

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 3, 2014

The first PC meeting of 2014 saw the opening of the Swiss Chairmanship, in the presence of PA President Ranko Krivokapic and PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The Swiss Chair-in-Office, Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, outlined the working plan of this chairmanship (overview attached to this report). The long round of statements by participating States did not result in any new revelations. Under "Current Issues", Kyrgyzstan raised the issue of an armed attack on its territory originating from Tajikistan, and the consequences it had drawn from it. Tajikistan replied by referring to ongoing negotiations and an investigation which is under way.

The main point of concern for participating States and the Secretariat is the continuing stalemate on the 2014 OSCE budget.

President Krivokapic and SG Oliver were invited to a breakfast with the Swiss President and the other heads of institutions. SG Oliver, DSG Gustavo Pallares, myself and other PA staff participated in the usual two-day Annual Meeting of Heads of Field Operations and Institutions by invitation of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, Amb. Kobieracki. On the sidelines, PA representatives and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier argued about the status of the PA, as a consequence of statements by Amb. Zannier questioning the PA's status as an OSCE institution. A manifestation of this downgrading of the PA is reflected on the OSCE website, which, contrary to past practice, places the PA under a separate heading below the other institutions. As a reminder: The political declaration of the 1999 Istanbul Summit, in a chapter entitled "our institutions", stated the following: "The Parliamentary Assembly has developed into one of the most important OSCE institutions continuously providing new ideas and proposals."

As a consequence of the PA's complaints, Amb. Zannier has uninvited PA representatives from attending the regular coordination meeting of the Secretariat.

Former PA Research Fellow (in Copenhagen and in Vienna) Xenia Beck has been appointed Assistant Program Officer in the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department, and former Research Fellow Arslan Sabyrbekov (Vienna) has been appointed to a position in the OSCE Center in Bishkek.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
January 21, 2014

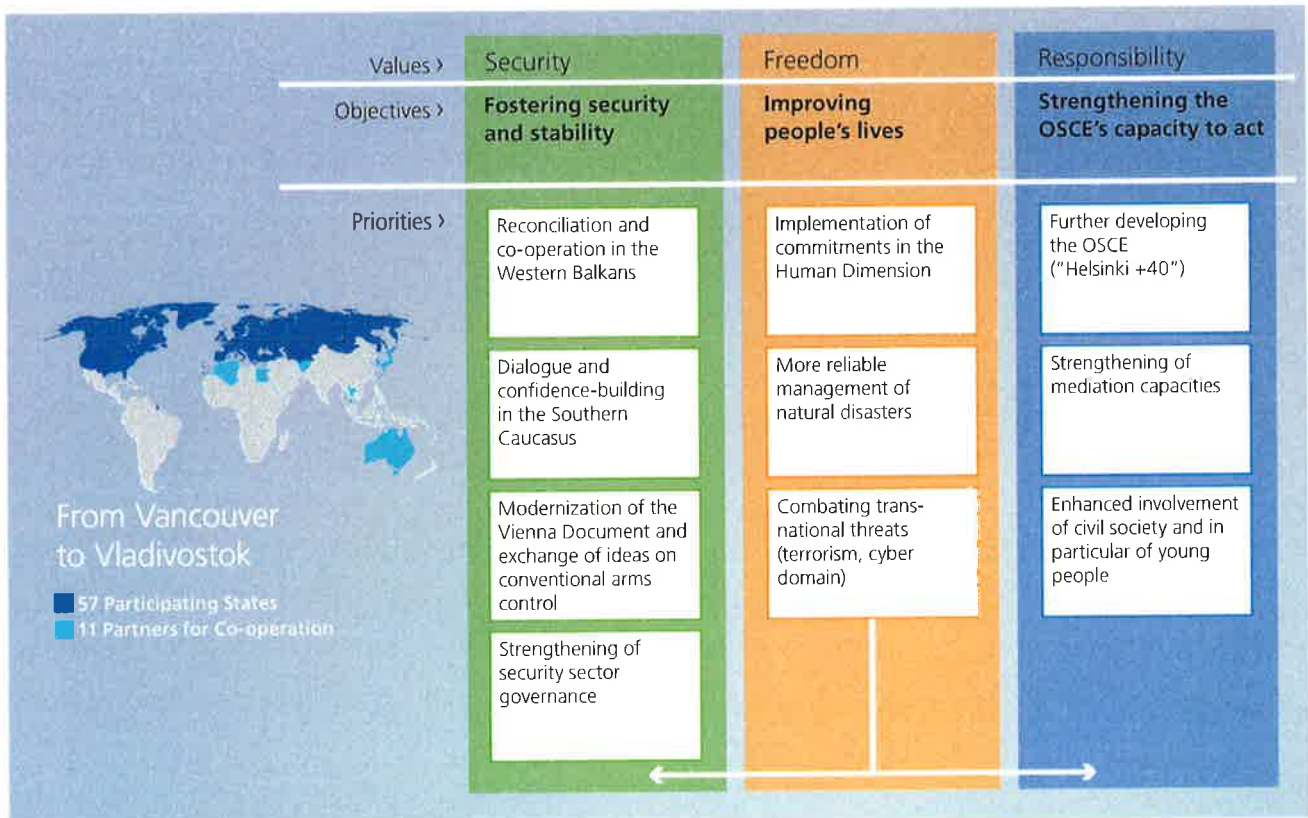
Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone

Priorities of the 2014 Swiss Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Under the leitmotif "Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone", Switzerland wants to make a tangible contribution to:

What will the Swiss Chairmanship do to achieve these goals? Below is a brief, non-exhaustive overview of the activities planned by the Swiss Chairmanship:

- (1) **Fostering security and stability,**
- (2) **Improving people's lives, and**
- (3) **Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act.**



1. Fostering security and stability

Reconciliation and co-operation in the Western Balkans

- A Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office will support regional co-operation in the Western Balkans and normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. Switzerland will endeavour to support the OSCE Mission in Kosovo in contributing, within its mandate, role, and expertise, to implement agreements reached between the parties.
- In addition, Switzerland will also support promotion of dialogue among all communities living in Kosovo, as this will play a key role in successful implementation on the ground of current and any future agreements between Belgrade and Pristina.
- Considering that elections will take place in countries of South-Eastern Europe at various levels in 2014, Switzerland will support the OSCE field operations and institutions in making their contribution to free and fair elections as a prerequisite for long-term stability in the region.
- We will support the work of OSCE field operations in promoting post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation in the region.

Dialogue and confidence-building in the Southern Caucasus

- A Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office will represent the OSCE in the Geneva International Discussions on security and stability in the South Caucasus and plans to support dialogue and rapprochement in the region. Switzerland will conduct projects and build confidence through fostering exchange programmes between young people, and specific professional groups – journalists, artists, disaster-relief workers, seismologists, etc.

Modernization of the Vienna Document and exchange of ideas on conventional arms control

- The OSCE Vienna Document 2011 on confidence and security-building measures promotes military stability and predictability through transparency measures and information exchanges on military forces, equipment,

and defence planning; it also provides for verification measures, such as inspections and evaluation visits, thereby creating and maintaining trust and confidence between the OSCE participating States. Switzerland will promote full implementation of confidence- and security-building measures, including the Vienna Document 2011. It will also continue to work towards modernizing and updating the Vienna Document 2011 taking into account new military capabilities and technologies.

- Switzerland is ready to support the OSCE's role as a platform for exchange of ideas and discussion on conventional arms control in Europe.

Strengthening of security sector governance

- Switzerland will focus on security sector governance. To this end, it will foster implementation and promotion of the "OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security" by, *inter alia*, identifying practical guidelines on democratic control of armed and security forces and through concrete projects and events in this field.

2. Improving people's lives

Implementation of commitments in the Human Dimension

- Switzerland plans to place *implementation* of existing commitments relating to the human dimension at the centre of its Chairmanship. Through promoting exchange of good practices, Switzerland will urge the OSCE participating States to fully implement and respect the commitments that they have undertaken over the past 40 years in such fields as combating torture, respecting human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism, protecting human rights defenders, promoting democratic elections, and ensuring respect of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
- Switzerland will support the OSCE institutions and field operations in the work they do under their mandates in human rights-related field.

More reliable management of natural disasters

- Switzerland will work on more effective ways to prevent and respond to natural disasters in the OSCE region. In co-ordination with other international actors, Switzer-

land will focus on practical issues regarding management of natural disasters, exchange of tried and tested practices in emergency preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction. Addressing the consequences of natural disasters can mobilize people to work together, beyond borders and despite conflicts, and thus can help build confidence and trust.

Combating transnational threats

- Crime is not contained by a country's borders. Effective fight against crime requires close trans-border co-operation between police services. This is what Switzerland will promote. In September 2014, Switzerland will organize an annual meeting of police experts in Vienna to encourage exchange of experiences and facilitate co-operation between law enforcement agencies of 57 OSCE participating States.
- Switzerland is committed to enhancing professional skills of customs, border control, and police officers in the OSCE region. It will do so through dispatching experts, organizing study visits on themes like the fight against corruption and integrated management of borders, as well as through training.
- The fight against terrorism touches upon all three dimensions of security that the OSCE works in: the politico-military, the economic, and the human dimension. Switzerland plans to convene an OSCE-wide anti-terrorism conference to shape the debate on responding to cross-border threats, such as terrorism, while simultaneously respecting human rights.

3. Strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act

Further developing the OSCE ("Helsinki +40")

- At the end of 2012, the OSCE Ministerial Council tasked the three future Chairs-in-Office with carrying forward the process of reforming the OSCE in the run-up to the Organization's 40th anniversary in 2015. Switzerland will initiate a high-level dialogue with key decision-makers focusing on a pragmatic agenda composed of relevant and realistic steps.

Strengthening of mediation capacities

- During its Chairmanship, Switzerland will seek to enhance mediation capacities within the OSCE. Even now, a Swiss mediation expert is making expertise available and conducting tailor-made training courses. Switzerland will invite relevant OSCE personnel to Switzerland for a one-week course on peace mediation. Thanks to the skills acquired during the course, OSCE mediation engagement in all OSCE conflict regions will be strengthened during and beyond the Swiss Chairmanship.

Enhanced involvement of civil society and in particular of young people

- The OSCE pays special attention to involve the civil society in its work. During its Chairmanship, Switzerland will continue to strengthen the involvement of civil society in the work of the Organization, to enhance its visibility, and make its voice heard in the OSCE's thematic discussions. Together with the OSCE institutions, the Swiss Chairmanship will organize four regional workshops with representatives of NGOs, academia, and think tanks (in South-Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, and in Warsaw). These meetings will lay the ground for the civil society conference to be held in December 2014 in parallel with the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel.
- Switzerland wants to give young people a voice. In organizing a Model OSCE series of events, Switzerland will enable young people from all 57 OSCE participating States to discuss matters related to security, the economy, the environment, and human rights. The conclusions and recommendations drawn as a result of the Model OSCE will be transmitted to the ministers of OSCE participating States in Basel.

Switzerland will closely align its priorities with Serbia, Switzerland's 2015 successor for the OSCE Chairmanship, in the framework of a two-year working plan, to ensure continuity of actions and raise the effectiveness of the Organization.

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