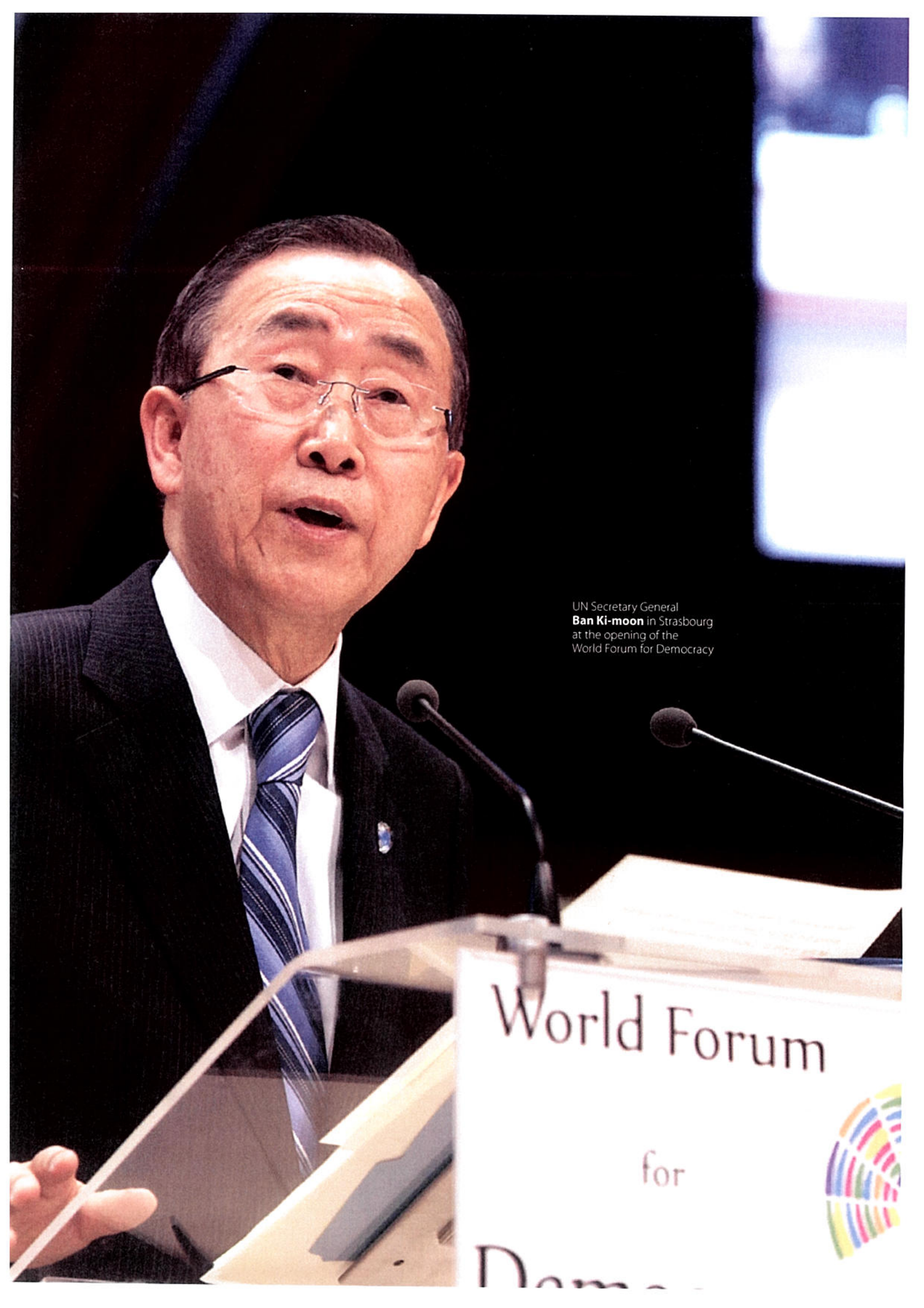


COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2012 highlights



Activity report



UN Secretary General
Ban Ki-moon in Strasbourg
at the opening of the
World Forum for Democracy

External relations

www.coe.int/DER

POLICY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

— The “Neighbourhood co-operation dialogue” involved the authorities of Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian National Authority, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. This three-year €4.8 million EU-financed programme supporting the process of democratic transition in the southern Mediterranean was concluded in January 2012. Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities (NCPs) were then agreed with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan. Negotiations of NCPs were launched with Kazakhstan and targeted activities were implemented by the Venice Commission in a number of countries in regions surrounding the Council of Europe.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

— Co-operation and co-ordination of actions between the two organisations further intensified on the basis of the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding. High-level political dialogue continued and implementation of the memorandum was regularly assessed by the Ministers’ Deputies. Negotiations for the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights have continued. As in previous years, a substantial number of joint activities were carried out through joint programmes. In September 2012, the European Commission issued an assessment of EU funding for the joint programmes. The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels and the Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe further facilitated the reinforcement of the co-operation described above.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

— The UN Secretary-General was a keynote speaker at the opening of the first Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy. In December, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution A/RES/67/83 on co-operation between the UN and the Council of Europe, which illustrates the increasing co-operation between the two organisations in many areas. The opening of Council of Europe offices in Geneva and Vienna, in charge of liaison with the UN, developed several new opportunities for reinforcement of mutual contacts and interaction.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

— The Council of Europe continued to focus its relations with the OSCE on a broad spectrum of human dimension activities in the field, at the intergovernmental and parliamentary levels or between the institutions and specialised bodies. A dialogue on ways to further enhance relations has been initiated and will continue in 2013.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS/ OTHER COUNTRIES

— Throughout the year, the Council of Europe maintained regular contacts and relations with more than 20 other organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law such as the Organisation of American States, the Community of Democracies or the Organisation de la Francophonie. Active relations with the observer states continued, with a focus on looking for new possibilities for co operation.

— Relations with more than 70 non-member states centred on the challenges of the 21st century in fields where the Council of Europe’s strengths can be used to their advantage.