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7th International Security Forum „The Challenge of Securing State and Society“

From 26 to 28 October 2006, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, Head of the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) at the IFSH, participated in the 7th International Security Forum (ISF) in Zurich. This large biannual conference, jointly organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs as a Swiss government contribution to NATO's Partnership for Peace, brings together about 500 scholars, diplomats, practitioners, and politicians. In the panel “Consolidating the OSCE”, Zellner gave a presentation on “The Role of the OSCE in the Conflict Management Cycle: Possible New Orientations”, focusing on the new concept of OSCE thematic missions.

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CORE Meets with Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE

On 18 October 2006, the Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, CORE Researchers Dr Frank Evers and Dr Anna Kreikemeyer and CORE Visiting Research Fellow, John Myraunet, met with the Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE, Ambassador Mette Kongshem, in Hamburg. Ambassador Kongshem, who had also previously visited Hamburg for meetings with CORE, has recently been appointed Norwegian ambassador to Central Asia and will begin her new posting after finishing her term with the Norwegian OSCE delegation at the end of this year. CORE's meeting with the ambassador was, thus, an opportunity to discuss both recent developments in the OSCE and issues related to Central Asia. The discussions on OSCE issues focused on the OSCE reform process, the upcoming Ministerial Council and the Kazakh bid for the chairmanship in 2009. With respect to Central Asia there was an exchange of views on EU relations and strategies towards countries in the region and on radical Islam and religious dialogue.

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CORE Strengthens Co-operation with „Helsinki Monitor“

While CORE staff have contributed to the “Helsinki Monitor” for a number of years, co-operation has been expanded by the addition of Dr Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, to the

Editorial Board. The “Helsinki Monitor” is the only scientific journal worldwide specifically dedicated to the activities of the OSCE. On 14 October 2006, Dr. Zellner participated in a meeting of the Editorial Board in The Hague that planned the journal’s focal points for 2007.

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CORE at Aga Khan Foundation Roundtable on the University of Central Asia

On 13 October 2006, CORE researcher Dr Anna Kreikemeyer took part in a roundtable of the Aga Khan Foundation on the concept and future development of the newly founded University of Central Asia. The aim of this meeting was to introduce the recently established university which will have campuses in three mountain areas of Central Asia (Tekeli, Kazakhstan; Naryn, Kyrgyzstan; Khorog, Tajikistan), to discuss the curriculum of the Master’s Program in Economic Development and to establish a network with co-operation partners in Germany. Among the participants were the UCA director general, Nazeer Aziz Ladhani and the dean of the UCA School of Development, Bohdan Krawchenko as well as several representatives from German research and educational institutes, the German Foreign Office, the GTZ [Society for Technical Cooperation] and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations [Ostausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft].

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CORE Presentation at OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

On 12 October at the OSCE’s annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, Jens Narten and Dr Wolfgang Zellner presented the findings of CORE's recent policy paper on "Options For A General OSCE Human Dimension Monitoring Instrument", written by Mr. Narten in summer 2006 on behalf of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The presentation outlined *inter alia* the following findings: Governments of various OSCE participating States have expressed criticism of a geographical imbalance of human dimension activities that concentrate on countries located “east of Vienna”. Responding to these concerns, recent reports on OSCE reform have recommended that OSCE monitoring should be done in an unbiased and more standardized way and that a general human dimension monitoring instrument, covering all participating States without exception, should be created. The study outlined four options for the establishment of an effective general human dimension monitoring instrument within the OSCE context. First, the establishment of rotating monitoring field missions. Second, the intensification of the existing monitoring procedures of the HDIM, based on the introduction of a simplified, questionnaire-based state reporting system. Third, the enhancement of the monitoring function of the Third General Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also based on simplified, questionnaire-based state reports and a concrete follow-up task for its rapporteur. Fourth, the establishment of a two-tiered OSCE Human Dimension Council with a sub-council structure for a combined expert- and peer-review. Elements of these options can be combined with each other, i.e. in a distinct role for the PA rapporteur at the HDIM.

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6th Annual International Young Researchers Conference “Orienting the Russian Empire”

Elena Kropatcheva, a PhD student at the IFSH, participated on 26-28 September 2006 in the 6th Annual International Young Researchers Conference "Orienting the Russian Empire" at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, Ohio, where she presented a paper titled “Russian foreign policy towards Ukraine: a case of new imperialism?” In addition to the presenters of papers, the faculty of Ohio University, including the director of the Havighurst Center, Dr Karen Dawisha, one of the leading Russia-experts, also took an active part in the conference. Ms Kropatcheva’s paper is available at: <http://casnov1.cas.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter/KropatchevaFinal.pdf>.

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OSCE Election Observation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

From 27 Sept. - 4 Oct. 2006, CORE researcher Marietta König participated in election observation in BiH. Deployed in Trebinje, a town located in the South of the Republica Srpska, Ms König’s tasks were to observe the procedures of voting, the opening and closing of and counting at a polling station, and the work of district election commissions. Due to the country’s division into two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, the electorate was asked to decide on the makeup of Bosnia and Herzegovina's collective presidency as well as federal, entity, and cantonal governments. One President was elected from each of the country's three constitutional ethnicities, Muslim Bosnians, Croats and Serbs. According to the Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of the OSCE International Election Observation Mission “the way these elections were conducted was generally in line with international standards for democratic elections.” However, “constitutional ethnicity-based limitations to the right to stand for office were again in violation of Protocol no. 12 to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and of the commitments made to the Council of Europe, as well as article 7.3 of the OSCE 1990 Copenhagen Document.”

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New CORE Publications

Erler, Gernot, Germany and OSCE Reform, Hamburg 2006, (CORE Working Paper 15), at http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE_Working_Paper_15.pdf
also available in Russian at
http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE_Working_Paper_15_russ.pdf

Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg/IFSH, (Hrsg.), OSZE-Jahrbuch 2005, vol. 11, Baden-Baden 2006, 516 p., ISBN 3-8329-2375-6, to be ordered from: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Postfach 10 03 10, D-76484 Baden-Baden, vertrieb@nomos.de, <http://www.nomos.de>

König, Marietta, Has The Ice Begun to Break? Settlements of Conflicts in Georgia after the Rose Revolution, in: Azerbajdzhan v Mire, Nr. 3 (05), 2006, at http://www.realazer.com/mag/_m5/m6.htm

Narten, Jens, The Human Dimension: the OSCE's Approach to Human Rights, in: Human Rights in Europe - a Fragmented Regime? / Malte Brosig (ed.), Frankfurt/Main 2006, pp. 102-119.

Recent OSCE-Relevant Publications

Bailes, Alyson J. K., The politico-military dimension of OSCE, in: Helsinki Monitor, no. 3, 2006, pp. 214-225.

Drzewicki, Krzysztof; de Graaf, Vincent, The activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities - July 2004 - June 2005, in: European Yearbook of Minority Issues, vol. 4, Leiden 2004/5, pp. 595-613.

Eide, Asbjørn, International cooperation for group accommodation through minority protection - a review of standard setting and institution building at regional and global levels, in: International Journal on Minority and Group Rights, no. 2-3, 2006, pp. 153-170.

Galbreath, David J., From nationalism to nation-building - Latvian politics and minority policy, in: Nationalities Papers, no. 4, 2006, pp. 383-406.

Protsyk, Oleh, Democratization as a means of conflict resolution in Moldova, in: European Yearbook of Minority Issues, vol. 4, Leiden 2004/5, pp. 723-737.

Zurabjan, Levon, The Nagorno-Karabakh settlement revisited - is peace achievable?, in: Demokratizatsiya (Washington/D.C.), no. 2, 2006, pp. 252-265.

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