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CORE Assists Establishment of Diplomatic Academy of Armenia

CORE Deputy Head Dr Frank Evers met with the Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Armen Baibourtian and the Head and Deputy Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey P. Kapinos and Marc Bojanic, during a visit to Yerevan, Armenia, 28 - 30 January 2008. The purpose of the visit was to contribute to the first brainstorming meetings and needs assessment activities aiming at the establishment of a Diplomatic Academy of Armenia. Also among Dr Evers' interlocutors were representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Education, Armenian universities and civil service institutions.

CORE has been asked to contribute to designing and launching the Academy precisely because of its capacity as an international consultant specialized in tailor-made institution building and training services. CORE's main reference projects in this respect are its leading role in setting up the OSCE Academy in Bishkek between 2002 and 2004 and conducting a major specialized OSCE-related training course for officials from the Kazakh Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2007.

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CORE Presentation at Friedrich-Schiller University Jena

On 18 January 2008, Marietta Koenig gave a keynote speech on relations between religion and the state in the Caucasus at the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena. A special focus here was the tight interlinking of politics in Georgia with the interests of the Georgian Orthodox church, whose special status is explicitly outlined in the Georgian constitution. Ms Koenig's presentation was part of the sixth *Ostblick*-Congress which focussed on the renaissance of religious tendencies and its impact on transforming societies in Eastern- and South-eastern Europe. Further keynote speeches focussed on religious aspects in Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Balkans. The conference was organized and conducted by the Berlin-based *Ostblick*-Association, which was founded in 2002 to represent all German students of Slavic and Eastern Europe studies. Support for this event was given by the Slavic Institute at the Jena University. Some seventy students from all over Germany attended the conference.

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CORE Presentation at International Wider Black Sea Conference in Yerevan

On 15 January 2008, Marietta Koenig gave a presentation on prospects for regional security cooperation between the EU and the Wider Black Sea region at the conference on „Wider Black Sea: Perspectives for International and Regional Security“ in Yerevan, Armenia. This conference was organized and conducted by the Armenian International Policy Research Group (AIPRG) in cooperation with the OSCE and NATO. Keynote speakers at this top-level conference were, among others, Peter Semneby, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant US Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and Robert Simmons, NATO's first ever Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia. This two-day conference aimed at bringing together regional and international scholars to discuss the still-vague concept of a wider Black sea region, as well as strategic approaches for cooperation with and within the still-conflict-ridden wider Black Sea region. A follow-up is scheduled for November this year.

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CORE Report „Identifying the Cutting Edge“ Presented at Helsinki Seminar

On 14 January 2008, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) organized a seminar in co-operation with the Finnish Foreign Ministry on the future role of the OSCE in managing change in Europe. The seminar, which was well attended by more than 200 participants, was opened by FIIA Director Prof. Raimo Väyrynen who pointed to the Finnish public's ongoing interest in the OSCE despite the Organization's current crisis. Following this, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Mr Ilkka Kanerva gave a keynote speech in which he presented the Finnish Chairmanship programme for 2008. Addressing several key issues such as the CFE Treaty, developments in Kosovo and OSCE election observation, the minister stressed that the OSCE will continue to shape the development of security across wider Europe. The special ambassador for the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship, José Angel Lopez Jorin described his country's chairmanship as pragmatic. He also focussed on election observation as an increasingly contentious issue. After a brief discussion, the second part of the seminar was opened by Dr Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, who presented the report "Identifying the Cutting Edge: The Future Impact of the OSCE" commissioned by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and elaborated by CORE and an international task force of experts. Zellner diagnosed the OSCE's current crisis as a political and moral one and recommended that the participating States begin efforts to achieve a new basic consensus on the OSCE. The presentation was followed by comments of Dr Rick Fawn from the University of St. Andrews, Dr Oksana Antonenko from the International Institute of Security Studies, London, and Dr Alice Ackermann, Senior Advisor at the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, as well as by a general discussion. The FIIA seminar has impressively shown, that the Finnish public, – representatives of politics and academia as well as the media, – is particularly interested in the OSCE' multilateral policy approaches.

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EU Election Observation Mission in Kenya

From 20 to 30 December 2007, Marietta König participated as a Short Term Observer in the European Union Election Observation Mission in the Republic of Kenya. This mission was set up to observe the general (including presidential, parliamentary, and civic) elections on 27 December. Deployed in the Kiambaa district, Ms Koenig was responsible for the Githunguri constituency, mostly inhabited by ethnic Kikuyus, some thirty kilometres northwest of Nairobi. Here, Ms Koenig's tasks were to observe the procedures of voting, the opening and closing of and counting at a polling station, and the work of the district election commission, called "tally centre" in Kenya. While only minor irregularities were reported on Election Day, the processing and tallying especially of the presidential results turned out to be crucial. After more than twelve hours of waiting at the tally centres most of the observers had to leave without the final results. One day after elections bloody clashes were reported between adherents of the officially re-elected president Mwai Kibaki, an ethnic Kikuyu, and his strongest opponent Raila Odinga, an ethnic Luo.

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Trilateral Research Project on Democratization by External Actors

From 15 to 16 December 2007, Jens Narten participated as a case study author in the first meeting of the international research project on 'External Democratization in Post-Conflict States' in cooperation with Berlin's Free University, California's Stanford University and the FRIDE Institute in Madrid where he presented a paper on statebuilding in Kosovo. This project aims at providing a comprehensive evaluation of the efficiency of the available tools of democracy promotion and at uncovering what combination of domestic conditions and foreign interventions works in establishing democratic governments. One specific part of the project investigates whether and how countries affected by large scale violence can emerge as stable and democratic polities and what the impact of external support is on this outcome.

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CORE-Workshop Secularism and Islam in Almaty

On 30 November 2007, Dr Arne Seifert and Elena Kropatcheva participated in a workshop "Secularism and Islam: What unites them in the framework of a common state" in Almaty, organized by CORE in co-operation with the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies and the Central Asian Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation. Such difficult issues, as the relationship between Islam and Secularism, opportunities for coexistence and cooperation, differences and commonalities between them, were actively discussed by the participants of the workshop – representatives of secular and Islamic intellectual elites of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Germany.

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Democratization in Central Asia

On 15 November 2007 Anna Kreikemeyer (CORE/IFSH) gave a lecture on “Democracy development and secular-Islamic dialogue in Central Asia” within the framework of the Central Asia Conference organised by the Renovabis-Solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people of Central and Eastern Europe – and dedicated to the topic of “Central Asia: between rule of law and Islamism”. In her presentation Anna Kreikemeyer stressed the importance of understanding the problems of democracy in the light of local governance and social structures. Father Wojciech Kordas from Bukhara, Uzbekistan, and Manfred Sapper, editor of the journal “Osteuropa”, also spoke at the conference. Ambassador Wilhelm Höynck, former OSCE Secretary General, moderated the discussion.

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OSCE-Related Training Course for Officials from the Kazakh MFA

Between 10 September and 06 October 2007, CORE conducted an OSCE-related training course for five officials from the Kazakh Ministry for Foreign Affairs, jointly commissioned by the Kazakh MFA and the German Federal Foreign Office. The objective of the training was to broaden the Kazakh pool of personnel qualified for co-operation within the OSCE, and to prepare them for fulfilling functions during the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship in 2010. The tailor-made training course covered a period of four weeks with activities in Hamburg as well as Berlin, Vienna and Warsaw. Classroom training conducted by more than twenty OSCE experts and other external lecturers together with a team of eight CORE researchers was complemented by more than thirty interviews with leading representatives of the OSCE and of national delegations to the OSCE. The course ended with a final colloquium entitled “The Future OSCE Involvement in European Security-Building: Standpoints of Kazakh Experts“. All in all, the participants were given a comprehensive working knowledge of OSCE issues and established personal ties to about eighty experts and top representatives of OSCE structures and delegations. Both in structure and in approach, the training course has proven to be an excellent pilot project for similar CORE activities.

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PUBLICATIONS

OSCE Yearbook 2007

Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH (Publisher.), OSCE Yearbook 2007, Yearbook on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Baden-Baden 2008, 421 S., ISBN 978-3-8329-3355-5

The OSCE Yearbook is the only independent scientific book series on the OSCE, its work and the topics which the organisation addresses. The recently published OSCE Yearbook 2007, the English version of the Yearbook, again has a wide, diverse selection of clearly written articles from scholars and diplomats as well as top-flight practitioners from the organization itself. It begins with two very current and highly-charged topics with which the OSCE was confronted in 2007: Russia’s suspension of the CFE-Treaty and the possible consequences of the failure of negotiations over the future status of Kosovo. This year’s principle focus, “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, has articles on the history of the origins of this area of work within the OSCE, on the role of religions in the “Dialogue of Cultures, on the

phenomenon of anti-Semitism in the member states, on the struggle against intolerance and discrimination against Muslims as well as articles on the contribution of OSCE to the “Alliance of Civilizations”, on the role of the police in combating hate crimes and the work of the OSCE/ODIHR. Among those states presenting their interests and involvement in the OSCE this year are Romania, Montenegro and Kazakhstan. Additional articles highlight the work of the Missions, centres and offices of the organization in Croatia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and address the overall strategy of the OSCE for Southeast Europe and Central Asia.

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OSCE Yearbook texts now available online

As of Monday 12th November 2007, the full texts of all the OSCE Yearbooks from 1998 to 2003 have been available to download as .pdf files from the CORE website at http://www.core-hamburg.de/CORE_english/pub_osce_jahrbuch.htm. Both the texts of the Yearbooks as a whole and the individual articles can now be accessed by researchers, practitioners, students, and any other interested parties for no charge.

The OSCE Yearbook contains a wealth of writing on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, its activities, topics of concern, and the participating States themselves. Contributors range from ambassadors and high functionaries, to academics, OSCE mission staff, representatives of NGOs, and many more. We hope that by increasing the accessibility of one of our flagship publications, we will gain new readers and raise the profile of the OSCE Yearbook, CORE and the IFSH.

CORE Working Papers

Kreikemeyer Anna/Wolfgang Zellner (eds.), The Quandaries of Promoting Democracy in Central Asia: Experiences and Perspectives from Europe and the USA. Report of a Transatlantic Workshop at the Centre for OSCE Research in Hamburg - February 2007, Hamburg 2007, CORE Working Paper 18

http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE_Working_Paper_18.pdf

This workshop report contains the text of a keynote speech by Martha Brill Olcott on “Democracy Promotion in Central Asia: From High Expectations to Disillusionment” and summarizes the contributions of the participants.

Zellner, Wolfgang, Identifying the Cutting Edge - the Future Impact of the OSCE, Hamburg 2008, CORE Working Paper 17.

http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE_Working_Paper_17.pdf

This report, commissioned by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was elaborated by CORE and an international task force of experts. It diagnoses the OSCE’s current crisis as a political and moral one and recommends that the participating States begin efforts to achieve a new basic consensus on the OSCE.

Other CORE Publications

Zellner, Wolfgang, Redefining the OSCE's Future: Strategic Uncertainty and Political Contradictions are Delaying Progress, in: Chetail, Vincent (Ed.), Conflits, sécurité et coopération - conflicts, security and cooperation - Liber amicorum Victor-Yves Ghebali, Bruxelles 2007, pp. 569-588.

This magnificent volume, edited in honour of Victor-Yves Ghebali is a must for every student of multilateral diplomacy and the OSCE.

International Appeal “Bring the Adapted CFE Treaty into Force”

Former diplomats and scientists around the globe are appealing for the adapted CFE Treaty to be brought into force. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) is a cornerstone of European security and the key element of the co-operative approach to security agreed upon in the Charter of Paris of November 1990. But now, due to disagreements between NATO countries and Russia, the whole regime is in serious danger. The States parties to the treaty are currently engaged in efforts to seek a compromise that could salvage this vital document. Against this background, an international appeal was launched to “Bring the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) into force”, supported by 33 former diplomats and senior research associates from ten countries that are States parties to the treaty. In order to underline the international character of the appeal, it is being circulated in English, Russian and German. The appeal has been published on the websites of the following organizations since 28 November 2007: Arms Control Association (ACA), Washington, D.C., USA; Peace Research Institute Frankfurt am Main (PRIF), Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), both in Germany.

Join and sign this appeal! http://www.ifsh.de/IFSH_english/aktuelles/cfe_appeal_.htm

Reinhard Mutz/Jens Narten/Thomas Bruha, The Future of Kosovo [Zukunft des Kosovo], in: Hamburger Informationen zur Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik Nr. 42, November 2007, available online at

<http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/hifs/HI42.pdf>

For eight years Kosovo has been under UN interim administration and thus in a state of uncertainty from a legal, a political and an economic point of view. On the one hand Resolution 1244, adopted by the UN Security Council in 1999 and still valid and binding according to international law, recognises Serbia's territorial integrity. On the other hand, it affirms that the solution of the Kosovo status shall be based on “the people's will”. Now the Albanian majority in Kosovo, which, since 1999, has considered this as a commitment to Kosovo's independence, intends to declare it, even without international consensus, if necessary. The alternatives to a unilateral declaration of independence – but also the consequences thereof – were discussed on 8 October 2007 during a conference organised by the IFSH in cooperation with the United Nations Association of Germany (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen). Reinhard Mutz, former acting director of the IFSH, described the determining political factors of the present unsatisfying situation, in which Kosovo's independence could only be prevented by force. Jens Narten, researcher and doctoral candidate at IFSH/CORE, with long experience in Kosovo, discussed social and economic aspects of the future of Kosovo. Thomas Bruha, expert on international law and chairman of the United Nations Association of Germany, gave an assessment of the legal basis of the future international engagement in Kosovo in case of unilateral declaration of independence. All three articles were published in the series “Hamburg Information on Peace Research and Security Policy”.

Recent OSCE-Relevant Publications

Boonstra, Jos, OSCE Democracy Promotion: Grinding to a Halt?, FRIDE Working Paper 44, Madrid Oct. 2007.

http://www.fride.org/download/WP_OSCE_ENG_OCT07.pdf

Brouwers, Jessie, Rebuilding Chechnya: From Conflict Zone to House of Cards, Madrid Nov. 2007.

<http://www.fride.org/download/brouwers.chechnya.eng.pdf>

Cornell, Svante E./ David J. Smith/ Frederick S. Starr, The August 6 Bombing Incident in Georgia, Washington/D.C 2007.

<http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/Silkroadpapers/0710Georgia.pdf>

Stewart, Susan, Russland und die OSZE: Zum Spannungsverhältnis zwischen Gleichheit und Verpflichtung [Russia and the OSCE: On the strained relationship between equality and obligation], SWP-aktuell 66/2007, Berlin 2007.

http://www.swp-berlin.org/de/common/get_document.php?asset_id=4573

Warkotsch, Alexander, International Socialization in Difficult Environments - the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Central Asia, in: Democratization (Abingdon) 3/2007, pp. 491-508.

Imprint

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