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Multilateral Organisations in the Caucasus and Central Asia

**Utilising EU Enlargement for OSCE Stability Building in the South Caucasus
Contribution to working group “Inter-organisational Co-ordination”
by Dr. Frank Evers**

The OSCE sees itself as an organization following the concept of a common security space, free of dividing lines. In European reality, there are nonetheless differing and, perhaps incompatible developments within this space. The EU enlargement in 2004 has institutionalized a new European bipartition. While the EU has become a key bastion of non-military security building, various countries at European peripheries are procrastinating over their future or have ultimately left the path of democratic reforms. Many of them have turned into sources of dormant instabilities, as is the case with the South Caucasus countries.

To the OSCE, the new regionalisation of the Continent has produced conceptual questions about new foci of on-site engagements in the various parts of Europe reaching from the Balkans and Eastern Europe to the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Answers will have to be found on how to arrange international security co-operation in particular application to these regions. Considerations will have to be made on how to utilize EU enlargement procedures for OSCE regional security building.

In direct or indirect application to the South Caucasus, the EU has elaborated a broad set of policy instruments that are or can be made relevant for regional security engagements. Co-operations within the “Wider Europe” initiative as well as accession and co-operation partnerships are cases in point. It is now necessary to integrate and co-ordinate these areas of EU policy towards the three South Caucasus countries, but also Russia and Turkey, in line with an overarching conceptual framework. In the dialogues with these countries, it is indispensable to come to binding inter-linkages between (a) opening prospects of EU co-operation, (b) facilitating democratic reforms and (c) utilising bilateral foreign relations for regional security building. Finally, particular topics of EU and OSCE on-site co-operations in the region will have to be developed.

Bibliographical note

Dr Frank Evers has studied economics and east-European sciences at the Free University of Berlin. His Ph.D. thesis was focused on Russia’s economic transition. Between 1996 and 1999, he served at the OSCE Mission to Ukraine. As Deputy Head of Mission, he represented the Mission in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In 2000, he joined the OSCE Office in Yerevan (Armenia) as economic and environmental adviser. Since January 2002, he has been working at CORE Hamburg. He elaborates policy advice on various issues of the OSCE agenda. Regionally, he is focused on the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.