

CORE researcher receives 'UN Fellowship on Disarmament'

On October 21, IFSH CORE researcher Ulrich Kühn was named 'UN Fellow on Disarmament'. He accepted the award in a ceremony conducted by the UN High Representative on Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte, during the session of the 1st Committee of the General Assembly. The award ceremony marked the end of the UN's annual 2 month program on disarmament education. International participants from 25 countries were invited by the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to a reception following the award ceremony. Nominated by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany on behalf of the Federal Government, Ulrich Kühn is the first German participant from an exclusively civil society program. The United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament was launched by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978. The Programme aims at the training and specialization of national officials in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries, and enabling them to participate more effectively in international deliberating and negotiating fora. Implemented by the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), the Programme has trained over 600 public officials from some 150 Member States, a large number of whom are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own governments.

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Central Asia Conference at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

On 20 October 2011, Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, delivered the keynote speech on "Central Asia – Challenges and Opportunities" at a Central Asia conference organized by the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). Other speakers included representatives of the Belgian Foreign Ministry (Amb. Gunther Sleenwagen), the EU External Action Service's Central Asia Division (Mr. Coene), the Université libre de Bruxelles (Thierry Kellner), and the Belgian Royal Institute for Security and Defence (Nicolas Gosset). As Central Asian topics were addressed from many perspectives – EU Central Asia Strategy, Belgian interests, NATO logistical networks on Afghanistan, the impact of China's interests – the discussion was quite differentiated and truly rewarding.

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CORE at the Geneva OSCE Focus Conference

On 14/15 October 2001, the Geneva OSCE Focus Conference took place in Geneva, co-organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). This conference has been developing for more than a decade into the central meeting point between OSCE officials and the academic world. This year's conference was particularly well attended: Participants included the representatives of this and next year's OSCE Chairmanship, Ambassadors Renatas Norkus (Lithuania) and Eoin O'Leary (Ireland), Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, and other OSCE ambassadors. Even more so than in past years, discussions were open, frank and out of the box. A good example was session 4 on conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe chaired by Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE. Unlike the discussion at many earlier events, here it was clearly pointed out that after somewhat more than 20 years, the regime of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty has come to an end and a new chapter of European arms control has to be opened. As one participant remarked, in the 'spirit of Geneva' almost the same people discuss this in a different manner than in the OSCE's Permanent Council in Vienna.

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19th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part II, Prague, 14 – 16 September 2011

The 19th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was headlined "Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport". The meeting's second and main part was again conducted at its traditional venue – the Czernin Palace in

Prague, though the date has now been shifted from May to mid-September. This change obviously had the intention of bringing the annual economic and environmental calendar of the OSCE in line with the periodic events of the Organization's two other dimensions. Along the same line of streamlining its activities and with the goal "to improve the implementation of commitments as well as the effectiveness of work in the economic and environmental dimension" (PC.DEC/995, 31 March 2011), the OSCE also decided to establish the new format of an Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, to be conducted about a month after the Prague Forum from 17 to 19 October 2011, in Vienna.

In substance, the discussions of the 19th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum focused on technical issues rather than on politically disputed challenges. This was, to some extent, in clear contrast to earlier lively conceptual discussions between the national delegations within the OSCE Corfu Process in 2009-10 and on the eve of the OSCE Astana Summit 2010.

Dr Frank Evers, CORE Deputy Head, took part in the Forum as member of the international academic community.

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Central Asia 2011

International Conference in
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Ten years ago – during its founding days – the OSCE Academy in Bishkek was supported and advised by CORE on institution building. Since then it has developed into a much-appreciated institution for education and research in the Central Asian region and beyond. Since 2008 the Academy has held an annual international conference on contemporary security political developments in Central Asia together with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), the Near East South Asia Centre for

Strategic Studies (NESA) in Washington and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. For the second time Anna Kreikemeyer from CORE was invited to participate in this conference. This year she chaired a panel on the role of the OSCE in Central Asia.

The discussion focused on the local and international consequences of the pogroms in South Kyrgyzstan (2010), human security in Tajikistan as well as the situation in Afghanistan in the light of the forthcoming troop withdrawal. Before the first presidential elections at the end of October 2011, following the interim government of President Rosa Otunbayeva, serious security risks related to the North-South split of Kyrgyzstan and the closely related ethno-political tensions between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks became obvious. Despite numerous efforts at mediation and conflict prevention by local NGOs and external actors such as the EU and the OSCE, there is an apparent lack of reliable security structures.



The participants of the conference in front of the OSCE Academy

The dangerous trend towards a security vacuum in Central Asia also became clear in the other panels on the role of the region in international relations. While the Central Asian states join international organizations such as CSTO, SCO and OSCE, they are still preoccupied with bilateral dependencies and balancing efforts. On the other hand, the leaderships of both Russia and the USA ask themselves more than ever before whether they can afford a security political engagement in Central Asia in view of the international financial crisis and policies of austerity. While the emerging neighbor China

and the regional power India are ready to cooperate more strongly economically with the Central Asian states and Afghanistan, they are not active in the areas of conflict prevention and military security. The EU and the OSCE are active with comparatively small soft security projects and are, therefore, not seen as primary security partners. At the end the conference it had once again been made clear that the situation of the Ferghana states has to be seen as critical and that an adequate security policy is lacking.

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Discussing OSCE Affairs in the South Caucasus

CORE Meets High-Level Armenian Representatives, Delivers Lectures at Diplomatic Academy of Armenia, Yerevan

CORE Deputy Head Frank Evers conducted a number of meetings with Armenian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Karine Kazinian, and other Armenian and foreign officials, diplomats and academicians during a visit to Yerevan, 29 – 30 August 2011. Subject of his conversations was the complicated, interlinked security situation in Armenia, the South Caucasus and neighboring countries and the problems the OSCE and its key participating States face in contributing to regional stabilisation.

Frank Evers' visit to Yerevan was occasioned by an invitation to deliver lectures at the Diplomatic Academy of Armenia on key qualities and commitments of the OSCE, on recent discussions on European security threats and challenges within the so-called OSCE Corfu Process and on the outcome of the OSCE 2011 Summit in Astana.

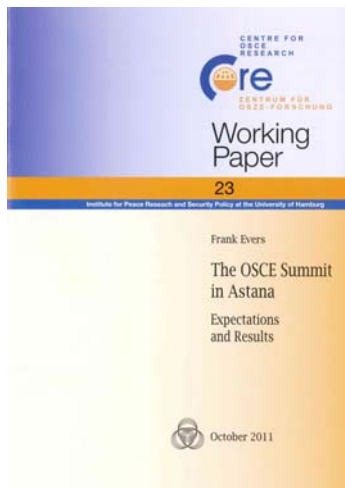
The foundation of the Diplomatic Academy of Armenia goes back to a cooperation between CORE, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Office in Yerevan. As a new

structural unit of the Armenian MFA, the Academy was opened in February 2010 after CORE had produced a needs assessment (May 2008) and implementation guidelines (January 2009) with an in-depth analysis of the MFA's specific requirements for training and professional capacity-building and detailed recommendations on the Academy's future status and functions. Subsequent to this OSCE-financed preparatory work of CORE, the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the European Commission and the Armenian MFA designed the Academy's administrative scheme and launched its opening activities. At the moment, the Academy is running the second part-time training course for a group of 20 students, a third of whom are expected to join the MFA after completing the course.

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PUBLICATIONS

Frank Evers: *The OSCE Summit in Astana. Expectations and Results*, CORE Working Paper 23, Hamburg, October 2011.



The OSCE Summit in Astana in December 2010 was the first OSCE Summit to be held for eleven years and the first to take place in a Central Asian state or a CIS member country. It was the culmination of the OSCE Corfu Process. The expectations regarding what Astana might achieve were correspondingly high. The OSCE's normative *acquis* was to be reiterated. The Organization's capacity to take action was to be underpinned with a substantial work programme. The first of these aims was achieved with the Astana Commemorative Declaration, while the Astana Framework for Action foundered on differences of opinion regarding regional conflicts. CORE Working Paper 23 examines what OSCE actors expected from the Astana Summit. It analyses their assessment of the Summit's results. It draws conclusions and highlights alternatives for action.

Ulrich Kühn: *Global Zero, "Perhaps not in my Lifetime"*, in: *International Politics and Society*, no. 4, 2011, pp. 98-119.

The program proclaimed by Barack Obama in Prague in 2009 to free the world of nuclear weapons has run into difficulties. Although the danger of international proliferation and hence an erosion of the nonproliferation treaty is increasing, conservative critics in particular are calling for a renunciation of the goal of Global Zero. A closer examination of their arguments reveals them to be reckless and misleading. Concrete steps towards achieving the goal of Global Zero will continue to be possible in the future. There is no viable long-term alternative to Obama's goal.



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Elena Kropatcheva, *Playing Both Ends against the Middle: Russia's Geopolitical Energy Games with the EU and Ukraine*, in: *Geopolitics*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2011, pp. 553-573.



Ukraine plays an important role as a transit country for the delivery of Russian energy to the EU. This study focuses on Russia's policy towards Ukraine in the energy sphere, presenting it against the background of complex geopolitical energy games, which are taking place among the three actors. Even though these actors share common interests and challenges, geopolitical games complicate and undermine their relationships. There are no true winners. Instead of integration and opportunities, the pursuit of geopolitical benefits creates mistrust, exclusion and vulnerabilities.

Elena Kropatcheva, *Ukraine's Foreign Policy Choices after the 2010 Presidential Election*, in: *Journal of Communist and Transition Politics*, vol. 27, no. 3-4, 2011, pp. 520-540.



The main foreign policy puzzle after the 2010 presidential election in Ukraine is whether Viktor Yanukovich will reverse the Western-oriented policy of his predecessor in favor of a single, pro-Russian vector. Another question is what impact the global financial crisis has had and will have on Ukraine's foreign policy choices. Finally, what factors are influencing the foreign policy choices made in Ukraine? Neoclassical realism helps to delineate the complexity of the situation in and around Ukraine, which makes various scenarios plausible: from a single pro-Russian or a single pro-Western orientation to attempts to conduct a balanced multi-vector policy.

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