

Information documents

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10th meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE (Strasbourg, 11 September 2009)

Introduction

The tenth meeting of the Co-ordination Group set up in December 2004 between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 11 September 2009 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg.

The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.

The report drawn up at the close of the meeting appears in Appendix 2.

¹ This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue; it will be declassified in accordance with Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

Appendix 1

List of participants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Committee of Ministers

Slovenia (Chair)

Amb. Meta BOLE, *Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe*

Ms Marija KUŠER, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe*

Malta

Amb. Joseph LICARI, *Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe*

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Mr Redjep SALIU, *Chargé d'affaires a.i., Deputy Permanent Representative of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Council of Europe*

Turkey

Mr Hasan ULUSOY, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe*

Sweden

Amb. Per SJÖGREN, *Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe*

Mrs Aurore Lundkvist, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe*

Spain

Mr Pablo DESPORTES BIELSA, *Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe*

Council of Europe Focal Points

The fight against terrorism

Amb. Emil KUCHÁR, *Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the Council of Europe*

The fight against trafficking in human beings

Amb. Zurab TCHIABERASHVILI, *Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe*

The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination

The protection of national minorities

Amb. Petter WILLE, *Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe*

Council of Europe Secretariat

Mr Zoltan TAUBNER, *Director of External Relations*

Mr Jiří VOGL, *Head of Department of Relations with International Organisations and Non-Member States, Directorate of External Relations*

Ms Anguelina PROKHOROVA, *Administrator, Directorate of External Relations*

Mrs Mireille PAULUS, *Secretary to the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Christophe POIREL, *Deputy to the Secretary to the Committee of Ministers*

Mrs Ulrika FLODIN-JANSON, *Principal administrative officer, Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Patrick PENNINGCKX, *Special Adviser, Private Office of the Acting Secretary General*

Mr Christos.GIAKOUMOPOULOS, *Director of Monitoring, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs*
Mr David DOLIDZE, *Administrator, Anti-Trafficking Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs*
Mr Alexandre GUESSEL, *Council of Europe Anti-Terrorism Co-ordinator, Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law*

OSCE

OSCE Troïka

Greece (Chairman-in-Office)

Amb. Louis-Alkiviadis ABATIS, *Deputy Head of the Greek OSCE, Chairmanship Task Force*
Ms Evrykleia PANAGIOTOU, *Third Secretary*

Finland (Outgoing Chair)

Amb. Irma ERTMAN, *Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe*
Ms Ann-Christine KRANK, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe*

Kazakhstan (Incoming Chair)

Mr Yerkin AKHINZHANOV, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the OSCE*
Mr Stas VASILENKO, *First Secretary, Diplomatic Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Council of Europe*

OSCE Focal Points

The fight against terrorism

Mr Dimitar JALNEV, *Programme Co-ordinator, Action against Terrorism Unit*

The fight against trafficking in human beings

Ms Eva BIAUDET, *Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*
Ms Vera GRACHEVA, *Senior Adviser, Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*

OSCE Secretariat

Mr Oleksandr PAVLYUK, *Head, External Co-operation Section, Office of the Secretary General*
Ms Rita MARASCALCHI, *External Co-operation Officer*

Appendix 2

Report by the Chairs

1. The tenth meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 11 September 2009 at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Meta Bole, Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe and co-chaired by Ambassador Louis-Alkiviadis Abatis, Deputy Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force. The OSCE delegation included representatives of the OSCE Troika, of the two OSCE focal points and representatives of the Secretariat. The Council of Europe delegation included representatives of the Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe, the two Council of Europe focal points and representatives of the Secretariat.

2. Following the decision of the Co-ordination Group at its last meeting (March 2009), the meeting took place in a new format, i.e. only two of the four areas of enhanced co-operation were discussed in depth: the fight against terrorism and action against trafficking in human beings. In the light of the joint reports presented by the Council of Europe and the OSCE focal points in these two areas, the Group welcomed the progress made on co-operation in recent months.

3. The Group expressed its appreciation for the high level of co-operation and interaction in the fight against terrorism and noted that this co-operation had continued to be further enhanced and developed over the last months. It welcomed the contribution and reciprocal participation of representatives of the two organisations in each other's activities in the traditional spheres of the CoE-OSCE counter-terrorism co-operation, such as legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism, prevention of terrorism, protection of victims of terrorism, combating financing of terrorism and money laundering and the protection of human rights while fighting against terrorism.

The Group appreciated that, in line with the recommendation made at its last meetings, the Council of Europe and the OSCE have enhanced their interaction and joint work in other areas, such as cyber security and countering terrorist use of the Internet, countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism, as well as promoting public-private partnership against terrorism.

In this respect, the Group acknowledged in particular the benefits of CoE-OSCE cross-participation in the recent events on cyber security and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes: OSCE/ATU National Expert Workshop on Combating Terrorist Use of the Internet and Comprehensively Enhancing Cyber-security (Belgrade, 25-26 February 2009), Global Octopus Interface Conference on Cooperation against Cybercrime (Strasbourg, 10-11 March 2009) and CoE-OAS/CICTE Conference on Terrorism and Cyber Security (San Lorenzo de El Escorial, 16-17 April 2009).

The Group further noted and welcomed the fact that the two organisations collaborate on other issues related to the fight against terrorism such as the issue of the role of the media in the fight against terrorism.

Looking ahead, the Group encouraged the two organisations to continue with this positive co-operation, to exchange information and to co-ordinate their plans in real time and well in advance, in particular in the framework of technical co-operation assistance.

4. In the field of action against trafficking in human beings, the Group noted that the human rights monitoring mechanism set up by the Council of Europe Convention (GRETA and the Committee of the Parties) is now fully operational and at present Council of Europe action in the field of trafficking in human beings is focused on monitoring the implementation by the Parties of the obligations contained in the Convention. Therefore, there has been a reorientation of the Council of Europe's activities from awareness-raising and promotion of the standards of the Convention to monitoring the implementation of these standards. Due to limited financial and human resources, the Council of Europe needs to concentrate its efforts on the work of GRETA and the preparation of its reports and conclusions as well as on the Committee of the Parties.

Following the change of nature of the Council of Europe's activities referred to above, the Group agreed upon the need to develop new ways of co-operation between the two organisations, such as joint advocacy for the human rights approach in combating trafficking in human beings and enhanced exchange of information, taking into account their distinctive mandates and memberships. The Group underlined that extensive co-operation and exchange of work plans would contribute to complementing the activities of both organisations and permit to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

The Group was informed of the OSCE action to promote the establishment of National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. Bearing in mind the obligations resulting for States Parties from Article 29 of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in relation to "national co-ordinating bodies" and "national rapporteurs" and the relevant OSCE Ministerial Decisions, it took note that there is an ongoing discussion between the two organisations on the nature and competences of "national rapporteurs" and recommended to continue expert dialogue on this issue.

The possibility for the OSCE to participate, on *ad hoc* basis, as observer, in the meetings of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is provided pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE will continue, to the extent possible, their participation in the key public events organised by both organisations, including the OSCE events organised in the format of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons and Alliance Expert Coordination Team.

Finally, as regards the proposal to prepare a joint publication on action against trafficking in human beings incorporating the most important Council of Europe legal instruments and the OSCE political commitments, the Group noted the financial constraints faced by both organisations and encouraged the focal points to consider alternative ways of disseminating the anti-trafficking legal and political expertise of both organisations. In this regard the Group positively assessed the links to each other web-pages placed by the OSCE and the Council of Europe making access to their resources easier for the participating and member states of both organisations and increasing the visibility of their anti-trafficking activities.

5. The Group further agreed on the importance of continuing the work that had been performed over the last years, while respecting the autonomy, different membership and distinctive tasks of each organisation and making the best use of their comparative advantages.

6. The Group invited the focal points to continue maintaining close contacts during the coming months, ensuring that co-operation could continue on the basis of these guidelines, with a view to reporting on progress and plans at the following meetings.

7. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to continue to examine the co-operation between the two organisations and make proposals for concrete follow-up. It welcomed the progress achieved in the development and consolidation of co-operation in the four and half years of the Co-ordination Group's operation. The Group further noted that the close working relations between the focal points of the two organisations, as well as the quantity and quality of activities performed, testified the success and the maturity of the co-operation process and allowed for streamlining the work of the Group in order to enhance the effectiveness of its meetings.

8. In conclusion, the Group decided to meet in Strasbourg in the first half of 2010 to examine co-operation in the areas of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Finally, it was recalled that this report will be submitted to the member states of the Council of Europe and the participating States of the OSCE as soon as possible.