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Introductions of Participants, Team, and Program

Ursula E. Gamauf-Eberhardt, Program Director, Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Arie Bloed, Director of the Summer Academy on the OSCE

After enjoying their first coffee break, all Summer Academy participants gathered in a conference room in the Schlaining Castle for official group introductions. Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt gave the participants a brief overview of the various activities and organizations that are located here in Schlaining. Gamauf-Eberhardt herself has been with the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution for six years. She is dedicated to organizing and coordinating various programs related to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, and other projects youth participants, as well as ensuring peace education in schools across Austria. Ursula then passed the floor to Arie Bloed, the Director of the Summer Academy. Bloed has enjoyed an immensely colorful career, having taught law, worked with the High Commissioner on Minorities at the OSCE, expanded the Soros Foundation's legal empire, and many other fascinating tasks in between. These days, he continues his very diverse career by, among other things, consulting and training on the relationship between human rights and law enforcement. Bloed is also the Editor in Chief of the Security and Human Rights Journal, the OSCE's quarterly publication.

Opening Ceremony

Arie Bloed, Director of the Summer Academy on the OSCE

Karin Kren, Director, ASPR

Ambassador Christine Moser, Head of Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE

Arie Bloed, Karin Kren, and Christine Moser all welcomed the Summer Academy participants to Stadtschlaining and to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Participants and facilitators alike were excited at the forthcoming two weeks, where they would get to know one another and learn a great deal about the OSCE and international politics.

Security and Cooperation in the OSCE Area: Conflicts and New Dividing Lines

Zarko Puhovski, Professor at the University of Zagreb

Dr. Zarko Puhovski is a professor of philosophy at the University of Zagreb. His impressive career also includes acting as Chairman of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. Puhovski kicked off the first official workshop by posing a couple of thought-provoking questions. He commented that the nature of conflict has continued to transform into the twenty-first century. The OSCE originated during the Cold War at a time when dividing lines were pretty clear. The organization was originally dedicated to building bridges across borders. Today, however, it is much less easy to identify one's enemy and to know where or how to draw dividing lines. As such, many question whether or not the OSCE can continue to survive and to actually accomplish anything.

Today, we face two primary and potentially conflicting issues: agreeing upon and maintaining a set of values while also protecting international security. The post-September 11th era has caused many to disregard human rights in the name of the so-called War on Terror. Democratic, free societies have now accepted many violations of human rights and adopted

Soviet Union practices all in the name of preserving national security. Without a doubt, there have been and will continue to be negative repercussions stemming from such behavior. Complicating the situation even further is the fact that the War on Terror is the first war without a clearly defined enemy. Consequently, the self-proclaimed protagonists of the war must produce their enemy. This has created a war based on propaganda and misunderstandings, as well as much hypocrisy and appalling violations of basic human rights. Additionally, proponents of this War on Terror have adamantly stated that terrorism cannot win. In actuality, it seems more accurate to say that terrorism cannot lose in that it has created self-fulfilling prophecies whereby even the most democratic and human rights oriented societies have infringed upon basic human rights and democratic ideals in order to fight terrorism.

In order to establish a more secure and peaceful world, what our generation really needs are not international armies, but rather international police. This policy, however, is complicated by the question of national sovereignty, a topic that has become more and more blurred in the era of globalization. This brings us back to the question of values. Nations must agree to a system of preserving their security while also upholding guarantees for human rights. The reality of today is that decisions are made on double criteria. If this be the case, then in fact we have no criteria, for the essence of criteria is that it must be unique. The OSCE, with its broad geographic scope and history of crossing borders, stands ready to combat these problems through dialogue and cooperation. However, critics would argue that the organization has been a bit dormant and that it has not brought forth any important initiatives for years. The OSCE is dedicated to peaceful, democratic solutions to our current problems. These can certainly be tough decisions as almost invariably some party will be hurt. Nonetheless, they must be made. Intervention can be undertaken in a diplomatic way that addresses the legal, political, and moral complications at hand. The OSCE's talented team must further their efforts to promote real outcomes that further the ideals of a democratic society. Single standards must be implemented and upheld; those in power cannot continue to demand things of other states that they themselves do not even maintain.

Despite criticisms, the OSCE has certainly been a valuable institution. In all likelihood, the problems facing the world today would like be further exacerbated without the influence of the OSCE. Going forward, the organization must strengthen its intermediary impact and ensure that it belongs to the values that it upholds, not to "the West" or any specific nations. The OSCE must understand the question of human rights in single terms that apply consistently to all countries. It would do well to identify the new dividing lines of today's world and further its efforts at bridging such borders. The OSCE is an important institution in that it ought to provide a forum for constructive criticism so that nations can pressure one another and find diplomatic solutions based on what they have agreed. Most importantly, it must truly dedicate itself to the common values of human rights and security that participant states have agreed upon and work toward these ideals, particularly in regards to policing efforts. Although there is always room for improvement, the OSCE has played an important role in easing political tensions to some degree. If the organization hopes to remain relevant, it must anticipate future complications and offer effective solutions to stave off harm.

Basic Principles of Security and Cooperation: 1975 – Present
Arie Bloed, Director of the Summer Academy on the OSCE

"If you do not know the history, you cannot understand the present or build the future."

Arie Bloed led the participants in a stimulating discussion centered on the history and the fundamental principles of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE originally began in the early 1970s as the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. There were intensive negotiations as to the nature of the organization and its operations, which culminated with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. In many ways, the HFA was almost an agreement to disagree and allows much room for interpretation. The HFA also had some unexpected side effects as news of the agreement spread throughout Soviet society: dissidents read the text of the act in the Soviet publications and gained further basis for demanding rights from their government. As a result, civil society and human rights discussions continued gathering strength. The HFA blossomed into a symbol of freedom and hope.

The organization rests on the principle of consensus, which has been a particularly hot topic for discussion and criticism. Consensus brings together a broad range of participants who have highly varied interests. Consensus allows the organization to establish common values and principles that unite all members and ensures (or at least attempts to ensure) that no nation will feel forced to adopt any measures that it steadfastly opposes. At the organization's inception, it was primarily an outlet for dialogue between the USSR and Western Europe and the United States. Both sides wanted very different things. Forcing them to sit down and talk about their needs in a civilized manner forced both sides to make concessions before they were willing to agree. Consensus becomes even more important when it comes to enforcement. Since OSCE commitments are not legally binding, enforcement can be a bit tricky. Since all nations have voluntarily agreed to abide by the OSCE's decisions, it becomes easier to legitimately reprimand those who do not operationalize the resolutions.

The OSCE has undergone a number of transformations over the years. The name change is perhaps one of the most notable changes, as it went from conference (CSCE) to organization (OSCE). Two primary changes have also occurred over the years: from confrontation to cooperation and from standard setting to operational activities.

The OSCE considers itself as a community or a family. Of course there is still fighting within, but in the end, everyone has to get along for the good of the whole. It is a forum for participants to air their grievances with one another in a safe place. The member states share common values and aims; that is, they have agreed to adopt certain far-reaching standards and norms of behavior. Additionally, they share responsibility for creating an indivisible peace. They have agreed to these norms and as such are mutually accountable for ensuring that the standards are adhered to. They share a responsibility to act in cases of problems or violations. They are there to help each other, to criticize in a constructive manner, to motivate one another, all the while moving toward a greater good.

In reality, the OSCE is a tool for member states to defend their own national interests and their own agendas. Even if the organization does not necessarily function as a highly efficient machine, at least it creates an outlet where issues can be addressed constructively, rather than through war or other outlets that are often of further detriment to the citizens themselves. Although the reality differs from the idealistic ideas behind the organization, it is certainly important to understand the philosophical basis, and particularly critical that the member states keep the elevating goals in mind when they are working together.

Today, the OSCE's main functions revolve around the three primary dimensions. Specific activities include: an extensive system of supervision, such as monitoring, reporting, and observing elections; preventing conflict; a stabilizing function; post-conflict rehabilitation; an assistance function; a legitimizing function; a coordinating function; and a catalyst function. The OSCE has a broad scope of areas of interest as well as a number of outlets for furthering its operations. Motivating other international organizations to address certain issues and coordinating projects with them often proves to be effective as well.

Visit to the Peace Institute's Library

The Peace Institute offers an extensive library of a variety of media related to relevant topics, such as: peace, democratization, violence, reconciliation, and much more. Dr. Lisa Fandl gave the participants a brief overview of the library's history as well as its contents and the reserve system. Participants were welcomed to borrow books during their time at the Summer Academy.

The library itself has a fascinating history. It traces its roots back to 1715, when an early Jewish community erected the first recorded synagogue in the region. The Jewish communities were driven out of Burgenland after 1938; many were forced into concentration camps or to emigration across the globe to places like Lithuania, China, South America, Great Britain, Palestine, and the United States. Most synagogues were lost during this period. However, the synagogue at Schlaining managed to survive, although it lost its interior furnishings. Today, the former synagogue is filled with literature on peace and reconciliation, constantly furthering the university's goal of spreading peace and preventing heinous crimes against humanity.

Workshop I: Communication and Interaction in Multinational Teams **Lena Moll, Training Officer, Department of Human Resources, OSCE Secretariat**

Lena Moll led the Summer Academy participants through a fascinating discussion and a number of interesting activities to facilitate cross-cultural dialogue. In this era of rapid globalization, effectively working in multinational teams becomes continually more and more important. Moll's facilitation was extremely beneficial to help create an open environment for interaction and sharing. The first activity was an "ice-breaker" exercise that focused on the participants' cultures and how they saw themselves fitting into stereotypes or breaking out of them. After that, participants were given various hypothetical situations and asked how they would feel or respond to a specific event or set of circumstances. Participants then lined themselves up on a spectrum of possible outcomes. For example, one situation asked whether or not a friend had the right to expect you to lie for him about running into a pedestrian. On one extreme, the response was "Yes, my friend has the right to expect me to lie for him" and "No, my friend does not have the right to expect me to lie for him" on the other extreme. Participants placed a card with their name somewhere along the continuum and then justified why they felt like they did. Activities such as this one highlighted what values play a bigger role in different cultures and how much of an influence culture has over individuals' behavior. Finally, the group of participants was split into teams who were then set on a mission that drew the competitive side out of some participants! Each group was given a story about an ancient battle. The complexity was that the story came one sentence at a time from different group members who were not allowed to show their cards to anyone else. It was a lesson in the necessity of patience, listening, understanding, among other things; all of which

are critical when working in any team setting, but of heightened importance when working across numerous cultures, languages, etc. All in all, everyone learned how important clear communication is, especially when working in multinational teams.

The OSCE's Organization: Basic Features

Arie Bloed

Bloed began the session on basic features by introducing participants to the green book, which is an all-encompassing compilation of all OSCE documents from the organization's inception until 1993. He then pointed out some of the challenges that the organization faces, particularly in relation to its name: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. For example, the OSCE was unable to open a bank account for some time because it was not a legally registered organization; that is, it does not have a founding charter or legal status. Fortunately, the OSCE eventually figured out how to open a much-needed bank account. As for security, there are those that question the legitimacy of the OSCE's ability to enhance global security because it has no tanks or bombs; some even say it has no mandate and no tools for enforcing security measures. That, however, is the beauty of the OSCE. It works toward comprehensive, political security, relying on participating countries to be true to their word and hold one another accountable for mutual advancement of security. Some critics say that cooperation is a beautiful idea but rather idealistic and perhaps even impractical. But the OSCE creates an open forum for dialogue. Even if it appears messy or ineffective at times, participating countries are committed to working together for mutual security. Competing agendas may slow the process, but that is the nature of compromise. The final complication is a geographical one: Europe. There was much debate at the organization's inception as to which preposition ought to precede "Europe" in the organization's name. The strongest case was made for "in," which allows the OSCE to be based in Europe, but to include participants from a much wider geographical sphere that have a security interest in Europe.

The organization originally began as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and transformed to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1990. With this name change came a number of transformation in the organization itself as well. The OSCE refined its operations and underwent more official institutionalization. There was even a question of whether or not the OSCE was still necessary after the collapse of communism. Its supports stood firm and sought to transform the organization into a force to promote mediation and negotiation in order to prevent conflict and war. The North American Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact were in place to confront fighting directly, but who was taking preventative action? Here the OSCE found its niche: stop conflict at an early stage. It would have a comprehensive nature, dedicated to creating an environment that keeps tensions under control and creates an infrastructure for dealing with problems through dialogue with the hope that countries would not resort to violence. As such, a new OSCE mandate emerged in 1990 that established the necessary institutions: the Secretariat in Prague, the organization's center in Vienna, and the Office of Free Elections in Warsaw.

The OSCE began to operate more as a political process. It did not care to become a legal entity, but preferred to remain a politically binding force that operates on consensus. That is, once participants agree, their decisions become immediately effective. There are those that continue to push for the organization to adopt legal procedures, but supporters of the status quo maintain that the organization would not be more effective if it were legally binding. The idea of legalization seems, by some accounts, to be becoming more and more popular. The

Russian Federation has been particularly adamant in its push for legalization, while the United States maintains that the OSCE should remain small and flexible. One of the strongest arguments for moving toward a legal entity is the desire to protect those who work for the organization, which is often easier with a legal basis. Currently, the OSCE signs memoranda of understanding with host governments. In this way, it creates international legal status and outlines privileges, immunities, taxes, etc. so that both parties understand the conditions. One complication to this system, however, is the fact that the host government can simply break the memorandum, resulting in somewhat uncertain and precarious situations whereby unilateral action is easier. This would not be the case if there were a treaty in place.

The OSCE remains a dynamic process that responds to changing political conditions by maintaining light institutions and a relatively small budget and staff. It employs around 3,000 employees, with around 550 as staff members and over 2,000 making up the field presence. Two thirds of these employees are local, whose knowledge and perspective are critical to the success of field operations. The OSCE limits the terms of most employees and does not aim to be a career organization, with the hope that a fresh perspective will help prevent unnecessary bureaucracy and strengthen the organization.

The idea of comprehensive security is central to the OSCE's operations. The OSCE addresses its broad definition of security by focusing on the security dimension (such as arms and military action), the economic and environmental dimension (such as electricity and water issues), and the human dimension (for example, a functioning rule of law and democracy). The organization achieves its goals in relation to these three dimensions by focusing on a cooperative security. Participants voluntarily give up some of their sovereignty, acknowledging that their cooperation creates a more secure world for everyone. Also of significance to the OSCE's operations is the notion of equality of all participating states; that is, one state, one vote. Consensus, or the absence of objection, must be met before moving forward on any decisions. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but they are infrequently employed, perhaps out of fear of retribution. Additionally, the OSCE operates in a very broad geographical scope that includes 56 participating states in Eurasia and North America. There are also numerous partners in various regions across the globe. The question of further expansion is one that is often raised.

On the whole, the OSCE is a unique organization that successfully fosters an interesting intrastate dimension. The accepted standards are often of a penetrating nature, reaching beyond traditional international law. The organization derives such power from the agreement that social market economies and pluralistic parliamentary democracies are the only systems that guarantee security and peace. Such standards are enacted and enforced through a voluntary commitment to a more secure world.

The OSCE's Organization: Institutional Structures and Budget[KJ1]

Arie Bloed

The Security Dimension: Policing Issues

Robert Hampshire, Police Affairs Officer, Strategic Police Matters Unit

Robert Hampshire's passion for effective policing is quite evident by this thorough knowledge of historical policing issues and reforms as well as present applications. Hampshire began his session with the question of why the OSCE should be involved in policing. The answer: good

policing is absolutely critical to conflict prevention and vital to a post-conflict environment. If the police force is corrupt and illegitimate, whom are the people supposed to turn to for help? Whom can they trust? The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) strategic objective is to spread a democratic vision of policing for the OSCE region. One of its most important tasks is to collect and disseminate best practices for good policing from across the region as well as other relevant contemporary and historical case studies. It achieves its goals by advancing police education and development. SPMU furthers its mission by promoting skill development, primarily across three fundamental subjects: community policing, human rights and the use of force, and accountability. Community policing promotes early intervention skills as well as more effective methods of working with victims. SPMU's activities also include updating criminal investigation procedures, and how to use technology to respond to and prevent local crime as well as transnational organized crime. SPMU also helps strengthen the structures that are related to policing activities in participating states.

Hampshire provided numerous examples of successful police reform in the United States and reminded participants that a couple of individuals standing up for what is right can have a massive ripple effect that yields seemingly impossible outcomes. He pointed to the reform of the Los Angeles Police Department as a particularly relevant example of how just a couple of officers triggered a remarkable reform process.

Workshop II: Various OSCE Issues I

Arie Bloed

The participants' second workshop involved discussion on two issues that the OSCE currently faces:

- 1) How to improve the political leadership in the OSCE?
- 2) Is a common OSCE policy on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) possible and desirable?

In order to foster greater political leadership in the Secretary General's office, some suggested that greater coordination between the SG and the Chairman in Office in regard to a political agenda would be beneficial. Making more balance between the SG and the CiO would help political leadership. Another suggestion was to make the SG a more prominent figure in OSCE activities- give the office a face that people can identify with and look up to. As for the Chairman in Office, it was suggested that more power ought to be given to the troika. Additionally, some thought that perhaps permanent representatives would be beneficial. Finally, in regard to the Secretariat, participants expressed a need for equal opportunity and a stronger transition team to support the CiO.

The second question also yielded stimulating discussion. The point was made that the OSCE's experience in all three dimensions is highly relevant to the current situation in many MENA countries. Perhaps the OSCE would be seen as a more neutral contributor to democratization of the region than other nations or organizations. Objections were made, however, based on the availability of resources and the doubt that consensus could be reached on this topic since each participating state has such varied interests in the region, if any at all. A MENA policy would also require that the OSCE be invited to contribute to the democratization process, which some participants doubted would be probable. The trust factor seemed to be a likely deterrent as MENA countries might not be likely to accept the neutrality of the OSCE's contribution. Further question was raised as to whether or not the differences in

political, social, and cultural situations would be too broad for effective application of OSCE experience.

The Security Dimension: Military Aspects of Security

Maria Brandstetter, CSBM Officer, FSC Support, Conflict Prevention Center

Maria Brandstetter posed the question that is always on everyone's mind at the OSCE: How do we achieve more confidence, trust, and openness? One of the responsibilities of the Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) is to further confidence and security building measures. Military agreements and monitoring measures are two very important aspects to the center's efforts. Originally, during the Cold War, states were to voluntarily invite one another to monitor their activities. The Madrid Mandate (1980) brought about the second generation on confidence building measures (CBMs) and made monitoring efforts politically binding. Additionally, the mandate defined the scope of applicability and stated that reports had to be verifiable, that is, that there would be random inspections and evaluations. States are given 96 hours of notice, however, and may only refuse in case of a force majeure. This mandate was one of many efforts to increase transparency between participating states. Additionally, it was the beginning of a stronger push to reduce armaments.

The Vienna Mandate (1999) was the comprehensive third generation that attempted to link everything together and further increase openness, predictability, and transparency. It established an information exchange on armed forces and major weapon systems, planned military activities, etc. Questions still remain, however, as to whether or not established thresholds are actually effective, if inspections of headquarters should be allowed, and so on.

The OSCE has also turned its attention to controlling, or at least regulating, personal use of weapons. Today, there are around 870 million small arms in circulation around the world, and a number of the largest exporters are among OSCE participants. The OSCE hopes that if people and states continue the arms trade, at least they will do it responsibly. OSCE regulation covers manufacturing, storage, marketing, record keeping, export control, information exchange, etc. It also monitors how many arms have been destroyed. Further efforts revolve around the safety of ammunition. The aim is always to protect civilians and ensure that their governments carelessly handling ammunition will not harm them. The CPC creates and disseminates handbooks of best practices on the care of ammunition, as well. These handbooks have been translated into many languages, and were even requested by the League of Arab States.

As the CPC moves forward, it hopes to involve civil society more actively to become even more effective in combatting misuse of small arms and ammunition. The aim is to foster effective communication channels between militaries constantly and to promote a culture of dialogue on military issues.

The Security Dimension: Political-Military Issues

John Crosby, Operational Support Officer, Planning & Analysis, Operations Service, Conflict Prevention Center

John Crosby works with the Operations Service to provide planning, analysis, and technical advice to support the field operations. One particularly important aspect of this operation is the

situation center, which provides 24/7 open source media watch to monitor and respond to potential conflict situations.

It is important to remember that the OSCE is a security organization; it acts as the primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and post conflict rehabilitation. Its norms and values are agreed upon voluntarily by member states; they are not forced or imposed on any participants. As such, it is the mutual responsibility of all participants to hold one another accountable for adhering to these standards. When analyzing the root causes of a conflict, it is generally true that the conflict began because some participants were not adhering to the accepted norms and values that form the foundation for participation in the OSCE. Although conflicts may ebb and flow between different stages, they generally follow a common pattern, moving from early warning to conflict prevention to crisis management and then to post conflict management. Crisis situations may emerge at any time during the cycle. The United Nations (UN) reports that around ninety percent of conflicts reignite within five years. The OSCE's goal is to prevent any issues from reaching such destructive levels.

Instruments and mechanisms employed to prevent conflict include:

- Permanent Council, which offers a forum for regular dialogue;
- Forum for Security Cooperation;
- Security Committee, which provides an informal forum for dialogue in monthly meetings;
- Parliamentary Assembly;
- Personal/Special Representatives and Envoys, who engage in political dialogue, often behind the scenes;
- High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- Secretary General, the Director of Conflict Prevention Center;
- Conflict settlement frameworks; field operations, and specific early warning signs.

Although there is always room for improvement, one of the most important steps would be to ensure that participating states know what all the possible options for preventing conflict escalation are. Some challenges arise in the lack of resources to ensure effective command and control, logistical setup, the rules of engagement, and the response speed. Crosby closed his presentation with the case study of Georgia in 2008 and charged Summer Academy participants to figure out how to make the OSCE more effective, particularly in consideration of the fact that states tend to put forth stronger obstacles to intervention in times of conflict.

New Security Challenges and Threats – and Possible Responses **PetrKorbel, Policy & Planning Officer, Office of the Secretary General**

PetrKorbel began his session by reminding participants how significantly the political climate has changed since the start of the organization. The world is facing new and very different threats since the 1990s, threats that are trans-border, cross-dimensional, and multifaceted. Additionally, technology is evolving at a faster and faster pace, and non-state actors play an increasingly significant role in global politics. As such, the response must involve an even higher level of cooperation and coordination between national and international actors.

Today, the OSCE focuses on strengthening its own institutions and field operations, promoting institutional reform and capacity building within participating states, implementation of UN

resolutions, networking, awareness raising, and exchange of best practices. The OSCE focuses its efforts primarily on the following threats:

- Border security and management
- Police reform, development, and cooperation
- Organized crime and trafficking
- Counterterrorism
- Corruption, money laundering, and terrorist financing

Challenges facing the OSCE, in addition to these new threats, include a lack of a detailed action plan for moving forward and combatting these issues and a limited budget. Inherent in the nature of the OSCE is the difficulty planning for much longer than one year, since the organization's direction and focus can change each year with new leadership. The OSCE is doing its best to respond to today's complicated transnational threats.

Workshop III: Various OSCE Issues II **Arie Bloed**

The participants' third workshop revolved around the issue of consensus. Many critics of the OSCE question the effectiveness of the consensus principle. They state that the organization would be much more efficient without being forced to reach consensus before moving forward. Proponents of the consensus principle argue that it is necessary to maintain the legitimacy of the organization and the equality of the participants. With this in mind, Bloed facilitated a debate between Summer Academy participants to determine if the principle of consensus should be maintained or changed.

Those who supported maintaining the consensus principle stated that consensus contributes to the OSCE's legitimacy and allows for a stronger basis of mutual accountability. It is the consensus principle that makes OSCE decisions politically binding and forms a stronger basis for enforcement. Consensus also ensures that all participating states have equal representation; this decision process respects each state's sovereignty. Furthermore, it advances the indivisible and comprehensive nature of the OSCE by guaranteeing that all members are on the same page and committed to the same goals. Consensus is also a common feature of many international organizations and has been recognized as an acceptable method of decision-making. This team argued that consensus is the only fair way to make decisions in an organization made up of members with such conflicting interests.

Those who believed that the consensus principle should be changed pointed to the resulting inefficiency of the OSCE as highly problematic. They stated that reaching consensus wastes too much time and that no decisions are made. It is impossible to please all the people, all the time, and as such it would be better to have something like a majority vote that makes more decisions, even if not everyone is happy with the decisions. This group stated that consensus has led to the stagnation of the OSCE and that the decision-making process must evolve in order to make the organization more effective. These participants stated that consensus is an unfair decision-making process, and must be changed.

Both teams adamantly defended their positions and a compelling debate ensued. It was clear that passions were running high and the participants were getting the most out of their experience at the Summer Academy.

Welcome and Introduction to the Permanent Council[KJ3]

The OSCE Summer Academy participants headed to Hofburg in Vienna, Austria to visit the Permanent Council (PC) and to get a first-hand taste of daily OSCE operations.

NAME welcomed and introduced the Summer Academy participants to the Permanent Council. His speech provided a basic overview of the goals and procedures of the Permanent Council. Central to the decision-making process, he reminded participants, is the notion of consensus, which does not necessarily mean that everyone agrees, but rather that no one objects. All participating countries are equal when voting on OSCE decisions. Additionally, they all have veto power if there is a certain issue that they are strongly opposed to. The need for consensus means that there is a lot of negotiation surrounding every single thing that goes on in the OSCE.

The Permanent Council has evolved over the years. In the beginning, it was much more informal. Representatives felt free to air their grievances uninhibited. Over time, however, the PC has become much more formal. It still offers a forum for ongoing dialogue, but today's meetings are much more predictable. Representatives generally prepare their statements beforehand, instead of the free-flowing conversation that it once was. Any state is welcome to raise any issue in the PC meeting. Often, states will hold an informal meeting beforehand to get a feel for which countries they can count on for support. It is also common to run things by the "major" players, such as the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

NAME also ran through some of the logistical considerations with Summer Academy participants. He reminded them that the countries sit in alphabetical order, according to the French alphabet. Around seventy five percent of proceedings are conducted in English. Other important languages include Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, and German. Each nation has one chair at the PC, except for the European Union, which gets two. The countries themselves set rules for how long their representatives remain in place.

Things were buzzing around the Permanent Council. The OSCE Summer Academy participants were in for a special treat: the outgoing Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, would be giving his farewell speech after six years of service to the OSCE.

Welcome Address

Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General[KJ4]

NAME bustled in to give the welcome address on behalf of Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the OSCE Secretary General.

NAME highlighted that everyone in the OSCE was wondering who would be the next Secretary General. No one was quite sure who would take over after Ambassador Brichambaut stepped down, and the decision would not be made until the very last possible moment. The decision had to be made by June 30, 2011 or else no one was sure what to do. There was no precedent as to what to do in the event that the next SG had not been decided upon. Although there were a few suggestions floating around, no one was certain what would happen. In the meantime, all representatives would be heading off on an ambassadorial retreat after

Thursday's PC meeting. The purpose of the retreat was to help set long-term goals and to refresh the representatives and remind them why the OSCE exists.

NAME emphasized that the essence of the OSCE is establishing an open forum where all 56 participating states can gather each week and discuss issues from a level playing field. It is indeed an ambitious concept, but one that has seen both successes and challenges over its lifetime.

Visit to the Permanent Council, NeuerSaal

The Permanent Council meeting was presided over by NAME and the Secretary General, Ambassador Brichambaut. The meeting began with a few reports by various offices: e.g., a report on employment and recruitment, which was met with some criticism and some support from different participating states. The European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States consistently commented on the reports put forth. Other nations also spoke up when an issue sparked its personal interest. Comments were supposed to be limited to five minutes, but that time limit was often exceeded.

NAME summarized her office's recently completed report on the Freedom of the Media in nations across OSCE geographical territory. She highlighted the progress that nations have been making and also called attention to some of the violations of human rights that her office discovered during their research. After her report, nations attempted to defend themselves and excuse or cover their wrongdoings, but NAME would not let anyone shirk the responsibility that they had to uphold their commitment to human rights and a free media.

Finally, the outgoing Secretary General gave his farewell speech. Ambassador Brichambaut said that he was sad to leave such an innovative organization in such a beautiful city. He highlighted the amazing accomplishments of the OSCE and reminded the representatives of the challenges that they still faced. Brichambaut closed with an inspirational recap of the organization's goals and stated that it has been successful because there is as much competition as there is cooperation. Together, participants are committed to a better world, and they are striving to achieve their aims.

The SG's farewell speech was followed by a number of nations expressing their admiration for him and their sadness to see him leave, combined with some teasing about tough times over the years.

The meeting adjourned to give representatives time for a quick lunch before reconvening to finish business in time to leave for their retreat. The fast-paced life of diplomats races ahead!

Astana Summit: Process, Results, and Prospects **Walter Kemp, Director for Europe & Central Asia, International Peace Institute**

Walter Kemp continues to make a significant contribution to the development of the OSCE. He joined the organization in year and remains in what capacity[KJ5]. Kemp also began the International Peace Institute, which works toward international peace[KJ6]. Kemp addressed the Summer Academy participants primarily on the topic of the Astana Summit.

The Astana Summit was unique in that it is unusual to have a summit in a country that is the same as the chairmanship. Part of the goal of the summit was to define Europe today and to refocus on what participating states were working towards and how they would get there. Additionally, the Corfu Process needed further development. Progress on the Corfu Process had begun in Greece when there had been a sort of critical mass of new diplomats and representatives who were eager to improve the OSCE's processes and procedures. Their goal was to tackle emerging security challenges facing Europe and the world with concrete steps. At Astana, there was a renewed energy and dedication to seeing the process through and making the organization more efficient.

The Astana Document began as a very forward-looking document, which reaffirmed the basic principles of the OSCE and garnered strong support from a number of participating states. In the document, the Heads of State of the 56 participating nations state that they have assembled to recommit themselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common, and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. As the summit progressed, however, it became more and more difficult to agree on a framework of action and to make decisions on frozen conflicts. Unfortunately, the spirit of the summit evaporated pretty quickly, leaving much more time for reminiscing than focusing on a beneficial course of future action.

According to Kemp, there are plenty of methods of getting things done in the OSCE that do not necessarily involve consensus; although, admittedly, decision-making is rarely easy in a transnational organization. It requires making sure that the troika is on board, that the big powers are satisfied. One benefit is that consensus forces everyone to compromise, which is critical to the organization's success and to achieving its goals. Alternatives to consensus are unlikely to be accepted by the participating states; as a result, in all likelihood, the consensus principle will remain. As do a number of challenges facing the peoples of the 56 participating states, ensuring that the organization will not fade into oblivion.

Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE
Raul Daussa, Environmental Program Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE
Economic & Environmental Activities

Raul Daussa has been with the OSCE since

The OSCE established the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in 1998 in order to foster cooperation in the fields of economics, science, technology, and the environment. The Maastricht Strategy (2003) set the guidelines, challenges, threats, response, and action of the OSCE in regards to economic and environmental activities. There is a natural link between economic and environmental issues and national security. The OSCE hoped to capitalize on the connection in order to unite people across borders to work for their own good, as well as the good of the world at large.

In regard to economic issues, the OSCE focuses on:

- anticorruption
- black market activity and informal economic activity
- strengthening and/or creating free economic zones
- awareness raising of environmental issues
- secure transport to facilitate trade

Other important components include: good governance, migration management, transport, child labor, and gender sensitivity. Around ninety-five percent of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities' projects are extra-budgetary, which also means that they are largely donor driven.

Environmental activities are always linked to security. Environmental degradation poses one of the biggest threats to the entire human race. It yields economic loss, health risks, socio-economic inequalities, destruction, pollution, and on and on. Environmental projects can be used as a platform for confidence building and dialogue since they threaten all of us, regardless of our nationalities, social status, religion, or any other factor. In transnational projects, careful attention is paid to ensure that the costs are shared, tests are conducted at the same time, etc. so that the projects are as fair and unbiased as possible. The benefits and solutions are then also shared.

The growing threat of water scarcity is likely to have catastrophic repercussions in the future. This is one of many issues that the OSCE strives to combat in order to ensure global stability and greater security for all.

OSCE Field Operations

NunoLuzio, Policy Support Officer for SEE Desk, Conflict Prevention Center

NunoLuzio began the discussion on field operations by reminding participants that the OSCE is primarily a field-based organization, and as such, most resources go to the field where the practical work is done. The Conflict Prevention Center focuses on conflict resolution and rehabilitation; it turns political will into practical actions. The field operations play a critical role in the development of OSCE projects as they often have the best understanding of what is actually needed and what is actually helpful in the country. The field operations are what actually make the organization successful.

Field operations are put in place to help states fulfill their commitments. The majority of field operations are a combination of projects and reporting. Projects tend to revolve around institution building and furthering community rights. Additional efforts include monitoring, police training, democratization, and human rights. The missions are intended to work at the grassroots level, addressing community needs and concerns. As such, local participation and perspective is crucial to the field missions' success! To track progress, there is a formal reporting mechanism, which produces normal reports as well as spot reports when a country experiences an extraordinary incident. Additionally, there are confidential reports that are shared only with the CPC, the chairmanship, or the troika, depending on who needs to know.

Most missions span all three dimensions, although they differ vastly in size. Skopje has had the longest running mission and Kosovo the largest.

One of the challenges facing the Center Prevention Center is the notion that conflict and conflict resolution are measurable, but conflict prevention is not. Some criticize the frozen conflicts that remain scattered throughout the region as evidence that the OSCE is not effective. However, at least these conflicts have not erupted into heinous violence. Measurement is certainly challenging in this regard. Another complication is the increasing tendency to view missions as a stigma. Initially, governments wanted the help of OSCE

offices, but now they want the missions to leave. The CPC and other offices are trying to figure out what has gone wrong in this regard in order to right the wrongs.

Despite the organization's challenges, the benefits of most missions can be felt on the ground. Politically, the OSCE gives nations a battleground where they can fight things through by talking, without having to resort to violent conflict. The CPC plays an integral role in furthering the OSCE's goals and advancing the situation on the ground for the citizens of participating states. Herein lies the success of the organization.

Long-term Missions: Lessons Learned
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Freedom of the Media

Mike Stone, Senior Advisor to the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media is an independent media freedom watchdog that ensures the 56 states are in compliance with their commitment to the agreed upon OSCE decisions. The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media reports to the Permanent Council, not to the Secretary General, like most other offices. As such, this office has some autonomy, but it also receives a very small percentage of the budget. Fortunately, extra-budgetary expenses cover some of its operations. The office was founded in 1997 with the mandate to observe relevant media developments in participating states and to advocate and promote full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media. The office has an international staff of 13 from ten different nations. The representative serves a three-year term, which can be extended once.

Freedom of the media is a cornerstone for any democratic society. The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media monitors governments and politics, companies and the economy, corruption, and the rule of law, among other things. The biggest challenges that threaten freedom of the media are violence; intimidation; impunity for violence; legal restrictions on free speech, such as extremism and defamation; sanctions for breaches of secrecy; protection of confidential sources; and administrative obstacles, such as registration, licensing, and accreditation.

Digitalization provides a great opportunity for pluralism across the globe. However, many governments are threatened by the digital age and the free speech that surfaces on the internet. In most cases, the result has been overregulation and crackdown on internet freedoms.

Generally, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media has relatively good relationships with local governments. They are in almost constant conversation so that no one is blindsided. Although some of the office's requests go unrecognized, Stone stated that it is usually a debilitating problem and that the two parties usually find a way to work through most situations.

Workshop IV: Mediation, Negotiation, and Diplomacy

Wilbur Perlot, Training and Research Fellow, Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael

Wilbur Perlot shared his extensive experience in mediation, negotiation, and diplomacy with the Summer Academy participants. He began with a bit of background on the importance of compromise to most international organizations, and even daily life. People and organizations have to work together to reach the best possible outcome, and in the end, they simply have to accept what is possible.

To be successful at negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy, one must be patient. Additionally, it is important to conduct very thorough preparation and to understand the other side's perspective and anticipate his/her moves. Different cultures and different professions also have very different negotiation styles and desired outcomes. Lawyers, for example, prefer clear, extremely detailed terminology, while diplomats are much more comfortable with vague, somewhat elusive descriptions. Understanding body language and nonverbal communication also gives the negotiator an edge in the process. Taking physical surroundings, such as seating arrangements, into consideration can also enhance the negotiation process.

It is the process that is often more important than the agreement. For example, one person may suggest a beautiful compromise at the beginning. However, the fact that a single person suggested it without directly discussing the decision with all parties involved often makes them reject the compromise. Through a negotiation process, they will likely reach a similar decision, but the fact that everyone has been included is what makes the difference.

Perlot then touched on the distributive bargaining as opposed to integrative bargaining. Distributive bargaining is the process by which participants divide something. Integrative bargaining, which is much more common, involves combining multiple needs to try to make sure everyone is satisfied. Perlot pointed out that a negotiation is likely to fail if the parties hate each other too much to actually care about a mutually acceptable outcome. A person is likely to lose if he/she has not prepared properly. However, in some cultures, it is more important to save face than to actually win.

The Nash equilibrium is the outcome whereby everyone scores the same. Although it is not necessarily the best outcome, it is often one that is satisfying because parties may perceive it as most fair. The optimal outcome is called Pareto, which is truly the highest possible value that can be created. It results from cooperation, which is a step above compromise.

Summer Academy participants then engaged in a diplomatic role-play, in which they negotiated on the Serbia-Kosovo issue. Parties involved included the European Union, Kosovo, Russia, Serbia, and the United States. This activity allowed participants to put their newly learned diplomacy skills to work.

Perlot closed the session with four very important highlights:

- Know yourself.
- Know the other party/parties.
- Know your position, your interests, and your zone of possible agreement.
- PRACTICE!

The Human Dimension of the OSCE: Standard Setting and Monitoring
Arie Bloed

In regard to the human dimension, OSCE participating countries have agreed to a very broad, all-encompassing range of norms and values relating to human rights and democracy. Furthermore, they have signed and accepted that these issues are not limited to private, internal affairs, but are rather a concern of the community at large. The OSCE's stance on such issues encompasses more than does the United Nations'. Implementation remains a challenge, but all participating nations know what they have signed and have the right to call on one another to uphold these standards. The question of nonintervention and sovereignty issues certainly still arises, but the OSCE maintains its commitment to protecting the human dimension. The European Union can also encourage compliance with these standards by dangling EU admission in front of some nations.

Bloed reminded participants that the OSCE is still a security organization and that it cannot focus on all individual cases. In general, the OSCE busies itself with cases that are related to the broader issue of security. It is about the system, not the individual. The one possible exception to this rule is found in the regard to freedom of the media, which focuses more on individual cases because if a journalist is locked up for saying something provocative, that itself is an attack on the system. Although this notion was a very controversial topic when it first emerged in the 90s, it has gained more support over time.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights play very important roles for ensuring that the human dimension is protected across the OSCE region.

Election Observation & New Human Dimension Challenges

Armin Rabitsch, Senior Election Advisor, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Armin Rabitsch has had a very impressive resume of election monitoring all across the globe. He is now a Senior Election Advisor with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with the OSCE.

Rabitsch began the session with an exercise, asking participants whether they strongly agreed or disagreed with the statement that "Every adult resident within a country should be allowed to vote." Participants then lined up along a continuum dependent upon how strongly they agreed or disagreed. An interesting discussion then ensued as participants defended their opinions. Some questions raised revolved around citizenship, mental illness, age, education, etc.

ODIHR is tasked with election observing, but is not allowed to intervene. The office is there to ensure compliance and check the integrity of the process as neutral observers. The presence of observers often makes citizens more confident and increases voter turnout. Additionally, officials are less likely to cheat if they know that they are being watched. In order to gain a thorough picture of the process, ODIHR conducts a needs assessment beforehand. The observation process can be exceptionally challenging due to the fact that fraud can be anywhere, in any stage of the election, from campaign funding to access to the media. The office strives to ensure that elections are universal, equal, fair, secret, free, transparent, and accountable. The organization operates under a mandate, which gives it a legal basis for operations. It usually sticks to national elections and must be invited into the country it will be observing. There have been recent attempts to observe and the longer established democracies, but this often ends up being a question of budgeting. Additionally, ODIHR does

not go into a country if it does not think it will have any influence; that is, if there has not been any change in the country for many years prior.

The election observation cycle involves an initial invitation, followed by a needs assessment mission. Then there is the actual observation, which can be either short- or long-term. Reporting is the next phase and may require additional legal advice or other information. The office then conducts follow-up with the country's government. The ideal outcome is reform, ensuring that the next elections will be even better.

Panel Discussion: Assessment of the OSCE from an EU and National Point of View

Patrick Connell, Political Officer, US Mission to the OSCE

Martina Feeney, Deputy Head of Ireland's Permanent Mission to the OSCE

Valery Maslin, Senior Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

Arie Bloed facilitated the panel discussion that involved representatives from Ireland, the Russian Federation, and the United States. Bloed asked the representatives three basic questions to begin the conversation: Where are we? What challenges are we facing? And where should we go?

Martina Feeney, the Deputy Head of Ireland's Permanent Mission to the OSCE spoke first. She has been Deputy Head of Ireland's mission for three years and has plenty of diplomatic experience. Feeney delivered her country's vision for its 2012 OSCE Chairmanship and stated that their focus for next year will be on multilateral diplomacy and respect for human rights. She also stated that the OSCE faces immense challenges at the moment, but that it has numerous strengths that help it meet those challenges. One such strength, she said, lies in the 56 participating states that span the Northern Hemisphere, making the OSCE one of the largest and most regionally diverse organizations. The 16 field operations help participating countries meet their commitments. She said that she is proud to participate in an organization that clearly strives for global stability and peace. The biggest challenges facing the world at present include terrorism, trafficking, and organized crime, as well as protracted conflicts and violations of democratic freedoms. Feeney expressed her excitement at Ireland's upcoming Chairmanship and her sentiment that Ireland would be a great leader in dealing with protracted conflict due to its own lengthy experience with conflict. Although Ireland aims to enact balanced and coherent activities across all three dimensions, the country will place emphasis on the human dimension. In particular, Ireland would like to take steps to use digital media to empower the world's citizens and fostering civil society. Other areas of emphasis for Ireland's Chairmanship will include good governance, with measures to combat corruption, terrorist financing, and money laundering; updating confidence-building measures; and increasing the institutional capacity of combatting transnational threats such as drugs, cyber-threats, and terrorism. Feeney reaffirmed Ireland's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and its hope to continue progressing towards a more stable, peaceful, prosperous world.

Participants were particularly grateful to Feeney as her country provides a significant portion of the scholarships for Summer Academy participants.

Patrick Connell, a Political Officer for the United States' Mission to the OSCE, opened his speech with the strengths of the OSCE. He highlighted the sheer number of participants and

the vast geographical spread. Connell reiterated the importance of the comprehensive notion of security; if even one component is missing, there will not be sustainable security. Consensus can be both a challenge and a benefit to the organization, as it allows all members the opportunity and the obligation to voice their perspective. The greatest benefit is that everyone is on board when consensus is finally reached, which makes the commitments binding.

Connell stressed that the US would like to emphasize the human dimension as among the most important aspects of security. Promoting democratic values prevents and resolves conflict, while also promoting regional and transnational stability. In order to meet the challenges and threats of the twenty-first century, Connell mentioned the importance of strengthening the political-military dimension. The US is particularly interested in allocating resources to Central Asia, with the hope that stability in the region will influence Afghanistan as well. Combatting human trafficking and promoting free elections, media freedom, and minority rights are also US priorities. The United States continues to fund projects in all three dimensions and has a great history of putting its money where its mouth is and supporting OSCE activities.

Valery Maslin, Senior Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, emphasized that while Russia supports the human dimension, it does not want the other dimensions to be left behind. Russia's priority is common security, which Maslin stated will only be reached through concrete actions. Russia would like to see an updated Vienna Document adopted at Vilnius, with an increased emphasis on arms control and hard security.

Most important to the Russian Federation, according to Maslin, is the adoption of a legally binding agreement on indivisible security for the entire region. He stated that we have moved past dividing lines and everyone is entitled to equal rights for security, regardless of what other alliances they are in. Russia continued to emphasize the need for a firm political-security foundation before moving on to developing the human dimension.

Following their opening statements, the representatives offered responses to one another and then entertained questions from the Summer Academy participants.

Minority Rights and Minority Issues within the OSCE

Arie Bloed

Bloed centered the discussion of minority rights on three main questions: Why? What does the OSCE want to achieve? And what methods does it use to achieve its aims?

Minority rights and issues are extremely complicated issues, with links to all three dimensions of OSCE activity. Consequently, they affect stability and security dramatically. Minorities are generally vulnerable populations that are less privileged and underrepresented, to say the least. The OSCE strives to protect minority interests by taking it farther than simply fighting for human rights; the OSCE pushes farther making sure that minorities are acknowledged and that their rights are fought for. The High Commissioner on Minorities is a truly unique office; its mandate includes conflict prevention and gives it the ability to intervene even without a state invitation.

The OSCE's main aim is to integrate and preserve minority identity and culture and to guarantee their full participation in society. This is a complicated issue because oftentimes minorities prefer to be left alone. In order to get their rights, minority groups have a duty to contribute to society at large as well. It is in the state's best interest to have a proper policy and to support minorities within the country. This support is absolutely critical to a stable society.

Minority rights are challenging because, as with any law, they can be interpreted and contingent on many factors. For example, are there substantive numbers of minorities? Does the government have sufficient money to accommodate the minority groups? And so on. Across the globe, there are examples of successful and unsuccessful variations of implementation. France, for example, does not legally recognize minorities, only citizens. However, it offers a highly sophisticated system of minority schools and other accommodations across the country. Education, in fact, is one of the most controversial issues. Minorities are supposed to be allowed to learn in their own language, but also need to learn the nation's official language. This is one example of how there must be a balance of rights and duties so that both parties are fulfilling their obligations to one another.

In regard to minority issues, it seems that everything is debatable. National minorities can be defined as groups with longstanding links to a geographical area. But how long is longstanding? The debate over the right to self-determination is also a hot issue.

The Work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities **Sabine Machl, Senior Advisor, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**

Sabine Machl has had a lengthy career with the OSCE and has spent four years with the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. She began her presentation by emphasizing that the OSCE is not an organization that is devoted to individual cases of human rights issues. Rather, the OSCE investigates human rights and minority issues as an instrument of conflict prevention. The OSCE concerns itself with issues that are of wider national security concern. Human dimension tools are often used as early warning signals of a larger, underlying conflict. The High Commissioner on National Minorities is unique in that it does not require an invitation from the host country. However, in reality, the High Commissioner maintains a constant dialogue with the host country government to ensure that there are no surprises. The High Commissioner remains impartial on issues and enjoys a great deal of freedom as a result. A great deal of this office's work goes on behind the scenes. This discreet nature of work is more desirable since these issues are so sensitive and controversial.

The Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities hopes to promote a culture of prevention, not of reaction. Its main focus is to avoid separation and assimilation. The High Commissioner (HC) himself conducts country visits almost constantly. He discusses issues with the minorities themselves and then reports directly to the Chairman in Office. The office also conducts confidential communication directly with the states and attempts to address any recurring issues with thematic recommendations.

Machl highlighted a number of conditions that must be in place in order for the Office of the High Commissioner to successfully carry out its work:

- All nations must have accepted the role of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and must be committed to a solution;
- Minorities must also accept the office's role and want to find a solution;
- Conflicts must not have escalated to open-conflict;
- Incentives are often necessary;
- There must be strong political support;
- International bodies must not contradict one another.

Machl emphasized the need for both sides to put forth effort to further the minorities' rights and positions within society. The presence of a kin state also complicates minority issues. Some minorities, such as the Roma, have no kin state. Others have kin states that interfere on the minority's behalf, which is sometimes helpful and sometimes creates an even more unstable regional environment. The hope is that state in which the minority group resides will help them and the kin state will not need to intervene.

In terms of resolving minority issues, the High Commissioner has a fair amount of leverage. The office has access to high-level government officials and the trust of the government based on confidentiality and a good reputation. Additionally, it is in the state's interest to resolve minority issues before they escalate to a dangerous level. There are other international organizations that are willing to intervene if needed. Going to the Permanent Council for help is generally the office's last resort.

The Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities faces a number of challenges. Most significantly is the fact that it is difficult to measure how well conflict was prevented. Also complicating the situation is the lack of enforcement power. Countries can be put on the spot for their actions against minorities, which is embarrassing at most. There are no sanctions, and many criticize that there are no effective enforcement mechanisms. There is little internal dialogue. Minority issues within the European Union create a double standard, which frustrates many nations. Another criticism is that the organization does not do much to address migrant issues.

All in all, the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities plays an important advocacy role and tries to create better living standards for minorities throughout the OSCE region.

Workshop V: Practical Exercise: Regional Aspects of the OSCE Work

Arie Bloed

Summer Academy participants were tasked with presenting a relevant OSCE issue affecting their country. Presentations generally involved a brief overview of OSCE operations in the country as well as challenges and unique methods of overcoming obstacles. Specific problems within a country were also discussed during this workshop. These topics ranged from the discussion of a murdered opposition journalist in Azerbaijan to the Joint Control Commission and the frozen Transnistria conflict in Moldova.

Simulation of an OSCE Event

Arie Bloed

One of the final days of the Summer Academy revolved around the simulation of an OSCE event. Participants were tasked with a role-playing situation in which they were to establish a new OSCE mission in the very resistant, fictional Nargistan. Each team of participants, who represented one nation, was given certain objectives. A Chairman in Office and Secretary General presided over official proceedings. There were numerous side conversations and behind the scenes discussions in order to reach any sort of decision.

Comments on the participants' performance included surprise at the lack of incentives dangled in front of nations to make them more pliable. Bloed stated that in reality, there is much more of this "carrot and stick" negotiation. Bloed also commented that it was highly unusual that all parties were included in drafting the final documents.

Making Better Use of and the Future Role of the OSCE **Christo Polendakov**

Christo Polendakov, Head of Recruitment for the OSCE, began the session by asking participants what the OSCE is for them. One participant shared a textbook-like definition of the OSCE as an organization that seeks to provide security through dialogue and cooperation in much of the Northern Hemisphere. Polendakov then asked participants to sum the organization up in one word. Responses included: philosophy, battleground, ongoing process, action-oriented, three dimensions, never ending story, and so on. The point of the organization, many agreed, is that it brings nations together and starts a conversation, even if problems are not necessarily solved immediately. The Secretary General had recently made his own attempt at summing up the organization: a collectively-shaped process, inclusive, ambitious and generous values, security of their people through consensus, lab of ideas, beacon of hope, testing ground for new governments, established mechanisms, immense reactive tool.

Limits to the OSCE's reach include the geographical spread, insufficient time (or perhaps too much time), and strained resources. Polendakov expressed his belief that the OSCE is continually moving forward and improving. It is building upon its successes and weeding out what did not further the organization's aims. This is a bit of a challenge however when the people who were responsible for establishing the system remain in the organization and attached to their progeny. People tend to take emotional ownership and become defensive when the systems are challenged. Representatives must remember that it is the mechanism that no longer serves the organization and recognize the practical implementation. Reviewing and adapting the processes to serve the OSCE's new needs is what will keep the organization relevant. The political situation has certainly changed from Cold War times. The focus has shifted more to human dignity, moving from the state level to a human level.

The most important lesson learned over the years, according to Polendakov, is that trust is everything. It is only possible with understanding and community successes. Trust yields mutual benefits. This is the goal of the OSCE: to create trust and cooperation. In order to do this, nations must have a reason to give it a chance, which requires victories. For the system to work effectively, nations must agree on what they want to deal with in order to move forward. Polendakov also stressed the importance of appreciating time and believing in the process.

Tour through the European Peace Museum, Schlaining Castle

Participants of the OSCE Summer Academy concluded their rigorous two weeks with a tour of the Schlaining Castle, which has been transformed into the European Peace Museum. The group casually crossed over the bridge over the moat and assembled in the entryway where they waited for their colleagues to join them. Together, the group proceeded through the gift shop, which offers souvenirs and books to visitors. In the

Closing Ceremony (Knights Hall)

The Summer Academy came to a close back in the Knights Hall of the Schlaining Castle. Arie Bloed and Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt made closing remarks to the group and commended the extremely high level of intellectual commentary this year's Summer Academy produced. Participants and facilitators alike were sad to see the program come to a close, but also pleased with all that they had learned- and looking forward to some much-needed rest after two extremely busy weeks!

The Summer Academy was honored to host NAME^{[K]7} and to hear his remarks on behalf of the Lithuanian Chairman in Office. Participants then received their certificates of completion and headed back to the hotel for the farewell dinner.