact (LOC). It provides the Office of the Personal Representative, the CiO and the Minsk Group members with valuable information about the situation on the ground and permits direct contact at the local-commander level through the use of OSCE radio

equipment. The High-Level Planning Group has been assisting with monitoring activities to assess the situation on the LOC for its own purposes.

Humanitarian issues. Owing to incursions along the LOC and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and to various other incidents, a number of people have been taken prisoner of war (POW) and there is a growing need for a POW exchange. According to the information received by the Personal Representative and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), several people are being held by each party to the conflict. The Office of the Personal Representative, in close co-operation with the ICRC, will pursue this important humanitarian aspect of the conflict.

2.2.2 OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya (Russian Federation)

The Assistance Group (AG) maintains permanent contacts with the most influential individuals, groups and structures representing Chechnya's political, religious and cultural life. It monitors the political and economic situation, collects and analyses information, and assesses developments both in Chechnya and in the rest of the North Caucasus region - for which purpose it maintains regular contacts with the leadership of the neighbouring republics. The AG has during the past year focused mainly on the following points in its mandate: human rights, national minorities, and the facilitation of humanitarian assistance rendered by NGOs operating outside Chechnya and by OSCE participating States.

As the only international body operating in Chechnya, the AG is essential for informing the international community about the humanitarian situation there and about local needs. Governments and international organizations are using the AG as a means of channelling money earmarked for humanitarian purposes to various Chechen NGOs and other structures, assigning to the AG responsibility for the financial control and monitoring of programmes and for reporting on them. Through the AG, support is being provided for, *inter alia*, the Grozny Forensic Laboratory, an orphanage with 54 children and a number of local NGOs.

The AG is closely monitoring the situation regarding crime, especially kidnapping. Several citizens of OSCE participating States have been kidnapped in Chechnya and the neighbouring republics (the Russian President's representative in Chechnya, Mr. Vlasov, was kidnapped in May and released in November), and many of them are still in captivity. Chechen law enforcement bodies are making some effort to combat crime, but because of insufficient technical equipment and the non-payment of police officials' salaries, their effectiveness is very low. One of the main reasons for the increase in crime is the large number of unemployed people with weapons. In the rare cases where local law enforcement bodies are able to free hostages, the AG helps the freed persons to leave Chechnya.

The Chechen authorities declared a one-month emergency and curfew in their fight against crime, but to little effect. The hostage situation is still alarming and the security situation volatile.

2.2.3 OSCE Presence in Albania

Since its establishment in March 1997, the OSCE Presence in Albania has moved on from intensive election-related work to longer-term activities aimed at consolidating democracy and the rule of law. The difficult political climate and the highly polarized relations between the Government coalition parties on the one hand and the Opposition on the other have led to constant demands for the Presence's services in helping to reduce tension and maintain at least minimum conditions for dialogue and compromise. As a result, the OSCE's profile in Albania has remained very high, with recognition from all sides for the Presence's proactive, positive stance.

Besides political brokerage, the operations of the Presence include assistance with and the monitoring of elections, assistance in the Constitution drafting process, assistance with the creation of a civil registry, donor co-ordination, NGO development, parliamentary observation, and (through its Legal Counsellor's Office) advancement of the rule of law and respect for human rights. A recent initiative was the formation of a "Friends of Albania" group comprising 23 countries and eight international organizations, co-chaired by OSCE and EU. At the local level the Chairmanship is ensured by the Head of Presence. It is hoped that through its collective efforts the group will act as a stimulus and lend direction and focus to ideas and projects.

On 30 October an International Conference on Albania was held in Tirana in a concerted effort of co-operation among various countries and international bodies to assist Albania and to support policies and concrete measures that promote stability and social and economic progress. The conference which had a major impact on both political parties and the public at large, was addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Professor Bronislaw Geremek, also in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the "Friends of Albania" Group.

A core team of international staff is located at the headquarters office, in Tirana, and at the three field offices in Shkodra, Gjirokastra and Vlora. These four offices have established close contacts with political forces, facilitating dialogue, mediating and assisting with confidence-building at the national and the local level. Eight temporary border field offices have been opened pursuant to a Permanent Council decision of 11 March 1998 and are playing a major role in the monitoring of, *inter alia*, the fighting in parts of Kosovo adjacent to the Albanian border and refugee flows and weapons trafficking in connection with the Kosovo crisis.

The Presence is mandated to provide advice and assistance, particularly in relation to democratization, the rule of law, freedom of the media, human rights and the basic elements of civil society. Furthermore, the Permanent

Council decided the Presence should, together with the Albanian Government, provide a flexible co-ordinating framework within which other international organizations can play a part in their respective areas of competence. *Consolidation of democracy.* The Presence, with assistance from its Legal Counsellor's Office, has played a significant role in conflict prevention during the reporting period. Early in 1998 it mediated the resolution of a series of hunger strikes by judges and former political prisoners. Also, the Presence engaged in mediation efforts connected with a new Law on the Organization of Justice, claims brought by creditors of one of Albania's failed pyramid schemes and amendments to Albania's "lustration" laws (laws prohibiting the assumption of public office by individuals who held certain positions under the communist regime).

The political conflicts in which the Presence has mediated have included one that threatened the June 1998 partial local elections and one that arose out of the replacement of opposition party chairpersons on local district councils.

In January and June 1998, the Presence planned and co-ordinated an unprecedented European parliamentary mission following requests for assistance from the co-chairpersons of the Albanian parliamentary commission responsible for drafting a new Constitution. Senior members of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe and of the European Parliament (the Tri-Parliamentary Mission) explored ways of overcoming the impasse in the Constitution drafting process and made declarations that have in many respects shaped Albania's political agenda. The first visit, which was welcomed both by the ruling coalition and by the opposition, induced the latter to end its boycott of Albania's Parliament (but not of the Constitution drafting process) on 12 March 1998, so ending a six-month absence.

Unfortunately, the Democratic Party began a second - indefinite - boycott of Parliament in July. Polarization of the political climate has intensified, resulting in a period of serious turmoil in mid-September after the murder of a prominent Democratic Party functionary. During a serious armed confrontation on 14 September, the Presence's mediation skills were tested to the full in negotiations between the Government and Opposition parties, with activists who had taken over the State television station and with activists who had commandeered two tanks.

In monitoring democratic governance in Albania, the Presence has drawn attention to the discrepancy between policies and implementation, and in particular to the discord in relations between the centre and local authorities due largely to the failure of the Government to put into practice its declared intention to promote local self-government. In addition, the Presence has been monitoring, *inter alia*, developments connected with the land claims of former property owners, the drafting of secured lending laws, and the legal reform efforts of the University of Tirana's Law Faculty.

Following a call by the Tri-Parliamentary Mission for proper parliamentary procedures, including respect for the rights of the Opposition, the Presence has, in close co-operation with the Council of Europe and the embassies of Germany, Austria and the United States of America, been officially observing the procedures in Albania's Parliament.

To date the Presence has issued 13 parliamentary observation reports, containing recommendations the implementation of which has contributed to a marked improvement in parliamentary practices. Several OSCE participating States have provided assistance in response to the Presence's observations concerning technical and organizational shortcomings.

In the wake of the 1997 elections, which brought a Socialist-led coalition to power, the ODIHR, in consultation with the Albanian Government, identified the need for an accurate and verifiable register of voters. The main purpose of the ensuing Voter Registration Project was to establish a computerized database that would generate sound voter lists for elections and referenda. Five pilot municipalities were chosen for the Project, a final report on which was presented to the Albanian Deputy Prime Minister in September. It is hoped that the Government will use the same approach in a nation-wide effort in the future.

Municipal by-elections were held on 21 June 1998 in seven municipalities and nine communes. They were the first elections since the 1997 parliamentary elections. In order that they might take place, it was necessary for the Presence to become involved in lengthy mediation relating to the composition of the Central Electoral Commission and, at the eleventh hour, to the question of the use of electronic media by the ruling Socialist-led coalition - a question over which the Union for Democracy threatened to boycott the elections. In order to ensure that the by-elections went smoothly and that it would be in a position to respond to claims of irregularities, the Government requested that the by-elections be observed. Accordingly, the process was monitored by 23 international teams, comprising OSCE teams (which included representatives of various embassies and international organizations) and teams from the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. The by-elections were considered to represent a major improvement over the 1997 parliamentary elections and a significant step towards democracy in Albania. A joint statement by the OSCE and the Council of Europe providing confirmation to that effect was widely acclaimed and undisputed.

Co-ordination. The Presence plays a co-ordinating role. It has been trying to strengthen the Albanian Government's capacity to assume an ever-increasing role in the co-ordination of international assistance efforts. In areas where there is no obvious lead agency (e.g. judicial and electoral reform and Constitution drafting), the Presence is itself providing a focal point.

The Presence has helped to design a database that gives an overview of all potential and ongoing assistance efforts. Together with the Ministry of Eco-

conomic Co-operation and several other ministries, it has organized and hosted co-ordination meetings on police, military, judicial, agricultural and other matters. Also, it has organized meetings between heads of diplomatic missions on one hand and the Ministry of Economic Co-operation on the other so that the latter might present its view of the current state of affairs as regards Albania's development.

Rule of law. In May 1998, the Presence established a Legal Counsellor's Office (LCO), which - now staffed by one international attorney, two Albanian attorneys and an administrative assistant - provides rapid analyses of legal conflicts as they arise, co-ordinates assistance efforts in the area of legal development, directs the Presence's Human Rights Alert Programme and provides direct legal assistance in various areas.

During the reporting period, the LCO analysed issues relating to, *inter alia*, the Constitutional Court, district councils, and the local and parliamentary election laws. It played a central role in co-ordinating the efforts of the ODIHR, other international bodies, the Albanian Government and various NGOs in the development of an ombudsman institution for Albania and facilitated ODIHR assistance for Albania in the area of legal education. It established separate groups for the co-ordination of assistance relating to criminal justice reform, the ombudsman institution, legal/social aid clinics, human rights NGOs, commercial law reform and local government. Lastly it provided direct assistance in the area of minority rights and analysed the drafts of various laws, including the Law on the State Information Service, the Law on State Secrets and the Law on the Verification of Figures.

The Presence and the LCO hope that the Human Rights Alert Programme, under which the Presence and domestic NGOs will work together in investigating and reporting on alleged human rights abuses, will be fully operational by the end of the year.

The Presence is host to the Administrative Centre for the Co-ordination of Assistance and Public Participation (ACCAPP), which supports nearly all aspects of the Constitution drafting process - an endeavour that has been a focal point of legal and political discussion. To assist in this process, ACCAPP organized a programme of public participation unprecedented in Albania, involving a wide variety of public fora where constitutional issues were discussed and public input gathered. The public input was presented to the Constitutional Commission of the Albanian Parliament for consideration during the drafting process.

The OSCE Presence in Albania furthermore assisted in the preparations of the referendum on the Constitution held on 22 November 1998. The Democratic Party asked its followers not to participate in the vote.

The Presence also co-ordinated the OSCE monitoring of the preparations and voting of the referendum with the ODIHR Observation Mission, the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Election Commission and local non-governmental organizations.

ACCAPP has contributed to educational television programmes and produced a range of educational material which has been distributed to over 100,000 citizens. Also, it has served as an information clearing-house, providing the Constitutional Commission with technical legal material and co-ordinating the assistance offered by distinguished bodies such as the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the American Bar Association (through its Central and Eastern European Law Initiative) and Germany's Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Society for Technical Co-operation).

Human rights and civil society. To the extent allowed by its human resources, the Presence has, through its field offices, investigated - on an ad hoc basis - cases of human rights violations, notably complaints of discriminatory treatment, arbitrary arrest, police brutality and other abuses. It is expected that, under the Human Rights Alert Programme, the Presence will become more systematically active in investigating such complaints throughout Albania. Also, the Presence intends to step up the training of Albanian NGOs in the investigation of complaints.

The Presence has, in endeavouring to strengthen civil society in Albania, organized various activities for and with Albanian NGOs. In March 1998, it organized a meeting in Tirana for the purpose of bringing Albanian NGOs together with international NGOs and donors. In addition, using funds provided by the German Government and in co-operation with the Foundation for Civil Society in Tirana, the OSCE has organized three training seminars for NGOs at field offices in Albania, and, with Norwegian funds, has held a regional conference on minority issues in Permet, southern Albania.

The Presence, which has been monitoring and actively participating in the development of Albanian media, has sponsored several seminars and other meetings on legislative matters such as the draft Law on Electronic Media. Also, it has had discussions with the parties opposed to this law in an effort to find the best way of ensuring that public television is editorially independent of the Government. In addition, it has been co-operating closely with international and Albanian organizations (for example, the Council of Europe and the Albanian Media Institute) in supporting the development of a democratic media environment in Albania, the focus being on human rights and the professional performance of journalists.

The Presence is helping the Albanian Government to formulate a strategy for recovery of the approximately 700,000 small arms looted from military depots during the early 1997 unrest, and it has taken steps to mobilize NGOs in this connection. In September it provided support for a United Nations mission concerned with the illegal ownership of weapons, and it will support a related pilot project that is to be launched in the Gramsh district. It intends to organize a conference for the purpose of reviewing the illegal weapons ownership situation in Albania.

Border monitoring. In March 1998, the Permanent Council widened the mandate of the Presence to include the monitoring of the Albanian border with Kosovo (FRY). As a consequence, eight temporary field offices have been set up in north-west Albania. At present, 26 observers from 15 OSCE participating States are involved in the border monitoring effort, which is proving to be of great value, the observers being very much the eyes and ears of the world during the current Kosovo crisis. Working often under difficult and sometimes under dangerous conditions, the field offices have many times been called upon to provide much needed assistance to international teams and organizations, including NGOs.

In view of the difficult refugee situation, working relations with the UNHCR and the local authorities have been particularly close.

2.2.4 OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) (FRY)

On 15 October 1998, in Decision No. 259, the Permanent Council declared "the preparedness of the OSCE to embark upon verification activities related to compliance of all parties in Kosovo with the requirements set forth by the international community with regard to the solution of the crisis in Kosovo" and expressed support for the Chairman-in-Office's efforts "to arrange with the FRY authorities for the OSCE to make such contribution" to the peaceful solution of that crisis. On 16 October, Chairman-in-Office Bronislaw Gerekme and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Jovadin Jovanovic signed, in Belgrade, an agreement between the OSCE and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the creation of an OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM).

On 24 October, in resolution 1203, the United Nations Security Council, endorsing the creation of the KVM, demanded that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia abide by its agreements and commitments concerning the KVM and reminded it of its "primary responsibility for the safety and security of all diplomatic personnel accredited to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". It said that all parties should comply "fully and swiftly" with Security Council resolutions 1160 and 1199 and "co-operate fully" with the KVM. Also, it insisted that the Kosovo Albanian leadership "condemn all terrorist actions", demanded that such actions cease immediately and emphasized that "all elements in the Kosovo Albanian community should pursue their goals by peaceful means only".

On 25 October, the Permanent Council formally established the KVM for one year, - with possible extensions. Ambassador William G. Walker of the United States was appointed Head of the KVM by the Chairman-in-Office on 17 October.

The aforementioned agreement between the OSCE and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia provides for 2,000 unarmed verifiers from OSCE participating States "to verify compliance by all parties in Kosovo with UN Security Council Resolution 1199, and report instances of progress and/or non-compliance to the OSCE Permanent Council, the United Nations Security Council and other organizations". To this end, the KVM is to establish a permanent presence throughout Kosovo.

In addition, the OSCE is responsible under that agreement for supervising elections in Kosovo, so as "to ensure their openness and fairness in accordance with regulations and procedures to be agreed", and for assisting in the establishment of democratic institutions and the development of a Kosovo police force. Appropriate augmentation of KVM personnel has been foreseen.

The KVM's headquarters have been established in Pristina, and there is a liaison office in Belgrade. Five regional centres are to be established - in Pec, Prizren, Kosovska Mitrovica, Pristina and Gnjilane. A co-ordination centre will be established in the principal town of each "*Austin*" (administrative dis-

trict), and "sub-stations" will be established where operationally required - particularly during the election phase.

The KVM will co-ordinate its activities closely with the activities of other international organizations and assist other organizations in carrying out their functions - for instance, in the humanitarian field. Of particular importance will be relations with NATO, which has agreed with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to carry out an air surveillance mission. NATO has also drawn up plans for supporting the KVM if the urgent extraction of verifiers should become necessary.

Deployment of the verifiers, who have been seconded by the OSCE participating States, will take place in phases, with operational duties preceded by three days of training in Kosovo. The Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Missions already in Kosovo will provide information and assistance to the KVM, and will ultimately be absorbed by the Mission.

Under the agreement between the OSCE and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the role of the verifiers will be as follows:

1. To travel throughout Kosovo to verify the maintenance of the cease-fire by all elements and to investigate reports of cease-fire violations.
2. To receive weekly information from relevant FRY/Serbian military/police headquarters in Kosovo regarding movements of forces during the preceding week into, out of or within Kosovo. Upon request of the Verification Mission Director, Mission personnel may be invited to accompany police within Kosovo.
3. To look for and report on roadblocks and other emplacements which influence lines of communication erected for purposes other than traffic or crime control. The Mission Director may request the removal of any roadblocks.
4. To maintain liaison with FRY authorities about border control activities and movements by units with border control responsibilities through areas of Kosovo away from the border. KVM will visit border control units and accompany them as they perform their normal border control roles.
5. To accompany police units in Kosovo as they perform their normal policing roles.
6. To assist to the extent possible UNHCR, ICRC and other international organizations in: facilitating the return of displaced persons to their homes; and the provision of facilitative and humanitarian assistance to them by FRY, Serbian and Kosovo authorities and humanitarian organizations and NGOs. The KVM will verify the level of co-operation and support provided by the FRY and its entities to the humanitarian organizations and accredited NGOs. The Mission will make such representations as it deems necessary to resolve problems it observes.

7. As the political settlement defining Kosovo's self-government is achieved and implementation begins, the Mission Director will assist, both with his own resources and with augmented OSCE implementation support, in areas such as election supervision, assistance in the establishment of Kosovo institutions and police force development in Kosovo.
8. To receive periodic updates from the relevant authorities concerning eventual allegations of abusive action by military or police personnel and the status of disciplinary or legal actions against individuals implicated in such abuses.
9. The Verification Mission will maintain liaison with FRY, Serbian and, where appropriate, Kosovo authorities, and with ICRC regarding ICRC access to detained persons.
10. The Mission Director will, as required, convene representatives of national communities and authorities to exchange information and provide guidance on implementation of the agreement establishing the Verification Mission.
11. The Mission Director will report instances of progress and/or non-compliance or lack of full co-operation from any side to the OSCE and other organizations.

2.2.5 OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus

The Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (AMG), which was established by the Permanent Council in September 1997, could not take up its activities until early 1998, after the conclusion of an agreement with the Government of Belarus on the practical modalities for its work. Ambassador Hans-Georg Wieck was appointed Head of the AMG, whose task is to "assist the Belarusian authorities in promoting democratic institutions and in complying with other OSCE commitments; and monitor and report on this process".

The Chairman-in-Office, Professor Bronislaw Geremek, visiting the AMG on 27 February 1998, described Belarus as "an integral part of democratic Europe" and committed the OSCE to continuing support for the transformation of the country into a fully developed democracy.

During 1998, the AMG worked to make Belarus institutions more aware of the fundamentals of democratically organized State structures, with particular reference to the rule of law, the separation of powers (especially the independence of the judiciary) and respect for human rights. The Presidential Office, various governmental departments, Belarus' legislative bodies and several State committees were involved in the AMG's activities, which also drew in experts from many OSCE participating States, among them the Russian Federation, the United States of America and European institutions.

The AMG created occasions for open dialogue in the context of seminars and conferences on issues important for the development of democracy and the

rule of law in Belarus; for example, it initiated conferences on "Structures of Pluralistic Democracies" and "Free and Fair Elections" (held in April 1998) and one on "Democracy, Social Security and Market Economy" (held in September 1998).

The Government has established five high-level consultative groups on: legislation; the implementation of laws; democratization; human rights education; and political questions. The AMG has been assisting the Presidential Office with the preparation of a new electoral law and Parliament with the preparation of new legislation relating to the penal code and to penal procedures.

The AMG has advised on possible alternatives to the State- and Government-controlled television and radio monopoly, GOSTELRADIO - in this connection it has received, incidentally, a visit from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve - and on the draft of a law that would establish an ombudsman institution in Belarus (in the latter connection, it arranged for ombudsmen from other countries - including Bosnia and Herzegovina - to visit Belarus and share their experience).

Another focus of the AMG's activities has been the provision of advice to the Government and the Opposition in the light of the risks associated with Belarus's present economic, financial and monetary policies and the suggestion of alternatives to the policy of granting highly subsidized credits to industry and setting production targets irrespective of market conditions.

The AMG intends to maintain close contacts with civil society representatives and to engage NGO representatives, members of the last democratically elected Supreme Soviet and political party representatives in parallel consultative processes focusing on democratization and on the role of opposition politicians, of citizens at large and of NGOs in ensuring the rule of law and respect for human rights. It also intends to involve research, educational and other academic institutions in this process and to encourage the full participation of citizens in decision-making at the local level.

With the assistance of other OSCE institutions (especially the ODIHR) and of various other international organizations, the AMG is devising programmes for the training of election monitoring instructors.

In the light of recurring complaints about administrative harassment and human rights violations in Belarus, the AMG recently proposed the establishment of a tripartite working group - composed of governmental representatives, representatives of NGOs and representatives of the AMG - to consider individual complaints. The Belarus Government seems to like the proposal, which represents a new approach in the AMG's endeavours to assist in the field of human rights.

Although there have been no spectacular achievements so far, the AMG has established itself as a nationally and internationally recognized institution. It has offered advice to the two sides in the constitutional and political conflict

and to all other entities that have expressed an interest in the process of democratization in Belarus.

2.2.6 OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabad and Bishkek

During the reporting period the Permanent Council decided to open the OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabad and Bishkek. According to their mandate, the Centres will promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments; facilitate contacts between the Chairman-in-Office, other OSCE institutions and OSCE participating States in Central Asia as well as co-operation with international organizations and institutions; establish and maintain contacts with local authorities, research institutions and NGOs; and assist in arranging OSCE regional events. To this effect the Centres will liaise and co-operate closely with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia (CALO) in order to maintain the coherence of the regional approach of the OSCE.

The CALO assisted in the organization of a number of high-level visits to the region, including the April 1998 visit of Chairman-in-Office Professor Bronislaw Geremek to all five of the Central Asian OSCE participating States, the September 1998 visit of Secretary General Aragona to Uzbekistan and the July 1998 visit of High Commissioner on National Minorities van der Stoep to Uzbekistan.

The CALO assisted the Department for General Affairs of the OSCE Secretariat with the preparations for a regional seminar on "The Role of Stable and Transparent Economic Legislation for Economic and Social Transition" held in Almaty in October 1997, a seminar considered to have made a useful contribution - especially in the field of economic legislation - to the process of economic reform in Kazakhstan. Also, the CALO provided organizational and administrative support for a regional seminar on "Regional Security, Stability and Co-operation in Central Asia" held in Ashgabad in February 1998 as part of the Conflict Prevention Centre's programme; this seminar was notable for the active participation of the Central Asian delegations in the discussions, a very positive contrast to previous events of this type.

The CALO made most of the organizational and administrative preparations for a regional seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them" held in Tashkent in September 1998, a seminar attended by many experts from Central Asian and other OSCE participating States and from a number of international institutions.

During 1998, the CALO devoted considerable effort to the implementation of ODIHR projects in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, organizing Civil Society Project meetings involving representatives of local NGO and governmental representatives.

In March, the CALO organized a meeting to which all international organizations active in the field of election assistance in Uzbekistan were invited, the objective being to create a co-ordination framework that will prevent duplication of effort and increase the effectiveness of international election assistance.

In May, the CALO provided organizational and administrative support for an ODIHR training course on OSCE commitments in the field of migration and human contacts for Uzbek border and customs officials and organized the second stage of an ODIHR training course in human rights law for legal specialists and representatives of human rights NGOs from all five Central Asian Participating States.

The most ambitious and demanding event organized by the CALO for the ODIHR has been a three-day regional consultation on "Women in Public Life" held in Tashkent in June with support from the Government of Uzbekistan. The CALO's partner in organizing this event was the Regional Project in Support of Gender in Development of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (UNDP/RBEC). The regional consultation brought together ten participants from each of the five Central Asian participating States (governmental, parliamentary, NGO and other representatives) Other participating States and the UNDP/RBEC provided experts. The participants discussed the practical implementation of international and national commitments with regard to women's rights and the challenges to gender equality in Central Asia.

In March, members of the CALO's international staff attended meetings of the ODIHR Special Representative with governmental officials in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, which the Special Representative was visiting in order to discuss the possible conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding between the ODIHR and the Governments of those two countries.

In June, CALO staff members were involved in exploratory discussions between representatives of the ODIHR and various governmental agencies in Almaty and Astana regarding a package of ODIHR projects and the possible conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ODIHR and the Government of Kazakhstan. In July, a CALO staff member accompanied an ODIHR expert on a needs-assessment visit to law enforcement agencies in Tashkent.

The CALO has initiated regular fortnightly meetings where representatives of interested OSCE participating State embassies and international organizations in Tashkent discuss and share information on various human rights issues relevant to Uzbekistan.

The CALO maintains very close contacts with international organizations active in Uzbekistan and has established good relations with international organizations operating in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, the objective being to avoid duplication of effort and to explore possibilities for joint activities like the aforementioned regional consultation on "Women in

Public Life" and human rights training for border and customs officials in May.

Thanks to an increase in its international staff, the CALO was able in 1998 to monitor developments in the region more closely and visit many more areas remote from the capitals of the Central Asian participating States.

CALO staff met regularly with representatives of Central Asian NGOs, in particular those dealing with human rights, thereby obtaining valuable information about, and insights into, the implementation of OSCE commitments by the Central Asian participating States.

2.3 OSCE Assistance in the Implementation of Bilateral Agreements

2.3.1 The OSCE Representative to the Estonian Government Commission on Military Pensioners

The Estonian Government Commission on Military Pensioners has continued reviewing applications for residence permits submitted by Russians who formerly belonged to the Soviet armed forces. Some 19,000 applications have been reviewed, and about 1,000 remain to be reviewed before the end of 1998. All residence permits issued to the applicants in question are temporary (for 1-5 years), but they can be extended. The consideration of extension applications is due to start in 1999.

This year there were problems associated with numbers of the applications reviewed:

- many of the applications in question had been submitted after the submission deadline, but the Commission decided to review them nevertheless to prevent them from becoming illegal and to avoid additional attendant problems;
- many files of former KGB officers turned out to be incomplete and had to be returned to the applicants (together with a notice about the possibility of reapplying);
- some 400 applications had been submitted by persons who were also holders of US vouchers entitling them to housing in the Russian Federation. At the same time, however, these persons had received or applied for residence permits when in fact they were supposed to leave Estonia and occupy their new homes in the Russian Federation.
- Very few out of those have been turned down but most got only short-term residence permits (1-3 years).
- The results of a Government appeal to illegal aliens to register have so far not been very encouraging. The OSCE Representative has been promoting an approach whereby illegal aliens (including former military personnel) would receive assurances of non-prosecution if they registered.

2.3.2 The OSCE Representative to the Joint Committee on the Skrunda Radar Station

The "Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on the Legal Status of the Skrunda Radar Station during its Temporary Operation and Dismantling" continued to be implemented without any major problems in 1998. As agreed, the period of temporary operation ended on 31 August 1998. Eight inspections have been carried out by teams from 11 OSCE participating States, the last on 3 September 1998; the inspectors confirmed that the Skrunda Radar Station has been switched off.

Dismantling started on 1 September 1998, and there will be four more inspections during the dismantling period, which is due to end with the expiry of the Agreement on 29 February 2000.

The Joint Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis. On 31 July 1998, Mr. Joergen V. Andersen from Denmark resigned as OSCE Representative to the Joint Committee. He has been replaced by the former Alternate OSCE Representative, Colonel Jürgen Hübschen from Germany.

3. Report of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

3.1 Introduction

During the reporting period, the activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities increased both in scope and in intensity.

The reporting period culminated in the organization, together with the ODIHR, of an international conference on "Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity" held in Locarno from 18 to 20 October 1998. The aim of the conference was to focus attention on the objective of good governance through the effective participation of minorities in public decision-making processes.

The following gives an overview of the main activities of the HCNM during the reporting period.

3.2 Croatia

In close co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Croatia, the HCNM continued to be involved in a wide range of issues relating to the Serbian minority. Also, the HCNM followed issues relating to the other minority groups in Croatia.

Together with the OSCE Mission, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe, the HCNM is analysing Croatia's electoral law, especially the provisions regarding the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in elections.

The HCNM paid special attention to the situation in the Pridunavlje area (the former UN Sector East) and to the Joint Council of Municipalities (JCM), created on the basis of the Erdut Agreement. At the end of 1997, the HCNM recommended that a special capacity-building project be initiated in order to assist the JCM in performing its functions and interacting with the central and local authorities. Such a project was initiated, and it is being implemented by the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations.

The HCNM is closely following the implementation of the Knin Legal Clinic Project, initiated early in 1997 by the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations at the recommendation of the HCNM for the purpose of providing legal aid to the returnees in the former UN Sectors South and North.

3.3 Estonia

During the period from late 1997 to late 1998, the HCNM paid three visits to Tallinn. During these visits, his discussions continued to focus on the naturalization question. He inquired, in particular, about what was being done in parliament as regards the proposed changes in the citizenship law which relate to the conferral of citizenship on stateless children born in Estonia since the country regained independence.

The HCNM noted that in 1998 progress in connection with the naturalization question had continued to be rather slow; some 13-14% of the population is still without citizenship. The purpose of the HCNM's earlier recommendation that citizenship be conferred on children born in Estonia of stateless parents was to help reduce the number of stateless persons in the country and to promote the process of integration. The proposed changes in the citizenship law are (at the time of writing) still only at the second-reading stage, which is due to be resumed later in the autumn.

Other matters to which the HCNM has paid close attention include proposals to create an ombudsman-type institution and plans to improve the teaching of Estonian in the country's minority-language schools.

Encouraging developments in Estonia during 1998 were the adoption of an Integration Strategy by the Government in March (and its endorsement by parliament in June), the approval of a National Language Strategy document in April and the introduction of a National Language Teacher Programme (providing for a further 50 Estonian language teachers as of September 1998).

The HCNM has highlighted the positive aspects of the Integration Strategy. For example, it refers to the importance of Estonians and non-Estonians working together in the consolidation of the country's society; it points out that integration is a two-way process, with responsibilities on both sides; it explicitly rules out assimilation as a goal; and it places emphasis on youth. The HCNM agrees with those observers who consider the main task ahead for Estonia to be that of ensuring that the ideas underlying the Integration

Strategy are translated into reality. Practical implementation issues should now be given priority.

3.4 Georgia

The HCNM paid two visits to Georgia in 1998, in June and August. The main topic of his discussions during both visits was the situation in Abkhazia. The HCNM's interlocutors gave their assessments regarding, in particular, prospects for achieving a settlement of the Abkhaz question. The HCNM was told about the present status of the bilateral negotiations taking place in Moscow. During his August visit the HCNM also travelled to Sukhumi, in order to meet representatives of the Abkhaz leadership and explain the OSCE's views regarding the Abkhaz question.

Another topic of the HCNM's discussions, especially during his June visit, was the problems of the Meskhetians (Meskhetian Turks), a people deported from Georgia by Stalin in 1944.

3.5 Consultations on the Meskhetian Issue

The HCNM initiated and hosted a consultation meeting on the Meskhetian issue which was organized in co-operation with the UNHCR and the Forced Migrations Project of the Open Society Institute. The meeting, held in The Hague on 8 and 9 September, was the first of its kind devoted to the problems of the Meskhetian Turks. The participants included representatives of the Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation and representatives of the Meskhetian Turks living in those countries, including representatives of the Meskhetian organization "Vatan".

The main purposes of the meeting were: to exchange first-hand information on the situation of the Meskhetian Turks; to promote dialogue and understanding among the parties involved in the Meskhetian issue; to discuss the problems currently facing the Meskhetian Turks and the relevant authorities, with a view to identifying ways of overcoming them; to draw the attention of the international community to the Meskhetian issue and to explore possibilities for developing a joint and comprehensive approach to it; and to establish a framework for follow-up activities.

The meeting concluded with an agreed joint statement highlighting the need for an international, co-ordinated effort to ensure humane management of the Meskhetian issue. The participants welcomed what had already been done to develop the necessary legal framework in concerned countries, including Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

3.6 Kazakhstan

The main focus of the work of the HCNM in Kazakhstan during 1998 has been on the further development and strengthening of mechanisms for dialogue and interaction between the majority and minority ethnic groups on one hand and between the different minority groups on the other.

The HCNM has continued to assist the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan in developing tools for early warning and the prevention of potential conflicts. In that context, the HCNM is helping the Assembly to establish a Research and Analysis Centre with a monitoring network based on sub-regional structures and local correspondents.

On 4-5 December 1997 the HCNM, assisted by the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations and the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan, organized a Seminar on the Administration of Inter-Ethnic Relations in Local and Regional Governments. The Deputy Governors of all regions of Kazakhstan attended the Seminar.

3.7 Kosovo

In his special capacity as Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Kosovo, the HCNM prepared in October 1997 a confidential report to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office containing an analysis of the situation in and around Kosovo and conclusions about possible steps to be taken by the international community in order to prevent an escalation of tension. The report was the result of consultations held in October 1997 at Dürnstein, Austria, with several political experts from Albania and Pristina.

In January 1998, the HCNM prepared another confidential report for the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on developments in Kosovo and their possible impact on stability in the region, including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania.

On 17-20 February, the HCNM visited Belgrade and Pristina as a 'private person'. In Belgrade he had talks with senior representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with representatives of Serbian political parties and with Serbian experts; in Pristina he had talks with leading Kosovo Albanian politicians and with political representatives of the Kosovo Serbs. The reports to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and to the OSCE participating States on his visits emphasized the risk of a likely further escalation of the Kosovo conflict.

The HCNM continued his activities relating to the Kosovo issue until March 1998.

3.8 Kyrgyzstan

As in Kazakhstan, strengthening of the capacity of national and local structures to deal with inter-ethnic relations and the further development of

mechanisms for early warning and early prevention were the main areas of activity of the HCNM.

The HCNM continued supporting the Assembly of the People of Kyrgyzstan and its structures, in particular the Information and Research Centre, which organizes seminars and publishes bulletins on issues relating to inter-ethnic relations and harmony.

In the summer of 1998, the HCNM chaired a seminar on the management of inter-ethnic relations at the local level. The seminar was opened by President Akaev of Kyrgyzstan and attended by the Governors of all of Kyrgyzstan's regions.

The HCNM continued to support the Special Monitoring Network, which provides the Kyrgyz Government with regular detailed information and analyses on inter-ethnic relations in the different regions of Kyrgyzstan (the Network was established in 1996 at the initiative of and with direct support from the HCNM).

The HCNM, together with the responsible governmental structures, continued to pay close attention to further strengthening inter-ethnic understanding in the south of the Kyrgyzstan.

3.9 Latvia

The HCNM continued during 1998 to pay close attention to the situation in Latvia in the light of his recommendations that steps be taken: (i) to abolish the "windows" system of naturalization; (ii) to confer citizenship on children born stateless in Latvia since 1991; (iii) to further ease the requirements of the history/constitution tests forming part of the naturalization procedures; and (iv) to ensure that the new language law - when adopted - is in conformity with international norms.

At the time of writing, the HCNM had paid three visits to Riga in 1998. As regards the citizenship issue, the main purpose of the visits was to explore ways in which the naturalization procedures could be simplified and to encourage more people to apply for Latvian citizenship, in the interests of promoting integration in Latvia.

In the HCNM's view (a view shared by many observers in and outside Latvia), there is clear evidence that the "windows" system is impeding the naturalization process, which has shown hardly any signs of advancing in recent years. Late in 1998, the proportion of non-citizens in the population of Latvia is still roughly 28 per cent.

The HCNM's continued efforts to encourage Latvia to amend its citizenship law, in particular with regard to stateless children, were guided by the wish to help reduce the still sizeable number of stateless persons residing in Latvia and to promote the process of integration.

In a welcome development, the Latvian Parliament voted in June 1998 to adopt the Government-proposed amendments abolishing the "windows" sys-

tem and conferring citizenship on children born stateless in Latvia since 1991. The vote was confirmed in a referendum conducted on 3 October, a result warmly greeted by the HCNM. The swift and effective implementation of the amendments to the citizenship law would be an important step in promoting the integration process.

On the issue of the history/constitution tests, the HCNM has continued to call for a further easing of requirements in his discussions with Latvian officials. The new draft of the language law has been a particular focus of the HCNM's attention in 1998. The HCNM had several detailed discussions with the chairman of the Saeima committee responsible for drafting the new law, who asked him to comment on the draft text. On 17 April, the Government of Latvia issued a statement supporting the HCNM's earlier recommendation that the language law be in accordance with international norms. At the invitation of the Saeima committee chairman, the HCNM organized a team of experts (including an expert from the Council of Europe) which held consultations with the committee in Riga with a view to ensuring that the law does comply with international norms. The consultations, held in August, narrowed down the differences, but at the time of writing some points had still to be resolved, particularly points regarding the use of the State language in the private sector.

The HCNM has taken the opportunity, on his various visits to Riga and at meetings with Latvian officials, to express support for the progress so far achieved under the auspices of the National Language Training Programme as an instrument for promoting Latvian language learning and the broader integration process. He has also expressed the hope that this programme can be built upon and expanded in future, perhaps with further outside assistance, to improve knowledge of Latvian among the Russophone part of the population.

3.10 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The HCNM continued his activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, focusing on the improvement of inter-ethnic relations in the country, with special emphasis on the position of ethnic Albanians. In view of the conflict in Kosovo (FRY) and of the fragile political situation in Albania, inter-ethnic relations in FYROM assume, in HCNM's opinion, an even greater significance for overall regional stability.

The HCNM carried out his activities in the country through quiet and confidential mediation efforts, and numerous contacts and talks with the country's highest officials, political representatives of the Albanian minority and leaders of different political parties. In November 1997, he held consultations in The Hague with leaders of the Albanian Party for Democratic Prosperity.

In the view of the HCNM, one of the critical aspects of the position of Albanians in the country is Albanian language education, especially higher edu-

cation. At the time when this report was being drafted, more specific recommendations on this question were being prepared. The HCNM is also interested in the Government's efforts to increase the number of Albanians studying at Macedonian universities. To this end he supported a project carried out by the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations to provide educational support to Albanian students preparing for the entrance examinations for the university of Skopje. Better educational possibilities will also improve Albanians' chances of entering the public service, both at national and local levels. During his meetings with the country's officials and with the Albanian minority's representatives, the HCNM took an interest in the developments that had followed the 1997 Gostivar events, particularly the results of the work of the special parliamentary commission investigating the issue and its conclusions and suggestions.

The HCNM also focused on issues related to various forms of dialogue between the authorities and representatives of minorities, particularly of the Albanian minority.

3.11 Romania

In Romania, the HCNM continued his work on improving inter-ethnic relations, in particular as they affect the Hungarian minority. In this respect he focused primarily on the Education Law and the development of multi-cultural educational institutions.

The HCNM visited Romania twice in 1998. The first visit took place on the occasion of a Round-Table on Minorities and Tertiary Education organized by the office of the HCNM in co-operation with the Romanian Government in February 1998. The second visit came at the end of August and the beginning of September 1998 and followed up on issues discussed at the Round-Table.

Through his visits and the Round-Table, the HCNM promoted dialogue on possibilities for changes in the Education Law which would permit improvements in the tertiary education available for the Hungarian minority in their mother tongue. Since this topic proved to be a controversial one, consultations in Romania aimed at finding a compromise solution which would be both sustainable and acceptable to the Romanian Government and the minorities.

During the autumn of 1998, however, tensions arose between the Hungarian-Romanian UDMR party and the other governmental coalition parties. This came as a result of a decision of the Parliamentary Committee on Education to impose new restrictions on the previously proposed amendment of Article 123 of the Education Law, concerning the establishment of multi-cultural educational institutions. This development, which ran contrary to an agreement reached by the coalition, led to a threat on the part of UDMR to leave the coalition. At the time when this report was being drafted, a new compromise formula was being developed by the government.

3.12 Slovak Republic

The activities of the HCNM at the end of 1997 and during 1998 have focused mainly on problems related to the use of minority languages, educational issues and issues connected with the reform of legislation on local elections.

At the invitation of the Slovak Government, the HCNM visited the Slovak Republic on 9 and 10 April 1998, along with delegations from the Council of Europe and the European Commission, in order to discuss the issue of minority language rights in the light of the Slovak Republic's international commitments. The objective of the meeting was to come to an understanding with the Slovak Government on questions regarding the use of minority languages in a situation where immediate steps need to be taken in order to maintain stable inter-ethnic relations and sustain such relations in the future. In the view of the HCNM, although the Slovak Constitution provides for protection for minorities, a situation of legal uncertainty exists regarding the

use of minority languages. This uncertainty was created by the adoption of the Law on the State Language, which establishes the precedence of the Slovak language in a variety of settings without at the same time clearly taking into account the right of persons belonging to national minorities to use their own language. The HCNM urged the Slovak Government to endeavour to find immediate solutions, in particular with regard to the use of minority languages in official communications with administrative authorities and the availability of school certificates in minority languages, as well as in Slovak. During the follow-up consultations at expert level on 18 and 19 May 1998, some elements of a working draft general law governing the use of minority languages were submitted to the representatives of the HCNM's office, the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Despite some progress, various concerns remained. It was thus agreed that discussions on the draft law governing the use of minority languages and on the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner and other international institutions would continue in the autumn.

Other developments to which the HCNM has paid close attention in the Slovak Republic include the new legislation on local elections. The HCNM expressed serious concern about the main thrust and effect of the Law on Local Elections which had been adopted by the Slovak Parliament. The main aim of the Law is to fix electoral representation along ethnic lines, an idea that runs contrary to international principles and specific standards concerning free elections.

On educational issues, a bill submitted to Parliament by members of the Slovak National Party, which aimed at modifications regarding the language of instruction in minority language schools, was a particular focus of the HCNM's attention. The HCNM was pleased to note that the Parliament of the Slovak Republic rejected this proposal and decided in favour of the freedom of parents to choose the school system they prefer; this decision follows the Government's policy statement of April 1994 undertaking to respect the right of parents of children belonging to national minorities to choose the language of instruction.

3.13 Ukraine

The HCNM's attention was concentrated mainly on issues relating to the re-integration of the formerly deported peoples of Crimea, and primarily the Crimean Tatars.

By the end of 1997 a special pilot project on possibilities of creating multicultural home schools in areas with undeveloped infrastructure (mainly Tatar settlements) was finalized and two schools were opened. The project was developed by the HCNM and implemented by UNDP and the Government of Ukraine.

The HCNM, in close co-operation with UNHCR, UNDP, IOM and the OSCE Mission in Ukraine, organized a Donors' Conference in June 1998 in Kiev to raise funds that could be used to meet the humanitarian needs of the formerly deported peoples of Crimea. Several million US dollars were pledged by more than 15 OSCE States at the Conference.

The HCNM has been working actively to persuade all the parties involved to simplify the procedure for obtaining Ukrainian citizenship for the formerly deported peoples of Crimea. In this context the HCNM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees also interceded with the Government of Uzbekistan, from where the majority of the formerly deported peoples had returned. Recently, the Presidents of Ukraine and Uzbekistan reached a special agreement allowing an automatic change of citizenship for persons in this special category, upon individual request.

3.14 Uzbekistan

On 1 and 2 June 1998 the HCNM paid an orientation visit to Uzbekistan as part of his trip to Central Asia. He had meetings with the Speaker of the Parliament, senior Ministers and leading scientists, but also met leaders of a number of national groups and representatives of several NGOs.

The HCNM noted the concern of most of his interlocutors aroused by the problems of Islamic fundamentalism and its effect on inter-ethnic relations in the country. The HCNM also used the opportunity afforded by these meetings to emphasize the primary importance for States of adhering to generally recognized international standards in human rights.

3.15 Legal Questions

It will be apparent from what has been said above that the HCNM has given his attention to several matters of law in the course of his conflict prevention activities. In keeping with his general approach, which is aimed at arresting tensions at source, the HCNM has relied upon international standards in an effort to promote practical solutions to disputes involving law and policy in various States. He has done this in a co-operative fashion, working with Governments and responsible parliamentary bodies involved in processes of law reform. A range of subjects, including especially legislation on citizenship, education and the use of language, has been covered in this way. In certain cases, the HCNM has sent expert missions, sometimes in co-operation with other competent international organizations, to provide advice on specific aspects of law reform. In addition, the HCNM has contributed his views on the overall compatibility with international standards of various laws relating to minorities, including some laws of constitutional rank which accord minority rights. The office of the HCNM has also increasingly responded to requests from other OSCE institutions and international organizations for

analyses and views regarding relevant international law and practice. To this end, the office of the HCNM has continued to compile its own specialized data-banks and reference materials, and to develop further its own expertise. With a view to clarifying the content of relevant international standards and providing useful guidance for States in the development of policies and laws consistent with their international obligations and commitments, the HCNM has in the past year promoted the Oslo Recommendations Regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities. The HCNM hopes that these Recommendations, compiled by eleven internationally recognized independent experts, may prove to be a useful tool for coping with States' problems in devising appropriate policy and legislation in this field, for these tend to be recurrent problems. The Oslo Recommendations complement The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities, which the HCNM initiated in the previous year.

With regard to State practice, the HCNM is in the process of completing a compilation and analysis of responses from OSCE participating States to his questionnaire regarding the use of minority languages. This compilation and analysis, which includes responses from virtually all participating States, should constitute a useful comparative reference base that States can draw on in the future. The HCNM intends to complete his analysis and to report to participating States at the beginning of 1999.

4. The Human Dimension: Report of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

4.1 Introduction

1998 was an important year of development for the ODIHR. In accordance with the concept endorsed by the Permanent Council in June 1997, priority was given to the observation and promotion of elections in line with OSCE commitments, practical involvement in the promotion of human rights and democratic institutions, and monitoring the implementation of the OSCE's human dimension commitments.

The ODIHR has continued to adapt during the year and to respond to increasing requests for election and democratization projects and assistance in the OSCE region. At the same time, it has worked to reform the process for reviewing the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States, and has provided the necessary groundwork for further Memoranda of Understanding between the ODIHR and several participating States in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The Office moved in June to large, airy premises placed at its disposal by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs which provide adequate accommodation for the growing ODIHR staff. From 30 staff members in 1997, the ODIHR

has expanded to over 40 employees during 1998, largely thanks to secondments by participating States.

4.2 Co-operation

Co-operation between the ODIHR and other international organizations and institutions was a priority for 1998 and the Office is now working successfully together with the Council of Europe, UNHCR, UNDP and the EU Commission among others, in a number of different fields. For instance, Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ambassador Stoudmann, ODIHR Director, signed an agreement on co-operation between the UNHCHR and the ODIHR on 19 June 1998. An exchange of letters on co-operation also took place between the ODIHR and Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In March 1998, the ODIHR's Director conducted a needs assessment mission to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia together with representatives of the Council of Europe, the EU Commission, the UNHCR, the Soros Foundations and the Danish Refugee Council. The purpose of this joint effort was to identify the nature and scope of technical assistance to these countries, and simultaneously to divide tasks among the different international institutions in order to avoid any overlap in providing assistance to democracy building and to ensure a common approach to the different challenges. Those institutions are also consulted in the development of new projects. This has set a precedent for subsequent activities.

4.3 Elections

A number of important elections were held in the OSCE region during 1998 and the ODIHR was on hand to provide technical assistance, legal advice and long and short-term observation missions.

Observation: In accordance with the procedures outlined in the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, and following the practice established in recent years, the ODIHR provided both long-term and short-term observers to ensure that the entire election process was properly carried out. Such missions were deployed in Armenia (16, 30 March), Moldova (22 March), Ukraine (29 March), Hungary (10, 24 May), Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (31 May), the Czech Republic (19, 20 June), Bosnia and Herzegovina (12-13 September), the Slovak Republic (25-26 September), Latvia (3 October), Azerbaijan (11 October), and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (18 October). Following each observation, a final report was produced, outlining the degree to which the election process had met OSCE standards and detailing any concerns that remained. The reports also offered recommendations to improve the process for future elections.

Technical Assistance: The ODIHR responded to requests from the authorities in Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Armenia, Albania and Azerbaijan for technical assistance in preparing elections. In Montenegro the technical assistance team supplied by the ODIHR provided expert advice on election systems, media regulations and voter registration which led to revised election legislation being adopted in February 1998. In Albania the ODIHR was engaged in designing a methodology for civic/voter registration, through a number of pilot projects. A consolidated report will be produced with recommendations for a nation-wide registration exercise.

Following a needs assessment mission to Azerbaijan, the ODIHR assisted the authorities of that country in reviewing draft election legislation in preparation for the elections in October.

In February the ODIHR held an Election Assistance Strategy Meeting in Warsaw to share information between organizations involved in offering election assistance to countries in Central Asia. A large number of interested organizations and OSCE bodies attended, all of which stressed the need for increased co-operation and co-ordination of technical assistance among international donors and organizations in the region. It was proposed that the ODIHR serve as a regional focal point for centralizing and circulating information concerning the various election assistance programmes in Central Asia.

The ODIHR also organized an Electoral Process Workshop in March for 16 top-level election administrators from Central Asian countries. The three day workshop in Stockholm, entitled "Key Aspects of the Electoral Process", enabled officials to discuss common approaches to election issues.

The ODIHR is also organizing a joint regional conference with the UN and various international organizations and NGOs. The conference is to review standards for election administration and relevant election-related issues for the five Central Asian States, prior to the elections scheduled in the region for 1999.

4.4 Democratization

Work in the Democratization Section of the ODIHR has focused on the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus during 1998. Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Uzbekistan, signed in October 1997, several technical assistance projects have been implemented in that country. Preparations have also been made for the signing of similar MOUs with Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in the autumn of 1998. As part of the follow-up to the needs assessment mission to the Caucasus in March 1998, Memoranda of Understanding with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia will define the nature of technical assistance to be offered to those countries in the course of 1999.

Rule of Law: Technical assistance projects have been carried out in Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Russia, Croatia, Albania, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The latter countries have all been involved in assistance with prison reform, a subject discussed separately below. Projects in Uzbekistan are aimed at promoting democracy and strengthening civil society, and are part of the follow-up to a Memorandum of Understanding entered into with the government of that country. One phase of one of these projects has concentrated on enhancing co-operation between the Constitutional Court, the other branches of the judiciary and the government and has had the benefit of assistance offered by judicial experts from France. Assistance provided to Ukraine's Constitutional Court has included a review of the day-to-day functions and needs of the Court. This review will assist the Court in assigning appropriate priorities to its needs and its reform agenda for the next year. Another very similar assistance project carried out on behalf of Ukraine's Constitutional Court involved co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Spain. In Ukraine emphasis has been placed on the identification of administrative and management reforms.

In March, a workshop on techniques to combat organized crime was held in Azerbaijan. The workshop was attended by more than 70 government representatives from national institutions in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. At the end of September the third phase of a judicial training project was implemented in Moscow, Russia, in co-operation with the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, the Russian Legal Academy, the Council of Europe and the Canadian International Development Agency. The substance of the training included economic, social and cultural rights and Articles 5, 6 and 13 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. More than 70 judges from the Moscow region participated.

In co-operation with the ODIHR Election Section, efforts are underway to assist Ukraine in reforming its election complaints and appeals procedures. As was apparent after the March Parliamentary elections, there exists some confusion regarding the jurisdiction and the respective roles of the judiciary and the election commission in resolving election disputes. This project will be further developed next year in other participating States.

Ombudsman: In Georgia, technical assistance was provided to the Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) following the relevant assessment mission; this took the form of day-to-day assistance from an international consultant in the management of that Office. In Albania the ODIHR provided an international expert to advise and assist the authorities in evaluating and discussing possibilities and mechanisms for the establishment of a genuinely independent national Human Rights/Ombudsman institution. The ODIHR also arranged for an ombudsman expert mission to visit Turkey in February for two round-table discussions with high-level representatives of the gov-

ernment with a view to supporting moves towards the establishment of a genuinely independent ombudsman institution.

The ODIHR also played host to the 1998 Human Dimension Seminar on Ombudsman and National Human Rights Protection Institutions in May. This meeting, organized in close co-operation with UNDP, the Polish Ombudsman's office and the Council of Europe, brought together over 300 experts and practitioners to develop improved operations and more effective institutions. The recommendations emerging from this Seminar included a number of ideas, among them the creation of a regional homepage to provide news and information about and for ombudsmen and human rights institutions, the establishment of a co-ordinated working group to identify the scope of training opportunities at present available and determine whether new programmes are needed, and improvements in exchange mechanisms with the media and NGOs.

Migration: In May 1998 an ODIHR delegation of experts ran a training programme in Uzbekistan, as part of the MOU, for border guards and customs officials. The programme focused on the specific needs and capacities of the country in relation to the establishment of effective border controls. It was conducted by trainers from Poland, whose main purpose was to convey the primacy of human rights and the vital importance of acting within the parameters set by law during all border operations. Interest in a follow-up to this course was very high, and apprenticeship of Uzbek border guards in Poland has been proposed.

In September a Round Table on Housing and Property Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) took place on the premises of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. It was organized by OSCE/ODIHR, UNHCR, the Council of Europe and the OSCE Mission to Georgia, and participants included representatives of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government. The participants discussed expert recommendations related to housing and property restitution issues in the context of a return of persons displaced as a result of the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict. It was agreed to form a working group that would be assigned the task of drafting relevant legislation, comprising experts from the UNHCR office in Tbilisi, the OSCE Mission to Georgia and experts nominated by UNHCR or the OSCE. The group is to start work at the beginning of October.

Prison Service Training: In Albania an assistance project was carried out with the aim of training correctional officers in international penal standards and ways to strengthen and reform the prison administration. An expert visited Albania once a month to design and implement local training exercises, apprenticeships abroad, development of training materials and follow-up courses for correctional officers. In Moldova a multi-phased correctional officer training initiative was undertaken to assist the Moldovan Ministry of Justice in reforming its prison system and improving the training of prison personnel. The ODIHR also dispatched a technical assessment and

consultation mission to Croatia to follow up the similar training programme that took place in 1997.

Human rights education: Following the first human rights education course held in Uzbekistan in 1997, the ODIHR extended its reach to the other four States of Central Asia. In May 1998 a second human rights education course was held in Uzbekistan pursuant to the MOU. A follow-up advanced course was also organized for November, with careful selection of participants from all five States.

Civil society assistance: Projects were carried out in Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Uzbekistan. The civil society assistance programme, launched in 1997, continued in Uzbekistan. In Kyrgyzstan, as in Uzbekistan, the ODIHR has been keen to help establish mechanisms for improved communication between the Government structures and representatives of civil society in order to allow the NGO community a more immediate voice in the local political process. The civil society assistance programme in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan consists of informal one-day consultations where participants discuss specific issues of concern in relation to the national human rights situation. The first consultation in Kyrgyzstan was held in February 1998 and resulted in the drafting of a set of recommendations to establish principles for co-operation between government institutions and NGOs. A second meeting in May sought to identify the problems of journalism in the country and discussed ways to improve ethical standards. In Georgia a civic diplomacy project was designed to enhance contacts and foster dialogue between civic groups from across conflict lines.

Gender Equality: The ODIHR organized a regional consultation on the theme "Women in Public Life" for over 50 high-level participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan from 16 to 18 June. The consultation focused on the legal framework and practical implementation of legislation, on challenges to gender equality in Central Asia, on lobbying and monitoring to enhance the status of women and on networking and sharing experience. The ODIHR was also able, thanks to the generosity of the United Kingdom, to appoint a new Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming and the Human Rights of Women who is responsible for developing a consistent approach to gender equality and for integrating gender issues into the various activities of the ODIHR.

Combating torture: Following the recommendations that emerged from the 1997 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the ODIHR established an Expert Panel for the Prevention of Torture, which met for the first time in Warsaw on 11 and 12 June 1998. The Panel's task is to provide advice on how the ODIHR can best develop programmes and activities to combat torture in OSCE participating States. In the first meeting the Panel provided the ODIHR with guidance on developing new projects involving legislative reform, training, and strengthening the work on NGOs. It also provided advice on ways to integrate torture prevention into existing projects.

4.5 Monitoring the Implementation of OSCE Commitments

The ODIHR continued to collect and disseminate facts, figures and analyses about the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments in the OSCE area. Some information was disseminated in the form of thematic background reports for the OSCE's human dimension implementation meetings.

Following the adoption of new modalities, the ODIHR hosted a human dimension implementation meeting in October/November 1998. In contrast to previous meetings, the 1998 meeting was characterized by substantial NGO participation and the integration of NGOs into the speakers list and by high-level representation of participating States at the closing plenary. The ODIHR also arranged side meetings on freedom of the media, religious freedom, gender issues, combating torture, and national policies regarding Roma and Sinti.

4.6 Budget

The large expansion of ODIHR activities required a substantial increase in resources. The ODIHR was able to expand its activities thanks to voluntary contributions - in particular contributions totalling more than USD 2 million from the Governments of Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America - and to staff secondments from Switzerland and other States. If the demand for ODIHR activities continues to increase, the ODIHR will need even greater support from participating States in 1999.

4.7 Conclusion

In 1998 the ODIHR has proved itself to be a flexible, well integrated and fully operational instrument of the OSCE. Its rapid response capabilities and adaptability mean that it can provide practical assistance to still fragile emerging democracies throughout the OSCE area in their efforts to build sustainable democratic systems. The challenges remain enormous, however, and the risks to the stability of the countries in question are very real. The ODIHR, supported by the OSCE's participating States and other OSCE institutions, intends to further pursue activities designed to enhance the stability of the countries in transition, thereby - it hopes - contributing to conflict prevention, stability and security throughout the OSCE area.

5. *Report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media*

In December 1997, at the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Copenhagen, the participating States, acting in accordance with the Budapest and Helsinki Documents, endorsed the nomination of Freimut Duve as the first OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

In its first full year of operation, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has become a fully functioning institution of the OSCE and has highlighted the OSCE's continuing commitment to freedom of the media. Participating States are aware of this new, forward-looking institution and some have raised their level of communication on media issues to new heights as a result of this office.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media has communicated in writing with numerous Foreign Ministers and has initiated correspondence with many countries on media issues of concern.

Central to the functioning of this new office has been the ability of the Representative and his staff to visit countries and assess, first hand, a government's commitments to freedom of the media. These visits have been focused on what this new office has identified as its "Four Constituencies": Governments, Parliaments, non-governmental media organizations (NGOs), and the media practitioners themselves. Every visit has contained carefully programmed exposure to these "four constituencies".

5.1 *Country Visits*

5.1.1 *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

The Representative visited Skopje from 14 to 17 April 1998. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje had arranged a productive programme which included meetings with the Prime Minister and members of the Gov-

ernment and extensive discussions with journalists, university professors, students and NGOs.

The main concern of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, relating directly to his "early warning" function, is the ongoing issue of how media in the region could, in the worst of all possible situations, be used to launch media campaigns against other groups. The Representative noted an encouraging sense on the part of many journalists, editors, broadcasters and politicians with whom he met, that they are all aware of the possibility of the media being used to create ethnic tension. This possibility of the media being used to pit group against group in this politically tense area, is a factor which will bear careful watching by all concerned.

5.1.2 Belarus

The Representative, following an invitation of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group, participated in a Seminar entitled "Structures of Pluralistic Democracies" which took place in Minsk on 29 and 30 April, 1998.

He urged that journalistic professionalism be enhanced as a regular media policy in modern pluralistic societies and that steps should be taken to ensure broader representation of the public in the governing bodies of public electronic media.

5.1.3 The Slovak Republic

The Representative paid a first short visit to Bratislava on 20 May. He raised a number of issues related to the then ongoing revision of the electoral law and to current working conditions for journalists.

After discussions in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he gave a public lecture on "Democracy and free media" within the framework of the series of conferences on "Modern Foreign Policy" organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Slovak Foreign Policy Association in Bratislava. The Representative's lecture referred, *inter alia*, to the historic achievements of the CSCE/OSCE, to the corrective function of free journalism and free media in a modern democratic society and to the professional responsibility of journalists, something they had to define themselves. The debate following the lecture focused on current issues in the Slovak Republic. The Representative gave several interviews while in Bratislava for this lecture.

5.1.4 Croatia

The Representative was a featured participant at a two-day seminar on the media organized jointly with the OSCE Mission in Croatia. He delivered introductory remarks describing the new OSCE office. The seminar sessions featured discussions on the print and electronic media, and on the role of the media in establishing trust and reconciliation.

The Representative continues to co-ordinate his efforts to supplement those of the Mission in Croatia in the media field with a view to engaging the Government of Croatia in a serious dialogue resulting in the Government's meeting its commitments to a free and independent media landscape. One major issue for both the Mission and the Representative will be the debate on changes to the law on broadcasting to confirm that the privatization provisions are non-discriminatory.

5.1.5 Turkey

At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the Representative visited Ankara and Istanbul for discussions with government officials, members of Parliament, journalists and NGOs.

He encouraged an "open and public debate" on the major issues confronting Turkish society, arguing that restricting public debate on controversial issues by penal and other legal codes could possibly have the unintended consequence of imbuing an issue with more importance than it might have merited, if free discussion had taken place. Turkish Government representatives noted that it was the intention of their Government to "broaden" the existing freedom of expression by a draft bill currently under consideration in Parliament which narrows the definitions of what is prohibited under the penal code and the anti-terror law. Prison sentences would also be shortened. If the draft bill should pass, several prisoners including some journalists, might be released.

5.1.6 The Russian Federation

The Representative paid an initial visit to Russia where he held talks with officials of the Foreign Ministry and representatives of the Duma. He also visited Russian media and discussed issues of concern relating to the ongoing development of free and independent media in Russia.

He met groups of journalists and editors, and representatives of NGOs, including the Glasnost Foundation. He also delivered a lecture at a Moscow university on his new office and on journalistic freedom and responsibility.

5.1.7 Albania

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continues to be involved in the development of free media in Albania and is closely following the work being done on the drafting of a new public television law. An Advisor made an assessment mission earlier in the year and attended a Council of Europe-sponsored targeted conference on assistance to Albania. The office has recommended measures to reduce the economic disincentives militating against the development of free media, such as high VAT levels and high capitalization requirements for independent television stations.

5.1.8 The United States

The Representative visited Washington, D.C. soon after taking up his duties and met with officials at the Department of State concerned with OSCE and media issues. He also met the "Helsinki Commission" staff of the U.S. Congress, and officials of the United States Information Agency to discuss ongoing co-operation on media issues. He spoke at a press club breakfast and met representatives of several Washington-based NGOs.

5.1.9 The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In a special intervention to the Permanent Council on 27 August, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, consistent with his early warning function, delivered a statement concerning restrictions on journalists operating from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He noted that the ongoing conflict in Kosovo was not only an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but rather that international media covering the conflict are an essential source of information.

The Representative noted that he had written letters to the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia urging the Belgrade authorities to allow unimpeded access to the media to cover the events in the country, especially in Kosovo. He offered, as well, to come to Belgrade to discuss this and other media-related issues with Belgrade authorities.

On 4 September, the Representative was informed by the Belgrade Government that he would not be issued a visa to visit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to discuss these issues.

Throughout October and November the Government of FRY continued to inflict more and more restrictions on free and independent media in the country as a result of the escalation of the conflict in Kosovo. The Representative therefore issued a number of statements in October concerning the banning of independent radio stations and newspapers and of the re-broadcasting of foreign radio programmes.

The Representative has also criticised the adoption by the Serbian Parliament of the Law on Public Information on 20 October, four days after the signing of the Agreement on the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister Geremek, and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Jovanovic. This Law institutionalized the banning of foreign programmes, levies exuberant fees on offending media with a 24-hour deadline in which to pay and gave the authorities numerous powers to curtail free media.

In November the Representative prepared a report on the current situation of the media in FRY.

5.1.10 Ukraine

A number of critical references on the media situation in Ukraine mentioned in the ODIHR report on Parliamentary Elections in March 1998 and highlighted in international media reports as well as the Representative's letters to the Ukrainian Government have led the Office to undertake an assessment in Kiev. Talks there were held with government officials, newspapers and television editors of different political affiliations. This visit has confirmed the existence of widespread complaints about the relevant legal framework and about the implementation of laws considered to be arbitrary.

The Representative had raised these and other concerns in a meeting with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Tarasyuk on 16 October. Minister Tarasyuk expressed his readiness to co-operate with the Representative on media-related issues, especially before the Presidential Elections scheduled for October 1999. The Representative intends to visit Ukraine early next year.

5.1.11 Bulgaria

An Adviser from the Representative's office visited Bulgaria in September to participate in a seminar on government-media relations sponsored by the Vienna-based NGO International Press Institute and the Bulgarian Government Information Office. From meetings with journalists, he gained the impression that the media environment is generally positive, but he was made aware of concerns about a new Radio and Television Law which could endanger the independence of the media. Noting that some statutes in Bulgaria's criminal code provide for the imprisonment of journalists convicted of libel or personal defamation, he expressed the hope that these provisions - although rarely applied - would be repealed by the Parliament.

5.1.12 Azerbaijan

An Adviser from the office spoke at a Council of Europe seminar in Baku. In follow-up sessions with journalists and government officials, he identified the lack of independent television stations as an issue that needs attention. He noted several positive recent steps - abolition of censorship and repeal of the Value Added Tax for print media - and hopes to work with the Government of Azerbaijan to enable more independent television stations to obtain licenses to broadcast.

5.1.13 Kyrgyzstan

An Advisor visited Bishkek and concluded that the concept of freedom of the media is honoured in Kyrgyzstan. Legal safeguards that assure a free and independent media exist. The President has used his authority to create an environment where a pluralistic media can function freely. He has also expressed his gratitude to the media for assisting him in fighting corruption. The Representative has often referred to the "corrective function" of the media; this is a perfect example.

5.2 Relations with Other Institutions

Central to the functioning of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media have been its relations with other institutions, both within and outside the OSCE. The Office has concluded an agreement with the ODIHR confirming the current media monitoring arrangements and the ODIHR's primary responsibility for monitoring media during election campaigns, and that the new Office will deal with structural issues. The Office has developed a productive working relationship with the Council of Europe which relies heavily on the expertise of the Council's media specialists.

The NGO media community has been particularly useful in providing the Office with information about what is happening in particular countries. Recognizing the value of this unique resource, representatives of the Office have met over a dozen representatives of such NGOs, and the Office communicates almost daily via e-mail and the Internet with NGOs around the world.

5.3 Structural Issues Restricting Media Freedom

On several occasions, the Representative has expressed his concern about what he has called "censorship by killing", taking the life of a person because of what he or she has written or was about to publish. He continues to appeal to Governments to do their utmost to ensure legal prosecution. He will continue to seek ways of addressing this serious issue.

The Representative remains concerned about the restriction of media freedom through what he calls "indirect structural repression" against freedom of the media. He has referred on several occasions to the efforts of some governments to hinder the growth of independent and free media through political use of frequency allocation, for example, or excessive fees for licenses. It includes more subtle forms of leverage such as the ongoing government control of the distribution system, or the control of newsprint. It includes other disincentives, economic or otherwise, that make the development of independent and free media more difficult.

Criminal libel and defamation statutes in a number of OSCE countries have also drawn the focus of the Representative. The core belief is that no person should be imprisoned for what he writes and that there should be civil legislation which covers libel and defamation. The Representative has urged governments to move in the direction of de-criminalizing libel and defamation. This issue - with its serious implications for the freedom of expression - will need the Representative's attention in the coming year.

6. Security Co-operation

6.1 The Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting

The 8th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting 1998 (AIAM) of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) took place in Vienna from 2 to 4 March 1998. The central role of this meeting in assessing the implementation of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) was made evident by the participation of numerous experts from capitals. The meeting was marked by the submission of a large number of important proposals, tabled with a view to ongoing revision of the Vienna Document 1994.

6.2 Vienna Document 1994

On 4 February 1998 the FSC decided to establish an ad hoc Working Group for the revision of the Vienna Document 1994, the aim being to complete the review during 1998. The Group started work in February, and the first phase of negotiations came to an end with the co-ordinator's presentation of a "rolling text" of the new document at the 21st meeting on 16 September 1998.

6.3 The Code of Conduct

As a result of the Follow-up Conference on the Code of Conduct in September 1997, the FSC decided to institute a regular information exchange on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Consequently, participating States will provide each other and the Conflict Prevention Centre, on an annual basis and not later than 15 April, with relevant information on the Code, including steps taken for its implementation.

6.4 Seminar on Defence Policies and Military Doctrines

Under the auspices of the FSC, a high-level Seminar on Defence Policies and Military Doctrines was convened in Vienna from 26 to 28 January 1998. Numerous chiefs of general staff of participating States' armed forces had a fruitful exchange of opinion on force structures, national defence policies and military doctrines of the future. Among the main issues considered during the seminar were challenges posed by peacekeeping operations and the military's response thereto.

6.5 Global Exchange of Military Information

A workshop on automated data exchange, attended by a larger number of participants than on previous occasions, preceded the Global Exchange of Military Information which was successfully carried out on 30 April 1998.

6.6 Other Activities

Since June 1998, participating States have been concentrating, at plenary meetings of the FSC, on discussion of the regional dimension of security and on regional measures in general.

The FSC decided to upgrade the OSCE Communications Network connecting capitals to make it "year-2000 compliant".

A special meeting of Working Group A was held on 18 September 1998 to review the implementation of the information exchange on conventional arms transfers by participating States.

During the reporting period participating States implemented the following confidence- and security-building measures:

- 7 airbase visits;
- 71 evaluation visits;
- 47 inspections;
- 8 demonstrations of new types of major weapon and equipment systems; and

- 13 visits to military facilities, military formations, and observations of certain military activities.

7. Economic and Environmental Activities

In January 1998, following a proposal by the Secretary General, the Chairman-in-Office appointed Mr. Thomas Price as Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (CEEA).

The Co-ordinator's mandate has five main focal points:

1. enhancing the OSCE's interaction with relevant international organizations;
2. strengthening the economic, environmental, and social components of the work done by OSCE missions and field offices;
3. deepening interaction with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
4. broadening OSCE contacts with NGOs and the private sector; and
5. developing a work programme for appropriate additional activities in, and related to, the OSCE's economic dimension.

During the past year, and particularly since the arrival of the Co-ordinator himself, his newly founded office - below called the OCEEA - has concentrated its work in these five areas. On the first point of the mandate, several rounds of formal and informal consultations have been held with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the European Commission, the European Bank Reconstruction and Development, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, and other key partners both here in Vienna and in the field.

In late August, responding to an invitation from UN Office in Vienna Director General Arlacchi, the Co-ordinator represented the OSCE at a UN meeting on the elaboration of an international convention against transnational crime. In September, the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, the CEEA and a number of international organizations active in Central Asia organized a seminar in Tashkent on regional environmental issues. And in early November, an important conference on subregional environmental problems in the Black Sea area was co-hosted in Istanbul by the OSCE, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the Turkish Government.

On the second point, much work remains to be done. However, the CEEA took some useful first steps by meeting formally with all OSCE Heads of Mission when they gathered in Vienna in June, and by meeting many of them throughout the year as they passed through Vienna or when members of the OCEEA visited their Missions. The New Mission Members' Training Seminars also provide an invaluable opportunity for CEEA to interact directly with the people who are to carry out economic/environmental work in the

field. As the OSCE prepares to open new centres in Central Asia, it has become increasingly conscious of the importance of having qualified personnel assigned to these offices who grasp the importance that governments and NGO's in the region attach to economic and environmental issues, and the selection process has been modified accordingly.

The third point, improving relations with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, has been a continuing priority. In March, the Co-ordinator held a meeting with the Parliamentary Assembly's standing committee when it visited Vienna. In July, he attended the annual meeting of the Assembly and contributed actively to the deliberations of the second (economic dimension) committee. The CEEA was able to ensure some cross-fertilization between and among its key partners by inviting Tana de Zulueta, an Italian Senator who had been rapporteur of the Assembly's second committee and then became Vice President of the Assembly, to chair the closing session of the joint OSCE/OECD conference in Paris. Partly because of her work on the bicameral anti-Mafia committee in Italy, and partly thanks to her long familiarity with the OSCE and its work, she was able to make a most useful and highly appreciated contribution to the Paris conference.

The fourth priority identified in the mandate for the CEEA is to increase contacts with NGOs and the private sector. To this end, the Co-ordinator travelled to the Aarhus Ministerial on the environment in late June - a meeting which was attended by, and in large measure planned and conducted by, a wide range of NGOs from many OSCE participating States. Also in June, the Co-ordinator addressed the first annual meeting of the European Business Congress, one of a number of organizations and associations of private sector entities with which the OCEEA maintains regular contacts. Seeking to intensify contacts with NGOs, the Office has compiled an e-mail address list of several hundred organizations in OSCE countries which are active in the environmental field, and now corresponds with them on a regular basis.

The fifth and final point in the mandate, developing a work programme for activities in the economic dimension, continues to absorb a great deal of energy. In this context, the Office worked closely with the Chair to prepare for the Sixth Economic Forum, which took place this year from 1 to 5 June in Prague. The theme was 'Security Aspects of Energy Developments in the OSCE Area'. The Forum was attended by, in addition to representatives of participating States, representatives of the partners for co-operation, the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, NGOs, a number of international organizations as well as business and the academic community. It also included a review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension as set out in the Bonn Document of 1990 and other OSCE documents.

Following the Forum, the OCEEA's main focus in this area has been the preparation and hosting, jointly with the OECD, in Paris on 15 and 16 July, of a major international conference on "National and International Ap-

proaches to Improving Integrity and Transparency in Government", which examined ways of improving governance and fighting corruption. The meeting was attended by a wide range of participating States and by representatives of NGOs, business and trade unions.

The Office has also organized a number of other seminars, principally a series of subregional seminars designed to lead up to the Seventh Economic Forum, and, along with the incoming Norwegian Chair, a follow-up seminar to the Sixth Economic Forum, now scheduled for January 1999 in Oslo.

From 22 to 24 September, the CEEA organized, through the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia and with the co-operation of the Government of Uzbekistan, a seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them", which examined ways of confronting the many environmental problems in Central Asia, including water and energy management, the Aral Sea disaster, and the threat of transboundary nuclear pollution due to unsafe nuclear power stations or tailings dumps. The Seminar was opened on behalf of the OSCE by the Secretary General.

On 5 and 6 November in Istanbul, the OSCE organized, in co-operation with the Government of Turkey and the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, a seminar in the same series entitled "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them", but focusing this time on the Black Sea. Issues dealt with at the Seminar included pollution of the Black Sea and its tributaries, energy matters, the problems of nuclear safety and waste disposal, the use of waterways in the region, and public participation in environmental decision-making.

Other parts of the work programme include special one-time activities (such as the workshop held on 15 September on the Euro, conducted by a visiting expert from the European Commission) and the designing of an economic database in the Secretariat for the use of participating States. Finally, devising strategies for increased activity in the economic dimension by OSCE offices in the field forms an important part of this growing work programme.

8. Relations with International Organizations and Institutions

On the basis of a decision taken at the Copenhagen Ministerial Council, which, *inter alia*, tasked the Chairman-in-Office, in co-operation with the Secretary General, to work actively to increase the OSCE's co-operation with other international institutions and organizations, the OSCE considerably increased interaction with its international partners. The aim was to make maximum use of, and expand as appropriate, consultation mechanisms, at headquarters level in order to achieve concrete results in the field.

In the past year the OSCE's relations with other international organizations were re-evaluated in a number of contexts. Regular consultation mechanisms involving the principal partners of the OSCE- (Tripartite High Level meetings of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the UN; '2+2' meetings of the

OSCE and the Council of Europe; Target Oriented Meetings on specific crisis areas, involving all concerned international organizations; and finally bilateral meetings and cross-representation), were used to assess the state of relations, and particularly co-operation in the field. In 1998, an additional '2+2' meeting was held at the level of senior officials. Furthermore, visits by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to OSCE PC meetings in Vienna, and by the OSCE's Secretary General to meetings of the CoE Committee of Ministers at Deputies level in Strasbourg, offered an opportunity to assess possibilities for pragmatic co-operation and became a regular feature of the period on which we are reporting. For the first time, the UN Under-Secretary-General, and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in November 1998.

An important event in this context was a meeting with international organizations held during the annual meeting of Heads of Missions and the Secretariat. International organizations and institutions were also drawn into the work undertaken in the context of the Security Model. At a special informal meeting of the OSCE Security Model Committee in July, representatives of the WEU, NATO, the CIS and the CoE participated actively, presenting their views on the Platform for Co-operative Security. A similar special informal meeting of the OSCE Security Model Committee with UN agencies took place in October.

The year 1998 saw both a deepening and a widening of OSCE's relations with other international organizations. An important development which reflected the deepening of relations during 1998 was the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding with other international organizations aimed at bringing about closer co-operation in the field. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the ODIHR signed an agreement on co-operation on 19 June. An exchange of letters on co-operation also took place between the ODIHR and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as well as between the HCNM and the UNHCR. A Memorandum of Understanding on the Enhancement of Co-operation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the OSCE Secretariat was concluded on 15 October. This pragmatic agreement was inspired by the excellent interaction in the field between the two organizations and aims at improving concrete mechanisms already in use (improved exchange of information, designation of liaison officers, cross representation at relevant meetings, joint assessment of situations of common concern, coherence of approach in the field, and the possibility of holding target oriented meetings). The increasingly close co-operation between the UNHCR and the OSCE demonstrates recognition of the critical linkage between migration, displacement and security issues.

The reporting period also saw a in-depth discussion of the Organization's links with the Council of Europe at a Seminar on an Alliance for Human

Rights and Democracy, held in The Hague on 5 June at the initiative of the Dutch government. While it was emphasized that the two organizations are different in many respects, it was also recognized that they share the objective of promoting human rights and democracy in Europe. Overlap was not considered a serious problem, as organizations can reinforce each other efficiently by co-ordinating their actions. Structural innovations which could lead to the creation of new bureaucracies should not be pursued. Rather, the organizations should build upon what they have achieved so far in a pragmatic manner, not through a strict division of labour but by ensuring practical complementarity.

Improvement of the relations between the two organizations was also the subject of a September Recommendation of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (1381/1998) on "General Policy: Council of Europe and OSCE". This document noted also that the two organizations share principles and objectives but have different responsibilities, structures, working tools and methods. It calls for a clearer division of tasks to avoid duplication, and supports the proposals on future relations put forward at the seminar in The Hague. The Final Report to the CoE Committee of Ministers by the Committee of Wise Persons submitted in November 1998, called for pooling of relevant information, consultation in times of crisis and a role for each other's chairpersons at ministerial meetings.

Co-operation with other international organizations is most important in connection with OSCE work undertaken in the field. In 1998 the OSCE Mission to Croatia took over important tasks from the UN following expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium on 15 January. The OSCE also took on the unprecedented role of deploying civilian police monitors in the Croatian Danube region following expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Police Support Group (UNPSG). The handover from the UN was marked by close co-operation.

The OSCE and UNHCR missions to Croatia co-operate closely on the two-way return of refugees and displaced persons. In an effort to further strengthen co-operation, the UNHCR and OSCE missions, together with the European Commission Monitoring Mission (ECMM), are developing a Co-ordination Centre for collation and analysis of the results of joint monitoring activities and improved co-ordination of joint action. The Mission to Croatia has established common structures, called Return Facilitation Groups, with UNHCR and ECMM (including a secretariat) to co-ordinate international monitoring of and support for the Return Programme.

Co-operation between the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) and humanitarian and other international organizations is a key ingredient of the Mission's concept of operations. The first aim is to work closely together to achieve the purposes of the KVM itself, and the second is to collaborate in resolving the humanitarian difficulties facing the population of Kosovo. The

agreement between the OSCE and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 16 October 1998 states that the "OSCE will establish co-ordination with other organizations ... to allow the Verification Mission ...to accomplish all its objectives" and that "the Verification Mission will ... assist UNHCR, ICRC and other international organizations in facilitating the return of displaced people to their homes, the provision of facilitative and humanitarian assistance to them by the FRY, Serbian and Kosovo authorities as well as the humanitarian organizations and NGOs". Both categories of co-operation were subjects of discussion at a target-oriented meeting held in Warsaw on 5 November 1998 attended by representatives of humanitarian and other international organizations, of NGOs and of OSCE institutions. This meeting also focused on the work of the KVM in the field of human rights and elections. The OSCE Presence in Albania continues to be an excellent example of the OSCE's ability to co-operate with international organizations. In Albania, the OSCE serves for the second year now as a flexible framework for co-ordination.

With the European Union the OSCE went a step further by initiating (and co-chairing) the *Friends of Albania* group, which held its inaugural meeting in Brussels on 30 September 1998. The OSCE in Tirana will provide the overall framework for the Group. The Group is open to countries and international institutions which wish to give Albania active support in its development efforts. The Group should, *inter alia*, provide a forum for mutual information, consultation, and co-ordination on political, financial, economic and security-related matters concerning Albania.

Another example of co-ordinated action is to be seen in the joint statements on the situation in Albania issued by the OSCE with other international organizations.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE and the CoE worked closely together in an International Election Observation Mission enlisting the joint efforts of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 and 13 September were assessed in collaboration with the Mission.

The close co-operation between the OSCE and the UN in the field was - highlighted at a meeting of regional organizations in New York in July. The Secretary General of the OSCE submitted concrete proposals on enhancing co-operation between the two organizations. A follow-up meeting to be held in December will concentrate on practical modalities for co-operation in relation to early warning and conflict prevention.

9. Relations with Partners for Co-operation

The OSCE continued to work with its partners for co-operation; Japan and Korea, and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, Algeria, Egypt, Is-

rael, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. This year Jordan was welcomed as a Mediterranean partner for co-operation.

The dialogue between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean partners continued mainly through the Contact Group meetings. A number of high-level OSCE officials gave briefings on the OSCE's various areas of endeavour, notably the elaboration of a Document-Charter on European Security and present mission activities, and also on OSCE experience gained with regard to arms control and confidence and security building measures. In addition, briefings were presented by both the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

In their contributions to the Contact Group, the Mediterranean partners presented a number of ideas and proposals, in particular on co-operation in relation to cultural confidence-building measures and peaceful settlement of conflicts, as well as suggestions for seminars. The proposals are under consideration by the participating States.

In the light of the continued interest shown by the Mediterranean partners for co-operation in becoming acquainted with OSCE activities, and the desire of participating States to improve the quality of interaction with them in the day-to-day work the Permanent Council adopted a decision opening new opportunities for co-operation. As a result, representatives of the Mediterranean partners can make short-term visits to OSCE missions and participate in OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring or supervision operations. Detailed modalities for such participation have been prepared by the Secretariat and by ODIHR.

On 19 and 20 October 1998, the annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar took place in Malta. The topic was "The Human Dimension of Security, Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law". In addition to representatives from twenty-eight OSCE participating States, the seminar was attended by representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia. Korea was also represented. Representatives of five international organizations, namely the Council of Europe, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, NATO, WEU and the Mediterranean Forum, also attended the event.

The partners for co-operation were invited to a number of OSCE activities, including the Follow-up Conference on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Seminar on Defence Policies and Military Doctrines, and the opening and closing sessions of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

The appointment of an Adviser in the Department for General Affairs tasked to serve as contact person with the partners for co-operation helped to increase contacts and the flow of information between the Secretariat and the partners for co-operation.

Japan continued to attend the weekly plenary sessions of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council. At the Permanent Council

meetings this year, Japan provided information on some key elements of Japanese policy towards Bosnia and Herzegovina, and announced a significant financial contribution for the elections organized by the OSCE in September 1998. Japan also seconded short-term observers to the elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, Japan made a voluntary contribution to support the work of the Organization.

10. Contacts with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The focal point of OSCE contacts with Non-Governmental Organizations is the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights with its NGO Unit. During 1998 the activities included special civil society assistance programmes in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan which were carried out in co-operation with local and international NGOs. Furthermore, the ODIHR organized a Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in late October and early November 1998 which benefited from more intensive and incisive involvement of NGOs; instead of being confined to addressing the meeting only after all attending participating States and international organizations had done so, they were allowed to address the meeting on an equal footing with the other participants at any time.

Apart from the ODIHR, new institutions were established during 1998 which have close relationships with the NGO community. The Representative on Freedom of the Media, who took up his duties in 1998, identified NGOs as one of his "Four Constituencies" (the others being Governments, Parliaments, and the media practitioners themselves). Contacts with NGOs have thus become part of the programme of the visits of the Representative and his staff to OSCE countries during which the commitment of governments to freedom of the media was assessed.

The mandate of the newly appointed Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities also includes contacts with NGOs and the private sector. The Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities has widened the scope of his co-operation with NGOs to include those that work in the areas of economics and the environment as well. Close links to a number of them have been established during the past year. NGOs participated in the Economic Forum and other OSCE meetings focusing on economics and the environment. The Co-ordinator travelled to Denmark for the Aarhus Ministerial on the environment, which was attended - and, in part, conducted and planned - by a large number of NGOs from many OSCE countries. Seeking to broaden interaction with NGOs, his Office has compiled an e-mail list/address list of more than 200 organizations active in the environmental field and corresponds with them on a regular basis. This interaction has already proven to be mutually educational; it has certainly helped to raise the OSCE's profile in this area and to promote a greater awareness of its comprehensive concept of security.

Gender issues are another new field of co-operation between the OSCE and NGOs. The appointment of the focal point on gender issues in mid-May 1998 was followed by a meeting of the Secretariat with OSCE Heads of Mission and a number of invited NGOs in June, which focused on opportunities for co-operation between NGOs and the OSCE in gender mainstreaming efforts. The focal point has established links with international gender-related NGOs in order to take advantage of their expertise.

The Department for General Affairs continued to maintain regular contacts with NGOs active in the field of research on security issues. The DGA kept them informed about OSCE activities, attended and contributed to seminars and conferences organized by them, and also pursued the practice of inviting the NGOs to the OSCE seminars.

Finally the "Researcher in Residence" Programme is another new area of co-operation with Non-Governmental Organizations, i.e. academic institutions. It has been designed to give researchers working on OSCE or OSCE-related topics the opportunity to carry out research in the OSCE archives in Prague and thereby to promote knowledge of the Organization.

Apart from these innovations, the OSCE missions have continued to maintain close contacts and co-operation with NGOs in areas relevant to their mandate. Human rights and minority issues, the strengthening of civil society, gender issues, election observation and humanitarian assistance are all areas of endeavour that have benefited from such collaboration.

NGOs also continue to function as an important source of information for the High Commissioner on National Minorities. Contacts with NGOs have accordingly been on the agenda for his visits to OSCE participating States.

During 1998 NGOs participated actively in a number of OSCE Seminars.

11. Other Activities

11.1 Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States

OSCE activities to facilitate the integration of recently admitted participating States (RAPS) begun five years ago, and by now the RAPS are well on their way to becoming fully integrated into the OSCE family. This year, efforts to assist these States were conducted in three ways: through seminars and meetings organized in the States, an internship programme at the OSCE Secretariat, and financial support provided from the Voluntary Fund for Fostering the Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States.

In 1998 resources from the Voluntary Fund for Fostering the Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States were used to provide financial support for delegates from the RAPS to OSCE seminars, conferences and meetings. The Fund covered part of the travel and accommodation expenses of RAPS nationals for the following OSCE events:

- (i) Joint OSCE/OECD Conference on "National and International Approaches to Improving Integrity and Transparency in Government", Paris, 15 and 16 July 1998,
- (ii) OSCE Seminar on 'Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them', Tashkent, 22-24 September 1998,
- (iii) Seminar on subregional co-operation held on 13 and 14 October 1998 in Stockholm under the auspices of the CiO and hosted by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs with support from the Institute for East West Studies,
- (iv) Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues, Warsaw, 26 October to 6 November 1998,
- (v) OSCE Seminar on 'Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them - The Case of the Black Sea', Istanbul, 5 and 6 November 1998.

In addition to the activities of the Fund, the Department for General Affairs, the Conflict Prevention Centre and ODIHR organized seminars and meetings on issues of relevance to the recently admitted participating States:

- (i) "Regional Security, Stability and Co-operation in Central Asia", held in February in Ashgabad, as part of the CPC programme,
- (ii) ODIHR's Civil Society Project meetings and "Women in Public Life" Regional Consultation (refer to sections on ODIHR and the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia),
- (iii) OSCE Seminar on "Interrelationship between Central and Regional Governments", Chisinau, Moldova, 1 and 2 July 1998, organized by the Department for General Affairs jointly with the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Finally, the OSCE set up an internship programme for nationals of the Central Asian States. Thanks to voluntary contributions from a number of OSCE participating States, the Secretariat was able to offer each of the five participating States from Central Asia the possibility of selecting and sending an intern to the OSCE Secretariat for a term of approximately two months.

11.2 Press and Public Information

11.2.1 Press

Press interest in the OSCE rose in 1998. High-profile events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Croatia and Kosovo (FRY) kept the OSCE in the news. On the whole, the portrayal of the OSCE in the press was both positive and informed. There seems to be a growing awareness of the Organization, reflected in the quantity and quality of coverage. This is evident in the rising number of articles compiled by the press office in the daily press clippings.

In order to cope with the increased demand on the Spokesperson, a Press Officer was hired.

The Spokesperson and Press Officer worked closely with the Polish Chairmanship in helping to keep the press and general public aware of the Organization's activities. This work included a steady stream of press releases, frequent press briefings and press conferences, background briefings for selected journalists and organized trips for media representatives interested in travelling with the Chairman-in-Office and other high-level OSCE officials (e.g. to Central Asia and the Caucasus).

Distribution of press releases was speeded up by using the Internet.

Increased efforts were made to co-ordinate press work with OSCE field activities and Institutions.

11.2.2 Public Information

The heightened profile of the OSCE in the press was complemented by an increased effort to spread the Organization's message through public information. From the beginning of the calendar year, the OSCE Newsletter introduced a new format and is now available in all six official OSCE languages. In order to increase efficiency and cut down on postage costs, the Newsletter is also distributed via e-mail. The Prague Office has improved its distribution of the Newsletter and remains, in this as in a number of other public information activities, an important asset for the Secretariat.

The third edition of the OSCE Handbook was completed and will be released at the beginning of 1999. It is a completely revised and updated version of the 1996 edition and will be available in all six official languages of the OSCE. A new-style Factsheet was also issued.

A CD-ROM was issued containing all major conference documents from 1973 to 1997. The information is in all six official OSCE languages. The process of creating the disc consolidated the digital archives in Prague and provides the basis for improvements in access to information in digital form, particularly the documentation section of the OSCE website. The creation of the disc was a joint effort between the Department for General Affairs, the Prague Office and the Department for Conference Services.

The OSCE website continues to add new features. A significant overhaul was launched in October 1998, two years after its introduction into the public domain. The goal is to improve the content (particularly in languages other than English) and the graphic elements to provide an even higher quality and quantity of information to the more than 40,000 users (3.5 million hits) who access the site every year.

The heightened level of interest in the OSCE can be noted in a marked increase in public information inquiries to the Secretariat and Prague Office, the number of visiting groups to OSCE institutions and the number of researchers asking for access to the Secretariat library and Prague archives.

Efforts were made to generate even wider interest in the OSCE by implementing a targeting project that sent public information about the Organization to research institutes, universities, schools, international organizations and NGOs that are not already on the OSCE mailing list/data base but which carry out projects in OSCE-related subjects.

A "Researcher in Residence" Programme was created to give researchers working on OSCE and OSCE-related topics the opportunity to carry out research in the OSCE archives in Prague. Proposals were introduced for improving the Secretariat library in Vienna.

The depository library project has been implemented in 53 libraries in 37 OSCE participating States (as well as Japan and Tunisia). The goal is to have at least one OSCE depository library in every participating State by the end of 1999.

The Briefing Paper series was continued with new material on OSCE missions and field activities.

11.2.3 OSCE On-Line

The OSCE On-Line project moved closer to implementation with the decision to establish a part-time post of OSCE On-Line Manager and the launching of the Information Systems Strategic Plan.

Pending a decision -by the participating States to provide additional resources, the Secretariat carried out an assessment of the technical capabilities of the prospective major users, the participating States. The results showed no incompatibilities between needs and requirements.

The Department for General Affairs continued to explore ways of improving information exchange in digital form with international organizations.

11.3 Focal Point for Gender Issues

In 1998 gender issues began to figure prominently on the agenda of the OSCE. The need for efforts to incorporate gender issues and concerns in all OSCE activities was recognized at the informal ad hoc Permanent Council meeting on follow-up to the Human Dimension Seminar on the Promotion of Women's Participation in Society, which took place in Vienna at the initiative of the Chairman-in-Office on 29 April 1998. The meeting included representatives from a number of international organizations and NGOs. The participants concluded that the time was ripe for concrete action to promote the OSCE's goals relating to women's participation in society.

The consequent appointment of the Senior Diplomatic Adviser as a focal point for gender issues in the OSCE Secretariat (May 1998), and the appointment, thanks to the generosity of the United Kingdom, of a new Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming and the Human Rights of Women at ODIHR in Warsaw (August 1998) have resulted in 1998 in a number of practical steps towards integrating gender issues in the work of the Organization.

The activities of the focal point on gender issues are intended to ensure that the meaning and purpose of gender mainstreaming are understood by OSCE personnel. A further task of the focal point is to monitor the opportunities of and for women in the OSCE institutions and Missions.

The Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming and the Human Rights of Women is responsible for developing a consistent approach to gender equality and for integrating gender issues into the various activities of the ODIHR. ODIHR is the primary OSCE institution working on projects related to gender issues.

Gender issues have been addressed in a variety of formats:

- A meeting of the Secretariat with OSCE Heads of Mission and a number of invited NGOs which the focal point addressed, and which focused on opportunities for co-operation between NGOs and the OSCE in gender mainstreaming efforts, took place in Vienna from 22 to 24 June 1998.

- ODIHR organized, in co-operation with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, a regional consultation on 'Women in Public Life' for over 50 high-level participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan between 16 and 18 June. The consultation focused on the legal framework and practical implementation of legislation, on challenges to gender equality in Central Asia, on lobbying and monitoring to enhance the status of women and on networking and sharing experience.
- For the human dimension implementation review meeting which took place from 26 October to 6 November 1998 in Warsaw, ODIHR prepared a thematic report on women's human rights which concentrated on Women in the Democratization Process/Women in Politics. Gender issues were addressed during a special roundtable on women and also in plenary debate.
- Gender issues have also been addressed in the framework of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. At the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen on 7 July 1998, a meeting of women parliamentarians on "The Role of Women in Connection with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Activities" adopted a declaration on gender mainstreaming.
- OSCE missions have also contributed considerably to gender mainstreaming efforts. The Women in Politics Program of the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized two Bosnia-- and Herzegovina-wide conferences promoting women politicians, and contributed, with NGO partners, to the promotion of gender issues in campaigning. It has also published a statistical study on Women's Representation in Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and printed a handbook for women in politics. The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan stepped up its activities regarding gender issues in 1998 with the establishment of a number of women support groups throughout the Khatlon region and has initiated work on women's rights in the Karategin valley.

III. Report of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, created as part of the "institutionalization" of the CSCE at the 1990 Paris Summit, occupies a unique place in the structure of the OSCE. The Assembly's primary task is to support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in the OSCE's participating States, to develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and to contribute to the development of the institutional structures of the OSCE and of relations and co-operation between the existing OSCE institutions. A dialogue aimed at further strengthening ties and co-operation between the

governmental and parliamentary OSCE branches has been very positive and productive. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has participated regularly in the Troika meetings and has addressed the OSCE Summits and Ministerial meetings. The International Secretariat of the OSCE PA, located in Copenhagen, has been working closely with the OSCE Secretariat and other OSCE institutions.

1. Annual Session

At its Annual Session in Copenhagen last July the Assembly considered "Development of the Structures, Institutions and Perspectives of the OSCE" as its contribution to the further strengthening of this important European and Trans-Atlantic Institution. Over three hundred parliamentarians met together to discuss this subject and to adopt a Declaration reflecting their assessment of developments relating to security and co-operation in Europe. They reiterated earlier recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly that the OSCE should adopt an "approximate consensus" rule enabling it to act if participating States are in agreement to the extent of 90 percent of both membership and financial contributions. A Resolution on Kosovo and a Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE were also included in the Final Declaration. Following an established tradition, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, along with the OSCE Secretary General and the leaders of various OSCE Institutions, addressed the Annual Session in Copenhagen and answered questions from the floor.

A Declaration of the meeting of women parliamentarians was also adopted during the Annual session.

The Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Folketing (Parliament), Ms. Helle Degn, was elected as new President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

2. Annual Briefing in Vienna

It has become a good tradition that the Standing Committee, which comprises the heads of the delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, meets at the beginning of every year in Vienna at OSCE Headquarters in the Hofburg Congress Centre.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the OSCE Secretary General and heads of other OSCE Institutions met with members of the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA last February during their meeting in Vienna and briefed them on the latest developments in the Organization's work. This briefing provides parliamentarians with the latest information about OSCE activities, while answers to questions from the floor ensure a vital direct link between Members of Parliament and the OSCE leadership. This unique dialogue has become increasingly popular with the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly.

3. Election Observation

As before, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued to make an important contribution to OSCE election observation efforts. A co-operation agreement between the Assembly and the ODIHR, signed in Copenhagen in September 1997 by the Chairman-in-Office and the President of the Assembly, was aimed at further increasing co-operation and enhancing the working relationship between these two important OSCE Institutions. In accordance with this agreement, the Chairman-in-Office has regularly appointed the President of the OSCE PA or a senior Member of Parliament as his Special Representative to lead each election monitoring operation and to present the conclusions of the observer teams. During the past eighteen months the Assembly sent delegations of parliamentarians to monitor elections in Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Slovak Republic and Macedonia. The OSCE Secretary General and the Secretary General of the OSCE PA met in Copenhagen in August in order to consider the best possible ways of further improving co-operation in election monitoring.

4. Presidential Visits and Missions

The President and other senior representatives of the Assembly have undertaken a number of official visits and missions during the past year in order to promote OSCE principles, to establish closer ties with Assembly members and to contribute to the development of democratic institutions in the OSCE area. One of the most important developments was the establishment of a Tri-Parliamentary Delegation to Albania - organized at the request of the OSCE Presence in Albania - to assist with the drafting of the new constitution and the development of democratic practices in the new Albanian Parliament. A Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, headed by the OSCE PA's President Emeritus, carried out this mission and agreed to implement the programme in a continuous manner. The Assembly's President visited Pristina, Belgrade and Skopje to discuss the dangerous situation in the area and possible ways of resolving it, and he also made official visits to Bulgaria, the Slovak Republic and Italy, while the newly elected President paid a visit to the Chairman-in-Office in Warsaw and used this occasion to visit the ODIHR Headquarters and to acquaint herself with its work. She also led the OSCE PA Delegation to the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) Conference in Moscow and met with the Speakers of the State Duma (Lower House) and the Council of Federation (Upper House), the Foreign Minister and other high parliamentary and governmental officials of the Russian Federation.

5. Seminars, Conferences and Meetings

Representatives of the Assembly participated in meetings organized by other OSCE Institutions. A highly representative delegation led by the Chairman of The Assembly's Economic Committee took part in the Economic Forum in Prague. Senior OSCE PA officials also participated in a seminar on OSCE and Council of Europe Relations in the Netherlands and in a meeting of Heads of OSCE Missions in Vienna. An Assembly delegation visited Belarus under the auspices of the OSCE Mission in Minsk and discussed the situation with representatives of the present administration and the opposition. In addition, the Assembly organized a Parliamentary Seminar on Conflict Resolution and Democratic Development in the Caucasus which was held in October in Tbilisi and was attended by senior OSCE Officials.

6. Other Activities

The Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States Interparliamentary Assembly held a joint meeting in St. Petersburg in June 1998 at which they considered further steps towards the development of democratic institutions in the countries of the former Soviet Union and upgrading the OSCE work in the area.

The Parliamentary Assembly awarded its Third Annual Prize for Journalism and Democracy to Mr. Timothy Garton Ash, a British journalist who has made a considerable contribution to developing democracies, particularly in Eastern and Central Europe.

The Assembly also continued to expand its international intern programme on the premises of the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. The internships last six months and may be extended for up to one year. Over 50 interns from 18 OSCE countries have already benefited from this programme.

IV. Resources Management

Following Decision No. 3 (MC(6).DEC/3) of the Ministerial Council Meeting in Copenhagen concerning the enhancement of the operational capacities of the Secretariat, the Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 257 (PC.DEC/257) in response to the report of the Chairman of the Group of Experts that had been established for the purpose of making relevant proposals. As a result the Secretary General reorganized the Secretariat on the basis of two main departments: the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Department for Administration and Operations. The former focuses on the support of the Chairman-in-Office in the implementation of OSCE policies, in particular the monitoring of the OSCE field activities and co-operation with other international organizations and institutions. The latter is responsible for technical, administrative and operations support functions, thus combining the functions of the present departments for Conference Services and for Administration and Budget, as well as most of the functions of the former Mission Support Section.

1. Conference Services

1.1 Meetings Services

The Department for Conference Services (DCS) handled some 1,570 meetings during the reporting period from 1 December 1997 to 30 November 1998 in Vienna - a large number reflecting the continuous growth of OSCE activities on a broad range of different subject matters deriving from the OSCE's increased involvement in various geographical areas. Prominent is the need for informal consultations, and hence a substantial increase in the number of informal meetings, each with its own documentation requirements.

- The total number of Permanent Council meetings and related "PC" consultations was 370.
- The total number of Forum for Security Co-operation meetings and related "FSC" meetings was 220.

The DCS serviced over 135 meetings of the Joint Consultative Group and the Open Skies Consultative Commission.

310 informal meetings of regional groups or groups of OSCE participating States with an interest in specific topics also took place during this period. Meetings related to the work of the European Union took place on approximately 300 occasions.

The number of briefings for student groups, academics, research institutions and other organizations is increasing; 95 briefings had been held during the reporting period, as compared to 67 during 1997.

1.2 Documents Distribution

The tasks include registration, reproduction, distribution and archiving of documents, co-ordination of meeting room bookings, servicing accreditation and cultural co-ordination. The Documents Distribution Unit receives about 90 requests per day. During the reporting period, approximately 3,500 documents were distributed to OSCE delegations and the Secretariat, containing information relevant to the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Joint Consultative Group and the Open Skies Consultative Commission, information bearing on budgetary and financial questions as well as more general information.

The workload of the Documents Distribution Section is steadily increasing from year to year. If we compare the number of documents distributed in 1994, namely 3,856, with the number distributed in 1997, 6,016, we see that there has been a 56% increase over three years.

Owing to the rapid growth in the number of meetings held and documents distributed, it was decided, in August this year, to undertake a revision of the existing system with the aim of facilitating the eventual switch-over to a digital archive system in the OSCE. This should make it possible to cope more effectively with the requirements of delegations, institutions and the Secretariat in a manner consistent with the demand for greater transparency, openness and flexibility in the operation of the OSCE.

1.3 Interpretation

Interpretation was provided as usual for the bodies involved in implementing the regular OSCE programme (e.g. the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Security Model Committee) and also for the Joint Consultative Group and the Open Skies Consultative Commission meetings. Interpretation was also provided for the following meetings away from Vienna:

- Ministerial Council Meeting, Copenhagen, 19 and 20 December 1997
- Human Dimension Seminar on Ombudsman and National Human Rights Protection Institutions, Warsaw, 25 - 28 May 1998
- Economic Forum, Prague, 1 - 5 June 1998
- "Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity", a meeting held under the auspices of the HCNM and the ODIHR, Locarno, 18 - 20 October 1998

- OSCE Mediterranean Seminar, Valetta, Malta, 19 and 20 October 1998
- Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues, Warsaw, 26 October to 6 November 1998

Additional recruitment of interpreters and translators was required for other "special meetings" held in Vienna, such as those of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission, Article II/Article IV consultations, the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, the HCNM Seminar on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting and the Seminar on Defence Policies and Military Doctrines.

1.4 Translation, Documents Control and Editing

During the reporting period the Translation unit of Language Services translated and edited over 8,000 standard pages and word processed over 16,500 standard pages of OSCE texts and documents in one or more of the six official OSCE languages. Using translation staff based in Vienna, Language Services provided translation and editing support for several major OSCE meetings and conferences (including the Ministerial Council in Copenhagen, the Economic Forum meeting in Prague and the ODIHR Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues in Warsaw), texts being received from and returned to the meeting electronically in some cases. Starting with the February 1998 issue, Language Services has translated the monthly OSCE Newsletter into all OSCE languages. It also compiled *OSCE Decisions 1997* during the period under review. In collaboration with staff from the Department for General Affairs and the Prague Office, computer files of CSCE and OSCE documents were prepared for inclusion in the OSCE CD-ROM. In addition, Language Services staff edited and translated the supporting texts for the CD-ROM and helped test the beta versions of the product.

2. Finance

2.1 Budgeting

The Budget for 1998, initially established at the level of ATS 616.4 million, was approved by the Permanent Council on 16 December 1997 (PC.DEC/207). On 29 January 1998 the Permanent Council also approved a budget for OSCE tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the level of ATS 322.8 million. An additional budget to cover the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, amounting to ATS 489 million, was approved on 7 April 1998.

The 1998 Budget was further increased through separate decisions of the Permanent Council to include budgets for the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, for the enhancement of the OSCE Presence in Albania

and the OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje, and for the OSCE Centres in Bishkek, Ashgabad and Almaty, as well as additional budgets for the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, for ODIHR, for the 1998 Human Dimension Implementation meeting, and for the 1998 Ministerial Council Meeting in Oslo.

On 11 November 1998, the Permanent Council approved the 1998 Budget for the Kosovo Verification Mission in an amount of ATS 756.5 million. Thus the total budget for 1998 was established at the level of ATS 2,251.1 million.

The Secretary General submitted his budget proposals for 1999 on 1 October. With this submission an effort was made to present a document of a new type, in accordance with the principles of Programme Budgeting. The new budget proposals are based on two earlier documents issued in 1998, a background paper on the OSCE and Programme Budgeting (PC.IFC/21/98) and a Budget Outline (PC.IFC/25/98), the latter being an innovation.

2.2 Accounting

The report of the External Auditors included an unqualified audit opinion certifying that

- the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the OSCE as at 31 December 1997, and the results of the operations then ended;
- they were prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles;
- transactions were in accordance with the approved financial procedures and legislative authority.

The audited financial statements for 1997 were submitted to the Delegations of participating States on 27 May 1998, and were accepted by the Permanent Council on 23 July 1998 (PC DEC/249).

A training seminar for local finance and administration staff members at the OSCE missions and institutions was held during the period from 15 to 19 June 1998.

2.3 Cash Management

A new second scale of assessment for the large OSCE missions and projects was adopted on 19 December 1997 (MC(6).DEC/8) along with a system of voluntary funding in order to accept financial contributions for such larger missions and projects. Pledges have been received in respect of this voluntary fund amounting to ATS 72 million. The residual balance was billed in the Fourth Bill dated 29 July.

Arrears procedures in accordance with the Financial Regulations were implemented in order to reduce the outstanding contributions. In order to monitor the impact of the outstanding balances on the operational capability of the OSCE, a regular cash flow report was introduced.

On-line Electronic banking was fully installed in accordance with the recommendations of the External Auditors.

During the deployment of over 2,500 Polling supervisors for the Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, subsistence allowance cash payments were made over three days amounting to DEM 4.5 million. Such projects highlight the OSCE's ability to respond effectively and efficiently to such challenges.

New bank accounts were established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo for the Benefits Commission and in Brcko for the Regional Centre.

3. Personnel

3.1 Policies and Procedures

By Decision No. 257 (see above) the Permanent Council amended Regulation 4.07 of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules for Fixed-Term Staff. This amendment sets the maximum period of service for appointments of staff members holding posts in the professional category, when factors related to institutional memory and continuity are of central importance, at seven years. Pending the design of an integrated human resources management system in the OSCE's Information System Strategy Plan, initial efforts have been undertaken to improve the links between personnel and finance with regard to information exchange on various personnel actions.

3.2 Social Security

Improved health coverage for fixed term staff in Institutions were negotiated with the Insurer and are expected to take effect in 1999. Health coverage for local staff in the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was also negotiated with the Insurer and came into effect on 1 April 1998.

3.3 Recruitment

At the request of the participating States, a report on the implementation of the recruitment policy was submitted to the Permanent Council in March. The report pointed out the root causes of problems affecting recruitment.

Recruitment activity in 1998 continued at the same pace as in 1997. During the reporting period, 46 vacancy notices had been issued for fixed term posts. Recruitment of short-term staff to meet short-term needs continued throughout the year.

A special section in the OSCE website has been designated for job openings. Information on vacancies in Institutions can be accessed in the web pages. (<http://www.osce.org>)

3.4 Internship Programme

The OSCE accepted offers of service from nine interns in 1998 under the normal internship programme. These interns have assisted the Conflict Prevention Centre, the Department for General Affairs, and the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities. In addition, a special internship programme funded through voluntary contributions was implemented specifically for the benefit of Central Asian States. In this special programme five interns assisted the Conflict Prevention Centre at various times during the year.

3.5 Post Classification

Following the submission of two reports on this subject to the Permanent Council, a Job Classifier will be conducting a global review of post classification in the OSCE using the ICSC job classification standards in the context of OSCE specificities. The review is to be carried out in two stages. The initial stage, covering posts in Institutions that need to be dealt with fairly urgently, has commenced in November 1998.

4. Information Technology

4.1 The Secretariat

In addition to support for all software and computer equipment (about 500 major items), procurement of such items and assistance with evaluations and trials of new technologies, critical upgrades were made to the information-systems infrastructure within the Secretariat in 1998.

The upgrading included:

- Expansion of the network cabling at Kärntnerring to include a significant portion of the 5th floor (Finance and Personnel) and the 9th floor (Freedom of the Media). A LAN was installed for Article V;
- Upgrading of the computer network at the Hofburg offices to a structured system, improvement of the connectivity to the Kärntnerring;
- Installation of a computer working area for delegates at the Department for Conference Services;
- Development and implementation of applications to support:
 - the 1999 budget preparation process;
 - human resources management and payroll for the Secretariat (November 98);
 - human resources management of seconded staff for the Mission Staffing Section;
 - the Archive of the Secretariat and HCNM;
 - the processing of job applications for the Secretariat;
- Organization of data entry for different database applications (addresses, inventory checks, e-mail users, etc.);
- Consolidation of the Kärntnerring ITS offices into a new single location on the 4th floor;
- Provision of on-site technical support for the 1997 Ministerial Council meeting in Copenhagen;
- Co-ordination of installations and training for new/replacement staff at the Secretariat;
- Issue of the first set of Administrative Instructions related to IT (3/1998);
- Assistance to CSBM in the selection and evaluation of the upgraded network;
- Ongoing improvements to the technical IT infrastructure of the Secretariat (e.g. NT rollout, Internet upgrades, software installations, LAN management tools);
- Improvement of Help Desk services at all sites in the Secretariat.

4.2 The Missions

In 1998 the IT Section continued to provide basic general support and assistance for a number of specific projects. This included:

- Assistance to the Mission Support Section (MSS) with the completion of their BPR (Business Process Re-engineering) project;
- General computer advice and assistance as requested (e.g. approaches to control of computer viruses, reference material), including help with the procurement process for computer-related services, equipment and software, and IT reviews as part of the 1999 budget submission for the missions;

- Assistance with/advice about support relating to all major computer components and associated services;
- Specific and general IT training for mission staff (as part of the Secretariat's new mission member training programme);
- On-site consulting support for the Mission to Croatia with regard to developing an IT infrastructure and implementing a network;
- Support for MSS and the International Organization for Migration in the procurement of additional equipment required for the 1998 Bosnia and Herzegovina elections, reconditioning and upgrading of "Out of Country Voting" computers for redeployment;
- Software enhancement and on-site support for the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in connection with the Election Supervisors registration process.

Starting mid-October the Secretariat's IT Section made significant contributions to assist in the start-up of the Kosovo Verification Mission;

- Assisted the KVM Support Unit in planning, budgeting and in the initial implementation of all IT related services for the mission. This was accomplished by the full-time reassignment of one of the IT Officers to the Support Unit for the duration of the mission.
- Provided initial assistance in gathering IT related logistical information and IT Support in Kosovo by the temporary assignment of the IT Help Desk staff member.
- Redesigned critical components of the Secretariat's IT infrastructure and service mechanisms in order to accommodate the very significant increases in staff and volumes of activities resulting from the KVM.

4.3 Information Systems Strategic Plan

The OSCE-wide Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) has been developed and widely circulated in the OSCE. The critical components of the plan (financial management system, material management system and enhancement of the IT Section) were approved by the Permanent Council.

A consultant has been engaged to develop the functional requirements and issue the tender document. The recruitment process for the staff identified in the ISSP is underway.

An Invitation to Tender has been formulated and issued for the Financial Management and Material Management Systems (November 1998).

5. Legal Matters

Legal assistance was provided to the Secretariat, other OSCE Institutions and Missions, as well as to delegations. The main areas of interest were privileges and immunities; drafting of and advice on international legal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding governing the activities of missions and other operations; contracting, claims and insurance matters; taxation, social security, personnel questions; and drafting and interpretation of documents, such as the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations and Rules.

6. Training

In 1998 the Secretariat launched an OSCE Training Strategy. It concentrates on the training needed for field missions. The implementation of this strategy has been entrusted to a Co-ordinator, Ambassador Sune Danielsson, seconded to the Secretariat by the Government of Sweden. The implementation of the strategy would constitute a considerable step forward in the use of human resources available to the OSCE, in particular its field missions, and result in a more cost-effective management approach.

7. Other Administrative Tasks

The General Services Unit continued to provide services to the OSCE Secretariat and the Missions, including a travel office (flight planning and booking, hotel accommodation), liaison with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding registration of staff with the Austrian authorities and tax exemption privileges. It also continued to service the OSCE missions and institutions by pouch. The archive and registry unit is endeavouring to cope with ever growing amounts of communication traffic (for example, the Mission Report processing workload increased by 40 per cent over 1997). Owing to the constantly increasing number of missions and other field activities, over 20,000 original documents were registered and processed for internal and/or external distribution during the reporting period.

The efforts of the General Services Unit were vital in the planning, design and procurement activities required for the establishment of the seat of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Article V Negotiations, and the expansion of the Secretariat premises to the fifth floor of the Kärntnerring where the Accounts, Budget, Personnel and Treasury offices are accommodated.

Forms and Fora of Co-operation in the OSCE Area

G-7/G-8 (Group of Seven/Eight)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Council of Europe

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)¹

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)

EAPC Observer

Partnership for Peace (PfP)

NATO-Russia-Founding Act/NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council

NATO-Ukraine-Charter/NATO-Ukraine Commission

European Union (EU)²

EU Association Agreement

Western European Union (WEU)

Associate Members of the WEU³

Associate Partners of the WEU

WEU Observers⁴

Eurocorps

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Baltic Defence Council

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

Nordic Council

Council of the Baltic Sea States

Central European Free Trade Agreement/Area (CEFTA)

Central European Initiative (CEI)

1 On 12 March 1999 Poland, The Czech Republic and Hungary became members of NATO.

2 At the meeting of the European Council on 12 and 13 December 1997 in Luxembourg it was decided to begin negotiations on accession with Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia.

3 The NATO member states Iceland, Norway and Turkey joined the WEU as associate members on 6 March 1995. In WEU practice no difference is made between associate and full members.

4 The EU countries Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden, which are not members of NATO, have observer status which, however, is confined to information exchange and presence in meetings in individual cases and on invitation.

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)
Black Sea Economic Cooperation

North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA)

The 55 OSCE Participating States - Facts and Figures¹

1. Albania

Date of Accession: June 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 28,748 km² (OSCE Ranking: 45)

Population: 3,689,000² (OSCE Ranking: 41)

*GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP*³: 2.170 (OSCE Ranking: 41)⁴

GDP growth: -8.2 per cent⁵ (OSCE Ranking: 40)⁶

Armed Forces (Active): (approximately 6,000 - 12,000, no reliable data*)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

* There are plans to reorganize the armed forces and to reduce personnel strength to 20,000. Before the unrest in 1997 personnel strength was between 51,000 and 54,000.

2. Andorra

Date of Accession: April 1996

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 467.76 km² (50)

Population: 64,000 (1995) (51)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe

3. Armenia

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 29,800 km² (44)

Population: 3,925,000 (39)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,540 (38)

1 Drawn up by Mark Manger.

2 Data from: The International Institute for Strategic Studies (Ed.), *The Military Balance 1998-1999*, London 1998; and Internet homepage of the United Nations: <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/social/poptn.htm>. The figures refer to 1998 (Military Balance) and 1999 (UN) if not mentioned otherwise.

3 PPP: Purchasing Power Parity (figures as of 1997 in US-\$). PPP is defined as the number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amounts of goods and services in the domestic market as US-\$ 1 would buy in the United States. See The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 1999*, Washington, D.C. 1999, pp. 58ff.

4 Out of 46 registered countries.

5 Changes as regards to 1996.

6 Out of 48 registered countries.

GDP growth: 8.6 per cent (4)

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 60,000 (19)⁷

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

4. Austria

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 83,858 km² (29)

Population: 8,075,000 (25)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,100 (8)

GDP growth: 0.8 per cent (34)

Armed Forces (Active): 45,500 (27)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, CEI

5. Azerbaijan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 86,600 km² (28)

Population: 7,625,000 (26)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,520 (43)

GDP growth: 3.1 per cent (20)

Armed Forces (Active): 72,150 (17)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

6. Belarus

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 207,595 km² (19)

Population: 10,196,00 (19)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,820 (30)

GDP growth: 11.1 per cent (3)

Armed Forces (Active): 83,000 (15)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, CEI

7 Out of 48 registered countries.

7. Belgium

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 30,528 km² (43)

Population: 10,104,000 (20)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 23,090 (6)

GDP growth: 2.4 per cent (24)

Armed Forces (Active): 43,700 (29)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps

8. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date of Accession: April 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 51,129 km² (36)

Population: approximately 4,000,000 (38)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: 20-30 per cent⁸ (1)

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 55,000 (planned) (24)⁹

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: CEI, SECI

9. Bulgaria

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 110,994 km² (23)

Population: 8,349,000 (24)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,870 (35)

GDP growth: -6.5 per cent (39)

Armed Forces (Active): 101,500 (14)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

10. Canada

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 5.45 per cent

Area: 9,958,319 km² (2)

Population: 28,959,000 (11)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 21,750 (9)

8 Estimation of the World Bank, see The World Bank, World Development Indicators 1999, p. 59.

9 The OSCE ranking refers to the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska as a whole.

GDP growth: 4.0 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 60,600 (18)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, NATO, EAPC, NAFTA

11. Croatia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 56,538 km² (35)

Population: 4,792,000 (33)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,930 (29)

GDP growth: 3.7 per cent (17)

Armed Forces (Active): 56,180 (22)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, CEI, SECI

12. Cyprus

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 9,251 km² (48)

Population: 860,000 (47)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: 2.3 per cent (25)

Armed Forces (Active): 10,000 (4119)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement

13. Czech Republic

Date of Accession: January 1993

Scale of Distribution: 0.67 per cent

Area: 78,864 km² (30)

Population: 10,311,000 (18)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 10,380 (23)

GDP growth: 1.0 per cent (33)

Armed Forces (Active): 59,100 (20)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI

14. Denmark

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 43,094 km² (39)

Population: 5,246,000 (as of January 1997) (31)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 23,450 (5)
GDP growth: 4.1 per cent (14)
Armed Forces (Active): 32,100 (32)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

15. Estonia

Date of Accession: September 1991
Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent
Area: 45,227 km² (38)
Population: 1,454,000 (46)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 5,090 (28)
GDP growth: 8.0 per cent (6)
Armed Forces (Active): 4,340 (45)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

16. Finland

Date of Accession: November 1972
Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent
Area: 338,139 km² (13)
Population: 5,152,000 (32)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 19,660 (15)
GDP growth: 6.2 per cent (8)
Armed Forces (Active): 31,700 (32)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

17. France

Date of Accession: November 1972
Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent
Area: 543,965 km² (7)
Population: 58,905,000 (5)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,210 (7)
GDP growth: 3.6 per cent (18)
Armed Forces (Active): 358,800 (4)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps

18. Georgia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 69,700 km² (32)

Population: 5,423,000 (29)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,980 (42)

GDP growth: 13.2 per cent (2)

Armed Forces (Active): 33,200 (31)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, Council of Europe¹⁰, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

19. Germany

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 356,854 km² (12)

Population: 81,102,000 (3)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 21,170 (11)

GDP growth: 1.9 per cent (27)

Armed Forces (Active): 333,500 (6)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Council of the Baltic Sea States

20. Greece

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 131,957 km² (22)

Population: 10,597,000 (17)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 12,540 (21)

GDP growth: 1.1 per cent (32)

Armed Forces (Active): 168,500 (12)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

21. The Holy See

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 0.44 km² (55)

Population: 802 (55)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none (94 members of the Swiss Guard) (49)

10 Since 27 April 1999.

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: none

22. Hungary

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 93,030 km² (26)

Population: 10,050,000 (21)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,970 (25)

GDP growth: 4.7 per cent (12)

Armed Forces (Active): 43,300 (30)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI, SECI

23. Iceland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 103,000 km² (24)

Population: 278,000 (50)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,460¹¹ (13)

GDP growth: 5.0 per cent (11)

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, Associate Partner of the WEU, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

24. Ireland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 70,283 km² (31)

Population: 3,673,000 (42)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 17,420 (17)

GDP growth: 8.2 per cent (5)

Armed Forces (Active): 11,500 (38)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EU, WEU Observer

25. Italy

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 301,302 km² (16)

11 Estimation for 1997.

Population: 57,900,000 (7)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,100 (14)
GDP growth: 1.6 per cent (29)
Armed Forces (Active): 298,400 (7)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, CEI

26. Kazakhstan

Date of Accession: January 1992
Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent
Area: 2,717,300 km² (4)
Population: 15,900,000 (14)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,530 (36)
GDP growth: 1.7 per cent (28)
Armed Forces (Active): 55,100 (23)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

27. Kyrgyzstan

Date of Accession: January 1992
Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent
Area: 198,500 km² (20)
Population: 4,550,000 (35)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,180 (40)
GDP growth: 8.6 per cent (4)
Armed Forces (Active): 12,200 (37)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

28. Latvia

Date of Accession: September 1991
Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent
Area: 64,589 km² (34)
Population: 2,458,900 (43)
GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,970 (34)
GDP growth: 4.0 per cent (15)
Armed Forces (Active): 4,960 (44)
Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

29. Liechtenstein

Date of Accession: November 1972
Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent
Area: 160 km² (52)

Population: 28,000 (53)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, since 1923

Community of Law, Economy and Currency with Switzerland, since 1995

Member of the European Economic and Monetary Space

30. Lithuania

Date of Accession: September 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 65,300 km² (33)

Population: 3,700,000 (as of July 1997) (40)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,140 (33)

GDP growth: 4.0 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 11,130 (39)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP,

EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence

Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

31. Luxembourg

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 2,586 km² (49)

Population: 414,000 (48)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 37,930¹² (1)

GDP growth: 3.7 per cent (17)

Armed Forces (Active): 811 (48)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe,

NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps

12 Estimation for 1997.

32. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Date of Accession: October 1995

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 25,713 km² (46)

Population: 2,284,000 (44)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,180 (37)

GDP growth: 1.2 per cent (31)

Armed Forces (Active): 20,000 (35)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, CEI, SECI

33. Malta

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 315.6 km² (51)

Population: 375,000 (49)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 13,380 (20)

GDP growth: 2.8 per cent (22)

Armed Forces (Active): 1,900 (47)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EU Association Agreement

34. Moldova

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 33,700 km² (42)

Population: 4,315,000 (37)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,450 (44)

GDP growth: -0.3 per cent¹³ (36)

Armed Forces (Active): 11,050 (40)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, CIS, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

35. Monaco

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 1.95 km² (54)

Population: 30,000 (52)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

13 Without Trans-Dniestria.

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Member of the European Economic and Monetary Space by special agreement with France

36. Netherlands

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 41,864 km² (40)

Population: 15,655,000 (15)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 21,300 (10)

GDP growth: 3.4 per cent (19)

Armed Forces (Active): 57,180 (21)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU

37. Norway

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 323,877 km² (14)

Population: 4,407,000 (36)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 24,260 (4)

GDP growth: 3.4 per cent (19)

Armed Forces (Active): 28,900 (34)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, Associate Member of the WEU, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

38. Poland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 1.4 per cent

Area: 312,685 km² (15)

Population: 38,659,000 (10)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,510 (26)

GDP growth: 6.8 per cent (7)

Armed Forces (Active): 240,650 (8)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Council of the Baltic Sea States, CEFTA, CEI

39. Portugal

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 92,389 km² (27)

Population: 9,873,000 (22)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 14,180 (19)

GDP growth: 4.5 per cent (13)

Armed Forces (Active): 53,600 (25)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU

40. Romania

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 237,500 km² (18)

Population: 22,520,000 (13)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,270 (32)

GDP growth: -4.7 per cent (38)

Armed Forces (Active): 219,650 (9)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

41. Russian Federation*

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 17,075,400 km² (1)

Population: 146,600,000 (2)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,280 (31)

GDP growth: 0.3 per cent (35)

Armed Forces (Active): 1,159,000 (2)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-8, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, CIS, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

* The Russian Federation is the legal successor of the USSR in the OSCE

42. San Marino

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 60.57 km² (53)

Population: 25,000 (1995) (54)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe

43. Slovakia

Date of Accession: January 1993

Scale of Distribution: 0.33 per cent

Area: 49,035 km² (36)

Population: 5,391,000 (30)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 7,860 (24)

GDP growth: 6.1 per cent (9)

Armed Forces (Active): 45,450 (28)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI

44. Slovenia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 20,254 km² (47)

Population: 2,015,000 (45)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 11,880 (22)

GDP growth: 3.6 per cent (18)

Armed Forces (Active): 9,550 (42)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, CEFTA, CEI, SECI

45. Spain

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.65 per cent

Area: 504,782 km² (8)

Population: 39,200,000 (9)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 15,690 (18)

GDP growth: 3.0 per cent (21)

Armed Forces (Active): 193,950 (11)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps

46. Sweden

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 449,964 km² (10)

Population: 8,882,000 (23)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 19,010 (16)

GDP growth: 1.4 per cent (30)

Armed Forces (Active): 53,100 (26)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

47. Switzerland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.3 per cent

Area: 41,284 km² (41)

Population: 7,070,000 (27)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 26,580 (3)

GDP growth: 2.7 per cent (23)

Armed Forces (Active): 3,300 (46)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, PfP, EAPC

48. Tajikistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 143,100 km² (21)

Population: 6,150,000 (28)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1100 (46)

GDP growth: 2.2 per cent (26)

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 7,000 - 9,000 (43)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, CIS

49. Turkey

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 1.0 per cent

Area: 779,452 km² (5)

Population: 62,600,000 (as of November 1997) (4)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,470 (27)

GDP growth: 8.6 per cent (4)

Armed Forces (Active): 639,000 (3)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU Association Agreement, Associate Member of the WEU, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

50. Turkmenistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 488,100 km² (9)

Population: 4,600,000 (34)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,410 (45)

GDP growth: -24.0 per cent (41)

Armed Forces (Active): 17,000 - 19,000 (36)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

51. Ukraine

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 1.75 per cent

Area: 603,700 km² (6)

Population: 50,480,000 (8)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,170 (41)

GDP growth: -3.2 per cent (37)

Armed Forces (Active): 346,000 (5)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, NATO-Ukraine Commission, CIS, CEI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

52. United Kingdom

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 242,429 km² (17)

Population: 58,644,000 (6)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,710 (12)

GDP growth: 4.0 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 210,940 (10)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU

53. USA

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 9,372,614 km² (3)

Population: 270,629,000 (1)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 29,080 (2)

GDP growth: 3.8 per cent (16)

Armed Forces (Active): 1,401,600 (1)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, NATO, EAPC, SECI, NAFTA

54. Uzbekistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 447,400 km² (11)

Population: 23,300,000 (12)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,370 (33)

GDP growth: 5.2 per cent (10)

Armed Forces (Active): 80,000 (16)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

55. Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)*

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 102,173 km² (25)

Population: 10,600,000 (16)

GDP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GDP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 114,200 (13)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: suspended

* The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been suspended from OSCE participation since 7 July 1992.

Sources: Werner Deutsch, Financing of the OSCE, in: Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH (Ed.), OSCE Yearbook 1998, Baden-Baden 1999, Annex 2, pp. 406-407; The International Institute for Strategic Studies (Ed.), The Military Balance 1998-1999, London 1998; Mojmir Krizan, Der widerspenstige "Friedensprozeß". Bosnien und Herzegowina zwei Jahre nach der Unterzeichnung des Friedensabkommens von Dayton, in: Osteuropa 1/1998, pp. 57-78, here: p. 66; Internet homepage of the United Nations: <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/social/poptn.htm>; The World Bank, The World Development Indicators 1999, Washington, D.C. 1999; Wolfgang Zellner/Pál Dunay, Ungarns Außenpolitik 1990-1997. Zwischen Westintegration, Nachbarschafts- und Minderheitenpolitik, Baden-Baden 1998, Chapter III.6.

OSCE Conferences, Meetings and Events 1998/1999

1998

14-22 July	A delegation of the OSCE Troika at the level of ambassadors visits the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) to carry out a technical assessment mission.
15-16 July	Joint OSCE/OECD conference on "National and International Approaches to Improve Integrity and Transparency", Paris.
15 July	Ambassador Ján Kubiš is awarded the OSCE medal.
23 July	The Permanent Council decides to establish three new OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabat and Bishkek.
28-29 July	An OSCE delegation led by Secretary General Giancarlo Aragona takes part in the third meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations in New York.
	Conference on the "Free Inter-Ethnic Radio Network", FERN in Bosnien and Herzegovina, Vienna.
10-13 August	The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), Max van der Stoep, visits Georgia.
24-25 August	Visit of the HCNM to Latvia.
2-5 September	Visit of the HCNM to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
10-13 September	OHDIR Director Gérard Stoudmann, visits Azerbaijan.
19 September	A delegation of the OSCE and the Council of Europe led by OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek, visits Albania.
21 September	Meeting of the OSCE Troika in New York.
23 September	The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, according to Resolution No. 1160 of the UN Security Council, conveys a report to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on "The situation in Kosovo and measures taken by the OSCE".
22-24 September	Seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them", Tashkent.
5-6 October	Seminar on "Conflict Resolution and Democratic Development in the Caucasus", Tbilisi.
7-8 October	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, visits Canada.
8 October	The OSCE Chairman-in-Office meets with the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group.
11-14 October	Visit of the HCNM to Croatia.

13 October	Holbrooke-Milošević Agreement, <i>inter alia</i> , on the establishment of an OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo.
13-14 October	Conference on "OSCE and Subregional Groups: Co-operation between Mutually Reinforcing Institutions", Stockholm.
15 October	The UNHCR, Sadako Ogata, visits the OSCE; signing of an " <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i> " by the UNHCR and the OSCE Secretary General Giancarlo Aragona.
15-16 October	ODIHR Workshop on new election legislation in Uzbekistan, Tashkent.
16 October	Agreement on the creation of an OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) between the OSCE and the FRY. OSCE begins monitoring the work of the police force in Eastern Slavonia.
17 October	The Chairman-in-Office appoints William G. Walker Head of the KVM.
18-20 October	Conference on "Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity", Locarno.
19-20 October	Mediterranean Seminar on "The Human Dimension of Security, Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law", Valletta.
21 October	The OSCE Troika meets in Oslo. Endorsement for the OSCE KVM through UN Security Council resolution 1203.
25 October	The Permanent Council formally establishes the KVM.
26 Oct.- 6 Nov.	IVth OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues, Warsaw.
5-6 November	Seminar on "Sub-regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them", Istanbul.
9-11 November	Visit of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.
9-11 November	Workshop "Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Issue for the OSCE?", Vienna.
17-20 November	Joint Conference of ODIHR, UNEAD, UNDP and IFES on "Election Administration: Regional Experience and Comparative Perspectives", Almaty.
23-26 November	The Chairman-in-Office visits Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan; signing of " <i>Memoranda of Understanding</i> " between the OSCE and all three Governments.
25-26 November	Training Seminar for Journalists, Sharituz, Tajikistan.

2-3 December	7th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, Oslo; signing of "Memoranda of Understanding" with the Governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
3 December	5th NGO/Government Consultation in Bishkek under the auspices of the OSCE.
4-5 December	Seminar on "Human Rights and Police Work", Minsk.
13-16 December	The HCNM visits Slovakia.
13 December	Establishment of an ODIHR assessment mission to assess and report on the Presidential elections in Kazakhstan.

1999

1 January	Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk succeeds Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek as Chairman-in-Office.
9-13 January	The Chairman-in-Office visits Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia and FRY.
10-13 January	Visit of the HCNM to Latvia.
18-28 January	Needs assessment mission of the ODIHR to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
20 January	Meeting of the OSCE Troika, Vienna.
29-30 January	Seminar on "Democratic Control of Armed Forces and Security Policy", Sarajevo.
7-10 February	Visit of the HCNM to Croatia.
8-9 February	Joint visit to Croatia by senior officials of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the UN led by Are Jostein Norheim representing the Chairman-in-Office.
22-23 February	Mediterranean Seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them - The Case of the Mediterranean Region", Valletta.
22-25 February	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Baku.
24-25 February	OSCE/ODIHR meeting on electoral assistance strategy for the countries in Central Asia, Warsaw. Meeting of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission on Arms Control, Vienna.
1-2 March	The Chairman-in-Office travels to the FRY to meet with President Milošević.
2-4 March	Visit of the HCNM to Macedonia.

15-16 March	Visit of the HCNM to Slovakia. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Minsk.
15-19 March	Second Review Conference on the Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vienna.
19 March	The Chairman-in-Office decides to withdraw the KVM.
22 March	First Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Vienna.
25-29 March	Visits of the HCNM to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
26 March	The Chairman-in-Office calls an extraordinary meeting of the OSCE Troika in Vienna.
April	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
6-7 April	The Chairman-in-Office visits Albania and Macedonia.
7-9 April	Meeting of the HCNM with representatives of the UNDP and the World Bank, New York and Washington, D.C.
13-14 April	Visit of the HCNM to the Czech Republic.
15-16 April	Visit of the HCNM to Macedonia.
18-21 April	Visit of the HCNM to Ukraine.
26-27 April	Seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them - The Case of the Baltic Region", Warnemünde.
27-30 April	Seminar on "Human Rights: the Role of the Field Missions", Warsaw.
28 April	Meeting of the OSCE Troika, Vienna.
30 April	Visit of the HCNM to Slovakia.
30 April	The Mandate of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine expires.
5 May	Journalists seminar, Sarajevo.
6-7 May	Visit of the HCNM to Estonia.
6-17 May	An OSCE delegation led by ODIHR Director Ambassador Stoudmann visits Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
9-11 May	Visit of the HCNM to Macedonia.
10-11 May	Workshop on the activities of the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo.
17-19 May	Seminar on "Co-operation among International Organizations and Institutions: Experiences and Prospects in South-Eastern Europe", Sofia.
21-28 May	Joint OSCE/UN election assessment mission to Tajikistan.
23-29 May	Training course for Uzbek Border Guards, Ketrzyn, Poland.

24-25 May	Visit of the HCNM to Latvia.
25-28 May	Seventh Economic Forum, Prague.
26-28 May	Workshop on the "Development of Election Legislation", Dushanbe.
14 June	Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Gender Issues, Vienna. Ambassador Ján Kubiš succeeds Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona in the office of OSCE Secretary General.
23-24 June	Joint workshop of the ODIHR and The Supreme Court of Ukraine on "Resolving Election Disputes", Kyiv.
4-5 July	Workshop on the registration of permanent residents, Tbilisi.
6-10 July 1999	Eighth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, St. Petersburg.
7-9 July	The Chairman-in-Office visits Skopje and Kosovo.
8-9 July	The HCNM visits London. Second workshop on the registration of permanent residents, Yerevan.
11-16 July	Joint pilotworkshop on human rights training for field missions organized by UNCHR, Council of Europe, European Commission and OSCE, Venice.

Max Obenaus

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Acronyms

AAN	Action Alert Network (IFEX)
ACCAPP	Administrative Centre for the Co-ordination of Assistance and Public Participation (of the OSCE Presence in Albania)
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
ANEM	Association of Independent Electronic Media
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CALO	Central Asia Liaison Office (of the OSCE)
CASIN	Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement/Area
CEI	Central European Initiative
CFE I	Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
CFE IA	Concluding Act of the Negotiations on Personnel Strength of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy (of the EU)
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CJFE	Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Force
CNR	Commission for National Reconciliation (Tajikistan)
COLPI	Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CPN	Conflict Prevention Network
CSBMs	Confidence- and Security-Building Measures
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (since 1 January 1995: OSCE)
CSO	Committee of Senior Officials (since 1 January 1995: Senior Council)
DSACEUR	Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EASC	Election Appeals Sub-Commission (of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina)
ECE/UN	Economic Commission for Europe (of the UN)
ECHR	European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
ECMM	European Community Monitor Mission
ECU	European Currency Unit
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Friedrich Ebert Foundation

FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
GUUAM	Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova
G-7/G-8	Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, USA)/G-8: G-7 and Russia
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities (of the OSCE)
HDZ	Croatian Democratic Union
HRAP	Human Rights Alert Programme (of the OSCE Presence in Albania)
IAPA	Inter American Press Association
ICG	International Crisis Group (for Bosnia and Herzegovina)
ICKKTU	Interstate Council of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IFEX	International Freedom of Expression eXchange
IFOR	Implementation Force
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPTF	International Police Task Force
ITU	Telecommunications Union
KCD	Coalition for a Whole and Democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina
KDOM	Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army (also known as UCK)
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission
LCO	Legal Counsellor's Office (of the OSCE Presence in Albania)
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MPC	Mediterranean partners for co-operation
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDI	National Democratic Institute (USA)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHI	New Croatian Initiative
NPMS	Non-participating Mediterranean States
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs
ODCCP	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHR	Office of the High Representative

OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSFA	Open Society Foundation for Albania (Soros)
PA	Parliamentary Assembly (of the OSCE)
PC	Permanent Council (of the OSCE)
PEC	Provisional Election Commission (of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina)
PEL	Permanent Election Law (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PHARE	Poland and Hungary Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy
PIC	Peace Implementation Conference/Peace Implementation Council
PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
PIR	Party of Islamic Rebirth (Tajikistan)
PPSC	Political Party Service Centre (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
PRC	Political Resource Centre (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
SACEUR	Supreme Allied Commander Europe
SDA	Party of Democratic Action (Bosniac)
SDBiH	Social Democrats of Bosnia and Herzegovina
SDP	Social Democratic Party (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
SDS	Serbian Democratic Party
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SFOR	Stabilization Force
SIDA	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
SLOGA	Political Coalition "Unity" (SNS, SNSD, SPRS; Republika Srpska/Bosnia and Herzegovina)
SNS	Serb National Alliance (SLOGA Coalition Partner)
SNSD	Party of Independent Social Democrats (SLOGA Coalition Partner)
SPECA	Special Programme for Central Asia (of UNECE)
SPRS	Socialist Party of the Republika Srpska (SLOGA Coalition Partner)
SRCC	Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (Article IV of Dayton)
SRS	Serbian Radical Party
TACIS	Technical Assistance for the CIS
TLE	Treaty Limited Equipment (CFE I Treaty)
TRACECA	Transport Corridor between Europe and Central Asia
UCK	Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)
UN/UNO	United Nations/United Nations Organization
UNDCP	United Nations Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMAC	United Nations Mine Action Center
UNMIC	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMOT	United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIS	United States Information Service
UTO	United Tajik Opposition
VD 90, 92, 94	Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (1990, 1992, 1994)
WAJA	West African Journalists' Association
WEU	Western European Union
WPU	World Postal Union
WTO	World Trade Organization

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