



TO: OSCE PA BUREAU

THROUGH: OSCE PA SECRETARY GENERAL

MONTHLY REPORT for MAY 2023

Fruitless consultation on the 2023 Unified Budget and other open issues, failure to reach consensus on the Draft Decision on the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), together with continuing heavy exchanges on the Russian war against Ukraine have marked the work of the OSCE in Vienna in May.

Regular and *ad hoc* liaison and coordination meetings with the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and executive structures, Heads of Field Missions as well as with Permanent Missions of participating States and other external partners continue to offer opportunities for, *inter alia*, detailed briefings on the work of the PA, particularly in relation to the Vancouver Annual Session, election observation activities and other regional, thematic and administrative issues.

Main events can be summarized in thematic order, as follows:

- While the Russia's war against **Ukraine** continues to dominate the overall OSCE agenda and the whole Organization functions in "no business as usual" mode, in the month of May the **Permanent Council** has heard reports by the Head of the OSCE Mission in **Kosovo**, Amb. Davenport; Head of the OSCE Mission to **Montenegro**, Amb. Waag; Head of the Program Office in **Bishkek**, Amb. Rogov and the acting Director of the OSCE **Academy** in Bishkek Ms. Satarkulova. The Representative on the Freedom of the **Media** Ms. Ribeiro has addressed the PC as well. Further, Moscow Mechanism experts submitted to the PC their reports on Ukraine and Belarus.
- SG Schmid, together with the Chairmanship, uses every opportunity to draw the attention of the participating States to the necessity of adoption of the OSCE **Unified Budget** for 2023 and to present them the consequences of the absence of it. The Chairmanship is preparing the 3rd Draft UB, to be presented in June.
- The Chairmanship's call for applications to replace the **external auditor** of the OSCE (French *Cour de Comptes*) whose mandate has expired on 30 April, ended without response on 31 May and will be renewed.
- In a letter to the CiO and the OSCE SG, the OSCE **Audit Committee** expressed its concerns on a number of topical financial and institutional matters that put the functioning of the OSCE at stake.
- Contrary to the calls of the vast majority of the participating States, three fmr. local **SMM members** remain in detention and under prosecution by *de facto* authorities in Donbas, in violation of their functional immunity.
- Further on Ukraine, the Vienna Office has contributed to the President Cederfelt and Secretary General Montella joining the CiO Osmani and the SG Schmid in a statement denouncing Russia's **continued missile attacks** against Ukraine, which have intensified in recent weeks, and condemning in the strongest possible terms this senseless violence, committed against a civilian population that continues to pay a terrible price in this war.
- Informal discussions of likeminded participating States continue in order to find solution for major issues which are threatening the very existence of the Organization (*inter alia* **2023 Unified Budget; 2024 Chairmanship; renewal of appointments of Heads of 4 OSCE Institutions (SG, ODIHR, HCNM, RFoM); mandates of the Field Offices**). Unfortunately, no breakthrough on site.
- Chairmanship's **Economic and Environmental Security Conference**, scheduled for May, has been postponed to 13-14 June (in Struga, North Macedonia, back-to-back with the Prespa Security Forum).

- No consensus has been reached on the Draft Decision on the Annual Security Review Conference (**ASRC**), the main event in the First Dimension. The Chairmanship will organize the ASRC as the CiO event – as it is expected for regular conferences in other dimensions, too.
- North Macedonia's Foreign Minister Osmani visited Sarajevo, Belgrade and Priština in his capacity of the Chairperson-in-Office.
- **Security Committee** meeting was dedicated to *Current challenges related to border security and management in the OSCE area*, hearing reports of several participating States on their border management systems.
- **The Human Dimension Committee** meeting discussed *freedom of peaceful assembly in the digital age*, to consider how the OSCE and participating States can better safeguard the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, both on/offline, in the digital age.
- The Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict organized an event on the *War in cities - Impact on Children*, with participation of several relevant international/nongovernmental organizations, examining how to minimize the suffering of children in armed conflicts, and in particular of children in cities.
- The first/special meeting of the Group of **Asian Partners** for cooperation this year under the Polish Chairmanship was held on the topic *Times of crisis: ensuring women's participation in political and public life*, with Afghanistan in focus. Further, in the Framework of the OSCE Asian Partnership, a one-day *Inter-Regional Conference on the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Security and Democracy* was organized, stressing issues which are likely to become increasingly prominent in the coming years.
- The first meeting of the Group of **Mediterranean Partners** for cooperation this year under the Finnish Chairmanship addressed *Enforcing Rule of Law and Combating Corruption in an action-oriented approach*, focusing on Asset Recovery.
- Let me use this opportunity to recall that while Asian Group is chaired by the last year's OSCE Chair (**Poland**), the Mediterranean Group is chaired by the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office. Since there is still no agreement on the 2024 Chairmanship, **Finland** has joined Troika and took over the Mediterranean Group upon the request of the CiO Osmani.
- The **Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC)** under the Chairmanship of **Bulgaria**, held security dialogues on the *Black Sea Region-Security Horizons* as well as on the *Capacity Development in Humanitarian Mine Action*. Together with the Secretariat, Bulgaria has organized *SALW and CAT Information Exchange workshop*, in accordance with the regular calendar of events. Since consensus remained elusive on the Decision on the Meeting for the Annual Discussion on Implementation of the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, this discussion will take place in the framework of security dialogue in June.
- 3rd meeting of the **Informal Gender Network**, chaired by SR Dr. Hedy Fry, examined women's representation in politics and included a presentation by ODIHR on the tools and support it can offer to help national parliaments achieve gender equality.
- Moderated by Amb. Zannier, the meeting of the **Call for Action/Helsinki+50 Initiative** took place online to address the challenges for the OSCE, with participation of *inter alia* President Cederfelt, SG Montella, ODIHR Director Mecacci, Chief of Staff for the OSCE SG Hart and fmr. OSCE senior official Wake.
- Austrian MP David Stogmüller visited the Vienna Office for exchanges on the issues on the OSCE agenda.

Vienna, 05 June 2023

Sincerely,



Miodrag Pančeski

Ambassador, Special Representative