

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Activities in the field of Maritime Security and Safety

OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as a regional security organization, takes a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to security, encompassing aspects related to the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human dimensions of security. Consequently, the OSCE aims at a multi-dimensional response to various security related challenges. As a forum for political and security dialogue, the OSCE encourages further development of co-operation among participating States in various areas. The OSCE also provides framework for co-operation with other international actors in order to address threats in a co-ordinated and complementary way, which avoids duplication and maintains focus. Projects and program activities to raise awareness and build capacities to address security related issues are also developed and implemented by OSCE structures and field presences, often in co-operation with other relevant partners. For more information see OSCE/OCEEA website - www.osce.org/eea.

An OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is held every year. The Forum provides an annual focus for activities by targeting topical issues of economic or environmental concern. It contributes to the elaboration of specific recommendation and follow-up activities. In addition, the Forum reviews annually the implementation of the participating States' commitments *vis-à-vis* key documents within the framework of a review session held every year during the Forum. The Forum process includes two meetings of the Forum itself (in January and May) and two preparatory Conferences. It is organized by the OSCE Chairmanship in close co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), which is part of the OSCE Secretariat. The Forum is pursuing a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together Government representatives from 56 OSCE participating States and its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, as well as relevant international organizations, the civil society, the business community and the academia.

Aspects related to the maritime security and safety have been mainly addressed in the framework of recent annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums.

16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in 2008

In 2008, under the Chairmanship of Finland, the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum will focus on "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment".

The First Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, focussing on the above mentioned theme, was held in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2007. The Conference in Helsinki, which brought together over 180 participants, discussed, *inter alia*, the following topics: international framework of maritime and inland waterways cooperation; the Northern European and the Black Sea experiences regarding maritime co-operation; transport security; protection of the environment; various cooperation issues including the need for co-operation between different actors (government agencies, private sector, international financial institutions, NGOs etc.).

The first part of the next year's Forum will be held on 28 and 29 January 2008 in Vienna. The second part will be held from 19 to 21 May 2008 in Prague. The Second Preparatory Conference, focusing mainly on maritime co-operation in the Caspian and Mediterranean seas, on environmental governance, as well as on co-operation in waterways and other means of transportation in the context of landlocked countries, will be organized in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 6-7 March 2008.

Follow-up activities to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, dealing with maritime security and safety aspects, as well as environmental and economic concerns, will take place during the second half of 2008.

Previous Economic and Environmental Activities related to Maritime Security and Safety

In 2006, under the Chairmanship of Belgium, the theme of the 14th OSCE Economic Forum was "Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability". Maritime security and safety aspects were discussed in particular at the second preparatory Conference held in Baku on 16-17 March 2006 and at the second part of the Forum, in Prague, on 22 - 24 May 2006.

As a follow-up to the Forum, on 4-6 October 2006, in Antwerp, in cooperation with the Port of Antwerp and the Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center (APEC), a joint ILO-OSCE Workshop on Security in Ports was organized. Its main objective was awareness-raising on the 'ILO/IMO Code of Practice on Security in Ports'. It was recommended that the OSCE, together with the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization, could continue to provide assistance where needed with regard to sharing best practices on port and maritime security issues and to facilitate this through offering a platform for dialogue and providing capacity-building and training.

As a follow-up to the 14th OSCE Economic Forum, a Workshop on Transport, Security and Environment was organized in Tonsberg, Norway, on 16-18 October 2006, in co-operation with the Government of Norway. Its main objective was to exchange views, share experiences and identify best practices in the area of planning multi-modal transport corridors, energy transport security and environmental protection in the case of oil spills, and to identify a suitable role for the OSCE in these areas.

Possible recommendations in the context of the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum

Many issues related to maritime security and safety were touched upon in the above mentioned conferences and workshops, and suggestions for recommendations were made. It was suggested, *inter alia*, that the OSCE could play a role in mobilizing political will in participating States to address security and environmental issues in relation to maritime co-operation; that the OSCE could contribute by raising awareness; and that the OSCE, within its mandate, could facilitate the ratification and implementation of relevant international agreements. These suggested recommendations are in line with the general mandate of the OSCE. However, specific recommendations with regard to maritime security and safety will still need to be agreed upon. The issues will be discussed further in the context of the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum and the time for conclusions and agreed recommendations will be at the end of the Forum process towards the end of 2008.

OSCE commitments on container/supply-chain security

Recognizing the vulnerabilities of container shipments and the important role that enhancing container security can play in promoting international trade and economic co-operation, the OSCE participating States adopted a decision at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia on 4 and 5 December 2004 (MC Decision 9/04). They undertook a commitment to act without delay in accordance with their domestic legislation, and to make the necessary resources available to enhance container security, based on best practices and on norms and standards to be agreed internationally.

In implementation of this decision, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) organized a two-day Technical Experts Workshop on Container Security, held in Vienna on 7 – 8 February 2005. At the workshop a number of conclusions were made, relevant to defining a meaningful OSCE contribution to the ongoing national and international efforts to enhance container security. The event confirmed the vulnerability of the supply chain as potential means to carry out a terrorist attack and the importance of taking all necessary measures to address this matter. In this respect, two major concerns were raised at the workshop: (1) the complexity of the supply chain as well as the large number of actors involved in container shipments; and (2) the need for better international co-ordination in order to avoid piecemeal approaches that will hinder a coherent effort.

To meet the above issues action needs to be taken nationally and gradually in order to increase security globally. Recalling its Decision No. 9/04 and welcoming the results of the aforementioned expert workshop, the Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana on 5 and 6 December 2005 adopted a new decision (MC Decision 6/05) on further measures to enhance container security, which recommends that all OSCE participating States should take measures recommended in the World Custom Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (“SAFE”, 2005) as soon as possible and in particular aim to promptly incorporate into their national procedures and regulations the Seal Integrity Programme for Secure Container Shipments contained in the Framework. The decision also tasks ATU to facilitate technical assistance in this field by the WCO and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States and to promote co-operation with the WCO and other relevant organizations in their efforts to enhance understanding of the objectives of SAFE.

Overall, ATU is actively supporting the work carried out by the WCO as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in this area through the organization of joint national training workshops for requesting participating States, the first of which was held in Turkey in December 2006. Another event held as a follow up to relevant OSCE decisions was the above mentioned joint OSCE/ILO “Workshop on Security in Ports” held in Antwerp, Belgium, in October 2006, which focused on the ILO/IMO Code of Practice on Security in Ports. The ATU further provided support to a WCO diagnostics mission in Kazakhstan in November last year (Astana, 24 – 26 April 2007), also related to the implementation of SAFE and joint OSCE-WCO National Action Plan Workshops on its implementation took place in Belgrade, Serbia on 30 January – 1 February 2007 and in Astana, Kazakhstan on 25 – 26 April 2007.

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

Aspects related to maritime security and safety have also been addressed, mainly from an environmental perspective, in the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). (see website - www.envsec.org)

ENVSEC was established in 2003 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) became an associate member of the Initiative in 2004, through its Public Diplomacy Division. From 2006 onwards the Initiative is strengthened with two new members: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); and the Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). The ENVSEC Initiative works to assess and address environmental problems, which threaten or are perceived to threaten security, societal stability and peace, human health and/or sustainable livelihoods, within and across national borders in conflict prone regions. The Initiative collaborates closely with governments, particularly foreign, defense and environment ministries, national experts and NGOs. Together with the

stakeholders ENVSEC has carried out assessments and published reports illustrated by maps, for understanding the linkages between environment and security in the political and socio-economic reality of South Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Based on the assessments, the Initiative develops and implements work programmes aimed at reducing tensions and solving the problems identified.

The most recent example is the ENVSEC assessment report for Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine – also touching upon Black Sea related issues), launched on 21 May 2007 on the occasion of the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague. It examines the links between environment and security in the region as well as opportunities for improving environment and security and proposes some 20 projects and activities for improving conditions there.