



Preparing for the 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship - Informal Conference of the 'Friends of Lithuania' in Vilnius

On 22/23 October 2009, the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened an informal meeting to discuss Lithuania's preparations for its 2011 OSCE Chairmanship. CORE, which had acted as a co-organizer for this conference, was represented by its Head, Dr Wolfgang Zellner. As it brought together three distinct groups of participants, the meeting had quite a



The Participants of the Vilnius Meeting

unique character.

The first group consisted of high-ranking state representatives from the USA, Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein and Lithuania, among them the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Vygaudas

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Usackas. The second was made up of representatives of international organizations, i.e. the Secretary General of the OSCE, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, and the EU Special Representatives for the South Caucasus, and for Georgia and Central Asia, Peter Semneby and Pierre Morel. The third group comprised staff members of (international) NGOs such as the International Crisis Group, Freedom House and the Institute for Public Policy (Moldova).

Accordingly, there were a lot of – sometimes complementary, sometimes cross-cutting – perspectives which made the discussion particularly animated and interesting. The broad agenda ranged from the Corfu Process to conflict resolution, to economic and human dimension issues. At the same time, the meeting marked the birth of the ‘Friends of Lithuania’ club which will, most probably, meet again next year.

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CORE Research Trip to Ukraine

In preparation for his research trip to Ukraine, CORE Deputy Head Dr Frank Evers met Mrs Natalia Zarudna, the Ukrainian Ambassador in Berlin on 18 September 2009 to discuss contemporary Ukrainian affairs. A special focus in the conversation was Ukraine's interest in cooperation between the OSCE and various OSCE institutions with governmental, non-governmental and other international organizations in the country. During an extensive business trip to Kyiv and Simferopol (Crimea) in October 2009, Evers conducted a series of meetings with various Ukrainian officials, leading representatives of ethnic communities, heads of religious communities, academics, and foreign diplomats. The meetings were part of a visit programme related to CORE's elaboration of a policy paper for the German Federal Foreign Office on OSCE cooperation with Ukraine. *Inter alia*, Frank Evers met Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the World Congress of the Crimean Tatar People and Vice Chairman of the Medjlis of the Crimean Tatar People; Yevheniia Filipenko, Head of the OSCE Division of the MFA Directorate General for the UN and

Other International Organizations; Anatolij Gritsenko, Speaker of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea; Maksym Strikha, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine and Shaykh Ahmad Tamim, Mufti of Ukraine and Chairman of the Religious Administration of Ukrainian Muslims.

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DAAD Visiting Scholars from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Moldova at CORE

Within the framework of the forthcoming international CORE seminar on “Conflict Prevention by the OSCE”, jointly organized with the Kazakh National University (KAZGU) in



Marem Buzurtanova
(Foto BK)



Diana Benchec
(Foto BK)



Eraj Ramazonov

Almaty for the end of November 2009, three visiting scholars from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Moldova spent their research fellowships at

CORE in Hamburg from August – October 2009. The fellowships were sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Marem Buzurtanova, from the Faculty for International Relations of the Kazakh National University in Almaty,

spent one month in August; Eraj Ramazonov from the Faculty for International Relations of the Tajik State University in Dushanbe spent two months from August to September and Dr Diana Benchechi from the faculty for International Relations, Political and Administrative Sciences at the Moldovan State University in Chisinau two months from September-October 2009. Together with Dr Diana Digol and Dr Anna Kreikemeyer the visiting fellows worked on preparations for the international seminar on “Conflict Prevention by the OSCE” at the Kazakh National University. Beyond that they wrote studies on the European Dimension of Kazakh Foreign Policy (Buzurtanova), the role of Russia, China, the USA and the EU in Central Asia (Ramazonov) and on the conflict in Transnistria (Benchechi).

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New Head of the OSCE Division of the Federal Foreign Office at CORE

On 22 September 2009 the new Head of the OSCE and Council of Europe Division of the German Federal Foreign Office, Mr Lothar Freischlager, visited CORE. Staff members presented themselves and their current work, and lively discussions developed on a number of issues.

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CORE at the Geneva Conference “The OSCE and a New Security Governance in Europe“

On 18/19 September 2009, the Graduate Institute (Geneva) organized its annual OSCE conference – this time, however, without Prof. Victor-Yves Ghebali, the longstanding *spiritus rector* of this and many other OSCE-related activities, who passed away at the beginning of the year. Thus, the conference’s first session was dedicated to a tribute to Victor-Yves Ghebali, the “Mr. OSCE” of political science. The participants of the conference reflected on the fact that the OSCE’s relevance has been growing recently: Along with the OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Knut Vollebaek, representatives of important states were also present. For the first time in years there was a panel on the CFE Treaty. Whereas Sergey Federyakov from the Russian Foreign Ministry presented Moscow’s well-known position, it could be felt in the statement of Jennifer Laurendeau from the U.S. State Department that the USA is working on a new position on CFE. In his role as commentator, the Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, requested that bilateral (USA, Russia) negotiations on CFE – currently only sporadic - be multilateralized and carried out in a continuous manner.

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Head of CORE Speaks at Meeting of the OSCE Corfu Process

At their informal Ministerial Council meeting in Corfu in June 2009 the 56

OSCE States decided to start a discussion process on European security issues. The first ten meetings of this “Corfu Process” are scheduled to be held by the end of November; then a decision by the Athens Ministerial Council meeting shall provide further guidance. At the 2nd meeting of the Corfu Process, which took place on 15 September in the Vienna Hofburg at ambassadorial level, the Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, spoke on “co-operative security versus unilateralism” and “different levels of security in the OSCE area”. Zellner’s presentation was followed by a lively debate, in which representatives of 19 States participated, in part with spontaneous contributions. In his résumé, the Head of CORE stressed that he was impressed by the openness and the constructive character of the dialogue.

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CORE at ECPR General Conference

CORE researcher Dr Diana Digol attended the 5th ECPR General Conference held at Potsdam University from 10-12 September 2009. Over 2,500 people presented 1,959 papers within 401 panels in 55 sections. Diana Digol presented a paper there based on her PhD research on socio-demographic characteristics of the diplomatic elite in post communist Europe. With some old and new colleagues, she intends to submit a panel proposal to the next ECPR conference to further the research in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

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Studying Central Asia: In Search of New Paths and Concepts?

On 3-5 September 2009 Dr Diana Digol (IFSH, CORE) attended the conference jointly organised by the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) and the Central European University Asia Research Initiative in Budapest. There she presented a paper on Russia’s foreign policy vis-à-vis Central Asia on the panel on “Central Asia in Geopolitical Contexts” and served as a discussant on the panel on “Aspects of Economic Development in Central Asia”. She has been invited by the Routledge editor to submit an article or a book proposal based on her paper.

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Solveig Richter receives Georg-Helm Prize for excellent academic theses

Dr Solveig Richter, former external Ph.D. Student at CORE, was awarded the Georg-Helm Prize for excellent academic theses by the Dresden University of Technology. She was honored for her dissertation, which she prepared at the Chair for International Politics at the TU Dresden under the supervision of Prof Monika Medick-Krakau. Between 2004 and 2007, Solveig Richter was integrated into the research projects of CORE under the supervision of Dr Wolfgang Zellner. Framed by an elaborated theoretical and analytical scheme, the dissertation undertook a detailed empirical exploration of the OSCE’s democratization efforts through case studies in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. The dissertation was published as a

monograph by the IFSH in its book series "Democracy, Security, and Peace." Today, Dr Solveig Richter is a senior research associate at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik Berlin (SWP), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, research division "EU External Relations".

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OSCE Yearbook 2009

The OSCE Yearbook 2009, which will be published in early 2010, contains a wealth of informed writing on the Organization, its activities, and the issues that concern it. It opens with contributions by Pál Dunay and Graeme P. Herd on Russian President Medvedev's initiative for a European Security Treaty, Egon Bahr and Reinhard Mutz on the future of détente, and Adam Daniel Rotfeld on the possibility that Europe needs a "new security architecture". Dennis Sandole discusses the implications of US foreign policy in the post-Bush era for Europe.

The participating States in focus this year are Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, and past and future Chairmanship-holders Finland and Kazakhstan. The OSCE conflict prevention and dispute settlement activities discussed include the prospects for conflict resolution in Moldova, the role of the Mission in Kosovo, military aspects of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Centre in Astana at ten, and prospects for conflict settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Contributions focusing on one or other of the three dimensions, include an in-depth consideration of the OSCE's election observation activities by Frank Evers, and an informed legal discussion of *de facto* regimes and

human rights by Hans-Joachim Heintze. Our authors also discuss problems facing human rights defenders, contradictions in international police reform, the OSCE's approach to border security and management, and the work of Professor Victor Yves Ghebali, who died this year.

Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH (ed.), OSCE Yearbook 2009, Yearbook on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Baden-Baden 2010.

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Recent OSCE Relevant Publications

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