

Position Paper for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The issues before the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are: Combating Human Trafficking; Post-Conflict Stabilization and Institution-Building in Kyrgyzstan; and Energy Supply as a Factor of Instability. As the Russian Federation has always played a vital role in solving international conflicts, we are eager to contribute to a good outcome, attempting to live up to our responsibility and our innovative and multi-sided guiding capabilities.

I. Combating Human Trafficking

Modern slavery has many faces. Both men and women are affected, but especially children are victims. Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people worldwide are being trafficked every year. Since trafficking in human beings (THB) has evolved into one of the most profitable actions of criminals - currently a \$7 billion business - a rising trend emerged away from trafficking in arms and drugs towards human beings – differentiated by the fact that drugs can only be sold once, whereas humans can be sold repeatedly.

The Russian Federation is affected by human trafficking as country of origin, transit and destination. In 2003, the Russian Legislative amended Article 127.1 on *Human Beings' Trafficking* of the *Criminal Code of the Russian Federation* implementing the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and its *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons A/RES/55/25* (2000) as an example for the adoption of jointly worked out documents into national law. The Russian government has sustained its investigation efforts and initiated steps against trafficking by ratifying, *inter alia*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women A/RES/34/180* (1979) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child A/RES/44/25* (1989). Additionally, the Russian State Duma set up an *Inter-Agency Working Group* (2002) to create a legal framework concerning THB. The Russian Federation urges to continue the work on common conventions. To further promote its strategic partnership, the European Union and the Russian Federation aim at long-term mutual visa requirements in order to consider migration and security-policy. In 2005, the *MC.DOC/2/05 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* set up a framework that seeks to enhance border security by facilitating visa procedures and stabilizing border areas.

The Russian government steadily improves its training of special border police agents qualifying them to identify persons and especially children who are being trafficked. A standardized education of policemen in anti-THB measures in the whole OSCE region is essential. Since the *OSCE Action Plan Decision No.557 Rev.1* (2005) aims to combat the act of THB by concentrating on prevention, protection and prosecution, Russia has a great interest in its implementation. As human trafficking is a transnational problem and poverty is a main reason for THB, Russia encourages the Member States of the OSCE to take steps to progressively achieve the realization of a protective environment by strengthening relevant institutions and regulations as outlined in the *OSCE Action Plan*. To extend protection for potential victims of exploitation, regional and municipal organizations shall be involved since they know the situation on site and can decide quickly and effectively which anti-THB measures have to be taken. To facilitate and strengthen co-operation and exchange of information, help and information centers on THB shall be primarily established in police stations or public institutions. Annual reports dealing with the progress and the problems ought to be analyzed by experts in collaboration with regional supervisors in order to monitor and improve mechanisms to combat THB. A judicial framework in order to prosecute this slavery is crucial. Regardless of a country's THB-status, laws need to be adjusted in all OSCE countries. Delinquents are criminals that traffic innocent people and deal in an illegal way with the victims in the destination country; their penalty has to be very high. Security arrangements have to be improved in a way that THB becomes uncomely, too dangerous and deterrent for criminals to see trafficking as an option to accumulate money. There are still members that did not implement common visa regulations, whereas others intensified them. Russia advises the international community to adjust the requirements.

II. Post-Conflict Stabilization and Institution-Building in Kyrgyzstan

In June 2010 Kyrgyzstan was affected by heavy ethnic conflicts and riots. Thousands have been displaced and fled the country, mostly Uzbeks who represent a minority; at least 2,000 people died, over 1,750 were injured. With regard to the security situation in Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation is deeply alarmed by the increase of recent inter-ethnic violence and therefore calls for a return to the rule of law. As 13 percent of the Kyrgyz population is of Russian ethnicity, the Russian Government is highly concerned about their safety and well-being.

The Russian Federation gratefully acknowledged the new Kyrgyz government. As Russia has maintained a close bilateral relationship, the Russian Government would like to assist Kyrgyzstan especially in times of political instability. President Medvedev met the head of the interim Kyrgyz government, Roza Otunbayeva, to discuss the development of economic and humanitarian ties in August 2010. Moreover, Russia and the Eurasian Economic Community (*EurAsEC*) members jointly set up the *EurAsEC Anti-Crisis Fund* to provide direct financial aid for affected members. In accordance with *The Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on Russia's state loan to Kyrgyzstan*, Russia transferred \$300 million in 2009. Furthermore, the Russian Federation wrote off \$180 million Kyrgyz debt and made \$150 million available for direct

assistance. *OSCE Decision No.961 on the Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan* (2010) and *Decision No.947 on the OSCE Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan* (2010) are decisively supported by the Russian Federation. As Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Russia emphasizes the need to raise the efficacy of crisis-response mechanisms and to strengthen the security of member countries and the region in general.

Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan will be held in October 2011. Since this is important for democratic stabilization and institution-building, Russia strongly asks the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send an invitation to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for an election observation. In order to provide technical assistance, to improve the legislative and administrative framework for elections and to assist the Kyrgyz law enforcement authorities, Russia further demands a strengthening of the concept for *Community Security Initiative*. This initiative intends to reduce inter-ethnic tensions and to stabilize the capacities of territorial units of the Kyrgyz Ministry of the Interior and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. A smooth implementation of this initiative needs to be guaranteed by a group of experts from the Russian Ministry of the Interior. In line with the OSCE commitments aiming at an international standardized level, it is necessary to implement the revision of the electoral code in accordance with the new Kyrgyz Constitution. Besides, the instruction of election commission members has to be improved. To maximize its effectiveness, the training is to be held in Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan. In order to reduce inter-ethnic violence, Russia would highly appreciate the new Kyrgyz government to outline policies and strategies designed to promote better integration of ethnic minorities. Russia calls for an OSCE action plan with the aim to reconstruct the country's institutional structures, and furthermore supports the police program of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in principal, since the center's mandate and the existing financial regulations are carried out within the *Community Security Initiative* and under the supervision of its director.

III. Energy Supply as a Factor of Instability

Bearing in mind the current self-perpetuating situation of the world's natural materials becoming increasingly scarcer and the unprecedented economic growth of many developing countries spurring an increased demand for energy resources, the Russian Federation is deeply concerned about the devastating consequence that energy insecurity can have, including both domestic and international conflicts. Natural resources are crucial for the satisfaction of basic needs of billions of people. Given the recent changes on the global energy market and the emergence of new threats to the stability of energy security, an improvement of the existing legal and regulatory framework for international co-operation on energy issues is essential.

Russia plays a vital role on the global market and supplies Europe and Asia with energy. *OSCE Decision No.6/07 on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from terrorist attack* (2007) and *OSCE Decision No.06/09 on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area* (2009) are strongly supported by Russia. Besides, the Russian Government signed the *Energy Charter Treaty* (1991) and holds the vice-chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference since 2009. With the adoption of the Russian Government's program *Energy Conservation and the Increasing of Energy Efficiency for the Period until 2020*, significant efforts are being made within the framework of international environmental standards aiming at more stringent protection requirements. By implementing this program, the Russian Federation is setting a good example for all OSCE member countries to do the same. In 2009, President Medvedev introduced the initiative of the *Conceptual Approach to the New Legal Framework for Energy Co-operation*, a proposal for the establishment of a legally binding international agreement designated to become a substantial element of the new system of ensuring energy security. Russian experts have prepared a draft *Convention on Ensuring International Energy Security* which comprises all aspects of global energy co-operation in an effort to respond in a balanced way to the interests of the countries concerned.

It is of great concern to Russia to keep oil and gas pipelines safe and in good condition. Acknowledging the high vulnerability of the pipeline energy supply system through natural disasters, vandalism or even terrorism, the Russian Federation sees the need to improve the modernization and maintenance of pipelines. Therefore, Russia strongly calls for every country being responsible for the security of pipelines running through its own territory. This is also advantageous for the local population which is endangered concerning pipeline accidents. Each transit country is asked to write annual status reports. To build an effective energy supply system, new energy technologies have to be advanced, spread and introduced in each country. Alarmed by unstable and volatile situations in some areas like the Caucasus region it has always been Russia's utmost priority to put forward alternative projects like the Baltic Sea pipeline to ensure a more stable supply situation for Western Europe. Further, Russia urges all countries to only collaborate with transit countries that are exceedingly stable and can guarantee a safe supply. It is in Russia's interest to make energy accessible to as many people as possible at an affordable price. In times of several critical energy situations as in Ukraine or Belarus, Russia sees the urgent need for an "Energy Crisis Commission" to prevent energy disputes and be a conflict-negotiator since it is fundamental to implement a system of measures for the circumvention and engagement of internal and external threats. Mentioned commission shall monitor transnational energy conflicts of all kind by reminding the involved parties of their responsibilities and by fostering dialogue among both sides.