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With the compliments of the Director General of Political Affairs
Avec les compliments du Directeur Général des Affaires Politiques

INFORMATION NOTE
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

NOTE D'INFORMATION

A L'ATTENTION DES DELEGUES DES MINISTRES

RE: OSCE

Please find enclosed the Report of the first meeting of the Council of Europe/OSCE Co-ordination Group, which took place in Vienna on 7 March 2005.

Veillez trouver ci-joint le rapport sur la première réunion du Conseil de l'Europe/OSCE Groupe de Coordination, qui a eu lieu à Vienne le 7 mars 2005.

Ce document n'est disponible qu'en anglais.



Slovenian Chairmanship 2005

Vienna, 9 March 2005

**Report of the first meeting of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group
Vienna, 7 March 2005**

The first meeting of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group was hosted by the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE on 7 March 2005 in Vienna. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council. On the OSCE side Permanent Representatives from the Troika of the OSCE, SG Kubiš as well as representatives of ODIHR and the FoM participated in the meeting. CoE side was represented by Permanent Representatives of the countries in the Bureau of the CoE (Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Norway and The Netherlands), the chair of the CoE GR-OSCE, as well as representatives from the Secretariat.

Participants stressed the potential of the newly established OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group as a useful framework for the involvement of participating/member States in reviewing and guiding co-operation between the two organisations. Better co-ordination in capitals was considered a prerequisite for good OSCE-CoE co-operation.

The Agenda included the following items:

1) Preparation of the Declaration on CoE/OSCE co-operation

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the draft text of the political document on OSCE-CoE cooperation. We have conveyed the suggestions and proposals made by participating States at the Preparatory Committee meeting on 1 March. An amended text of the declaration, based on the suggestions made by both sides at the meeting of the Co-ordination Group, will be prepared by Slovenian and Polish Missions to the OSCE and then circulated to both sides in the coming week.

We raised the issue on how best to proceed with the adoption of the document. Few options were mentioned to be considered. The option, according to which the document should be adopted respectively by the OSCE Permanent Council and the CoE Committee of Ministers' Deputies and then signed by the 2 CiOs on the margins of the CoE Summit in Warsaw, enjoyed most support and was agreed.

2) Priority Areas for OSCE-CoE cooperation and the appointment of the Focal Points

Regarding the identification of areas for enhanced co-operation, the Chair offered three priority areas that enjoyed the support of the OSCE participating States: fight against terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, combating intolerance and discrimination.

All three priority areas were well received and met with approval. In addition, protection of national minorities was suggested as the fourth priority area. The Co-ordination Group agreed

to proceed with the four priority areas. The Chair said these proposals would be referred back to the OSCE participating States.

The Chair announced the focal points in the priority areas on the OSCE side. They were as follows:

- for fight against terrorism, Brian WOO, Head of the Action Against- Terrorism Unit
- for trafficking in human beings, Dr Helga KONRAD, OSCE Special Representative
- for tolerance and non-discrimination, Amb. Christian STROHAL, Director of ODIHR

As regards the protection of national minorities, the focal point would be, subject to his acceptance, Rolf EKEUS, High Commissioner for National Minorities.

The CoE have not yet appointed their focal points. The CoE side will proceed with identifying focal points very rapidly. It was agreed that, once appointed, the CoE focal points would contact their opposite numbers in the OSCE to work out jointly ways of stepping up co-operation in their respective fields.

3) Determination of the date of the next meeting of the Co-ordination Group OSCE-CoE

While not ruling out the possibility of convening a meeting earlier should the need arise, Monday 12 September 2005 was tentatively chosen as the date for the second Meeting of the Co-ordinating Group, which would take place in Strasbourg with Portugal in the Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies.

4) Determination of the date of the Joint meeting of the PC OSCE and the CMD CoE

18 April was tentatively defined as the date for the Joint Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council and the CoE Committee of Ministers' Deputies, which would be hosted by Poland in Strasbourg.

It was agreed that the two Chairmanships would report back to the Permanent Council and the Committee of Ministers' Deputies as soon as possible on the results of today's meeting.