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International Organizations in Practice: Uniqueness, Cooperation or Overlapping?

Seminar report

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1. Preface

A group of 29 students, professors, and researchers met in Vienna (Austria) in mid-April 2011 to attend a seminar on “International Organizations in Practice: Uniqueness, Cooperation or Overlapping?” organized by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH).

The seminar was coordinated by Dipl. Soz. Teodora Aurora Vrancean, graduated in Peace and Security Studies at the IFSH, and the head of the M.P.S. Master Program, Prof. Dr. Götz Neuneck. Christian Alwardt, Dipl.-Phys. and researcher at the IFSH supported the coordination team after the departure of Prof. Neuneck on Wednesday, April 13th.

The majority of the participants were students from the Master’s Program in Peace and Security Studies (M.P.S.) in Hamburg, who were supported by a handful of students from the European Master’s Program in Human Rights and Democratization (E.MA) in Venice.

The aim of the seminar was to introduce the students to the numerous international organizations based in Vienna. The participants gained insight into day-to-day work of international organizations. Additionally, experts in each organization lectured about the tasks and possibilities for action in their respective organizations. First of all they gave highly detailed insight into each organization and subsequent discussions brought to light even more interesting details and information on specific topics.

Special attention was paid to the new security challenges of the 21st century, particularly those created by recent events in Northern Africa, the Middle East, South East Europe, and Central Asia. Of course, much of the discussions also emphasized Japan’s recent earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear tragedy.

The week started with a visit to the German Mission to the UN in Vienna on Monday. Afterwards, the group visited the UN Office at Vienna (UNOV) to meet with representatives from the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

During the next days, the group went to the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Energy Community Secretariat, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Additionally, there was the opportunity to spend some time at specific Austrian institutions, such as the National Defense Academy and the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (ÖIIP) to discuss the role of Austria in international politics and the recent developments in Sudan and Somalia.

Highlights of the trip included the visit to the OPEC-Fund for International Development (OFID) on Wednesday and the two-day visit to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Thursday and Friday. In many interesting presentations and discussions, the group learned about OSCE’s work, structure and challenges (such as the state of play in the OSCE after the Astana Summit), economic and environmental aspects of security, and even the specific role of the military group in the German OSCE Delegation. There was also the opportunity to observe a meeting of the Permanent Council and to speak with representatives from the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Conflict Prevention Center on their missions and mandates. At last the group met with representatives from the Delegation of the Russian Federation and their US counterpart for discussions on OSCE-related topics.

Fabian Kümmeler

2. German Mission to the United Nations in Vienna

Speakers: Permanent Representative Ambassador Rüdiger Lüdeking and the Deputy Ambassador Rüdiger Zettel.

The Permanent Representative Ambassador Rüdiger Lüdeking and Deputy Ambassador Rüdiger Zettel presented the work of the German Mission to the United Nations in Vienna. The Mission seeks to exert influence over Vienna-based international organisations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

According to Lüdeking, the most important organisation or, at least, the organisation receiving most media coverage, is the IAEA. The first of the IAEA's three pillars comprises science and technology, including nuclear energy (e.g. assistance to states which want to start a nuclear program) as well as alternative nuclear applications (e.g. in the treatment of cancer). The second pillar deals with safety and security, specifically with power plant safety (operational safety) and security against external influences (e.g. terrorist attacks).

Contradictions may, however, arise between these two objectives. For instance, whereas for safety reasons, doors should be kept open as escape routes, they should remain closed for security considerations. The third pillar comprises nuclear verification and safeguards. In this section, the IAEA Secretariat verifies that the declarations made by states about their nuclear material and activities are correct and complete.



Lüdeking and Zettel also presented the UNODC as well as others organisations and provided some insight into the practical work of the Mission. The Mission seeks to advance German interests and objectives through the respective steering committees. In the case of the IAEA, for instance, the relevant committees are the General Conference and the Board of Governors. However, this is a rather complex task, as decisions are often reached by consensus in these bodies. It is, therefore, necessary to participate actively in the permanent meetings and the working groups, as well as in informal workshops.

The Mission also works closely with the European Union, for example, in editing drafts. In addition to this multilateral dialogue, there are also bilateral relations. Moreover, Germany, France and the UK („E3“group) sought to create an additional forum to discuss the case of Iran, parallel to the IAEA. The “E3+3” countries further include the US, Russia and China. Furthermore, various ad hoc boards are formed to discuss current problems.

In the lively discussion which followed the speeches of the Ambassador and the Deputy Ambassador, a topic of interest for the students was the multilateralization of the nuclear fuel cycle. According to Ambassador Lüdeking, different proposals are currently being discussed. For example, the private Nuclear Threat Initiative has suggested a Nuclear Fuel Bank. Germany, however, preferred another proposal which suggests that a new nuclear plant could be used by several states, which would all receive supply guarantee. The plant would, nonetheless, remain under the control of the IAEA.

At the moment, no proposal prevails because of the conflicting interests of the states, which are basically split into two groups: the nuclear “haves”, already in control of the technology needed to produce and use nuclear energy and the “have-nots”, who do not yet possess the necessary capacity.

Countries, such as Venezuela, do not want to renounce their right to the civilian use of nuclear energy, as granted in Article 4 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. For South Korea, India, Russia and Vietnam, nuclear energy is the main source of energy. However, the USA sees a problem with the German proposal, in their opinion the international companies cannot ensure secrecy of information. All in all, the future of the multilateralization of the nuclear fuel cycle is unclear.



The students also raised questions about the current situation in Japan and the IAEA's crisis management. The organisation's limited power in the case of Syria was discussed, as was the feared loss of its credibility and its dependence on member states' secret services. Further topics included the nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, the position of Israel and the Arabic states and possible consequences of the Arabic revolution.

Ellen Holder & Mélanie Gerber

3. United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

a. Introduction to the UN in Vienna – guided tour in the UN Centre

Guided by Julia Huber and Thomas Shingo

Vienna accommodates one of the four UN head offices besides New York, Geneva and Nairobi. The office complex is part of the Vienna International Centre (VIC), a cluster of several major international organisations. The Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna agreed on the sharing of costs in the proportion of 65% to 35%. The VIC, designed by Austrian architect Johann Staber, was built between 1973 and 1979, just north of the river Danube. The initial idea of setting up an international organisation in Vienna came from Austrian Chancellor Dr. Bruno Kreisky.

Six Y-shaped office towers surround a cylindrical conference building for a total area of 230,000 square metres. The highest tower stands 127 metres tall, with 28 floors. Complementing the ongoing asbestos removal works in the VIC, a new conference building has been put into service in 2009. The VIC has been let to the UN for a symbolic rent of 1 Austrian Shilling (7 Euro cents).

As a symbol for the end of World War II there is a big bell located outside the buildings, which consists of the material of coins of all UN member countries. It is rung on the 9th of August every year, the day that the nuclear bomb hit the Japanese town of Nagasaki.

Today about 5.000 employees from over 100 different countries work in the VIC, which also offers catering and shopping facilities, a post office, two banks and other commercial services. The VIC is an extraterritorial area. About 15 Agencies are present in Vienna, of which 5 are headquartered in the city.¹

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the largest organisation based in Vienna. The IAEA works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies. Its work covers three main pillars: safety and security, science and technology and safeguards and verification.

The United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) was established on January 1st, 1980. It is responsible for the administrative support of different UN bodies and institutions. It also plans and organises conferences. Mr. Yury Fedotov (Russian Federation) was appointed to Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna on July 2010.

A further international organisation located in the VIC is the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Its tasks comprise technical assistance, counselling and mediation as well as research and study programmes.

In 1997, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom) set up its headquarters together with its International Data Centre in Vienna. The aim of this organisation is to monitor compliance with the treaty, which will forbid nuclear testing when signed and ratified by a sufficient number of countries. The CTBTO has the ability of detecting and locating nuclear tests, wherever they take place in the world. It can further provide civil assistance, for instance, in locating earthquakes or giving early warning for tsunamis.

¹ United Nations family in Vienna: United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); International Money Laundering Information Network (IMOLIN); International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); Office for Outer Space Affairs; United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA); United Nations Information Service (UNIS); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR); International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Secretariat / United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Environment Programme - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna ISCC); United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNRoD).

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Jurij Gagarin's space flight, there was an exhibition at the UN centre in Vienna, displaying for instance satellites and a lunar sample.

Kirsten Eberhardt & Kristina Tonn



3. b. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Speaker: Klaus Billand, Senior Coordinator for UN System Coherence

Klaus Billand, Senior Coordinator for UN System Coherence, announced he was going to talk for 25 minutes and then open the floor to questions for 15 minutes. During his presentation, Billand introduced the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and its mandate within the United Nations. UNIDO was established in 1966 and became a „specialised institution“ in 1985. UNIDO has 172 member states, its own constitution, governing body and budget. It has three policy-making organs:

1. The General Conference – taking place every two years, it includes all member states and approves work programmes and the budget
2. The Industrial Development Board – includes 53 member states and usually meets twice a year and only once a year when the General Conference takes place. It reviews the implementation of the work programme and the budget and makes recommendations
3. Programme and Budget

UNIDO works in the context of four of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, implement gender equality, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development. It further works according to “three E’s”: competitive economy, productive employment and sound environment.



UNIDO is present in over 50 countries and also runs field offices, which offer more technical support or provide “start-up” help to enable countries to take over the work themselves.

Following his presentation, Billand’s intern, Ms Nina Uransek, explained the UN Reform, which started in November 2006. It aims to make the UN system more coherent.

After the presentations, the students’ questions were answered, addressing issues such as the differences between UNIDO and the World Bank, microcredit, gender equality and the measures developed by UNIDO to design appropriate development plans for each country. One student was interested in the consequences of the US pulling out of UNIDO in 1995 and Billand answered that this left UNIDO with great budget problems. Unfortunately, Billand stated that efforts to bring the US back have not been successful thus far.

Edith Novy & Rebecca Schmitz

3. c. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Speaker: Thomas Pietschmann, Research Officer at the UNODC

Thomas Pietschmann began by introducing the UNODC’s main fields of work. The agency deals with UN activities concerning the fight against illicit drugs, international organised crime and terrorism. According to Pietschmann, the UNODC’s main goal is to foster security and justice worldwide. The UNODC has ten regional, nine country and 33 programme offices. The largest are located in Bogotá (Colombia) and Afghanistan. Two liaison offices are based in Brussels and New York. The agency employs 1100 staff members around the globe, one third of them in Vienna. 90% of its budget comes from voluntary contributions, mainly from different national governments, and 10% from the United Nations in New York.

The work of the UNODC consists of three pillars: Research and Analysis, Normative Work and Technical Cooperation. The first domain covers the expansion of evidence-based information for policy and operational decisions. The normative area comprises the implementation of international law, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism as well as the provision of



secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies. The third domain focuses on reducing supply (alternative development, law enforcement, forensic labs) and demand (prevention, treatment).

Pietschmann presented the global prevalence of drug use and drug routes. In 2007, cannabis was mainly used in Africa and Oceania, opiates in Asia and Europe and cocaine in the US. Amphetamine consumption is particularly a problem in Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Thailand.

There are different smuggling routes for drugs serving different markets. Cocaine from Colombia is transferred to the United States and distributed to Europe via the Caribbean Islands. A new transfer route to Europe via West Africa has also developed in recent years.

Opium basically stems from Afghanistan (the biggest opium producer), travelling via Pakistan/Iran to Turkey and through the Balkans to the European market. Another route goes through the Central Asian states to Russia.

Pietschmann further explained the different steps in international drug control during the last century with the Chinese role model. The initial step was the 1909 Shanghai Conference with 13 participating nations which led to the International Opium Convention in 1912. Germany had, at the time, the biggest opium and morphium production. Other conventions were passed after that, under the League of Nations Drug Control and subsequently the United Nations Drug Control Regime, since 1946. The 1988 Convention dealt, for the first time, with the connection to money laundering and shifted the focus to drug trafficking.

Pietschmann then focused on the situation in Europe and especially in Germany, where cannabis is the most heavily consumed narcotic. According to Pietschmann, the highest rate of violations against the law per 100.000 inhabitants was reported in Bremen and Hamburg during 2009.

Finally, Pietschmann mentioned the problem of transnationality. The kingpins of drug business are acting across state borders while the national police forces, for instance, are not adequately connected to each other yet.

Lisa Acker & Fereschta Sahrai

3. d. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Speaker: Thomas Mützelburg

On Monday's last talk of the day, Thomas Mützelburg presented the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization and told the audience about the organisation's history and its purpose. The CTBTO is an international organisation that monitors member state compliance with the complete ban on nuclear testing. The treaty was negotiated in 1996 and has been open for ratification afterwards.



Till today, 182 states have signed and 153 states have ratified it, but the treaty has not entered into force yet. The treaty will only enter into force when all 44 Annex II countries – countries that had the capability to start nuclear weapons testing at the time of negotiations of the treaty in 1996 – ratified the CTBT. There are currently nine Annex II countries missing: the US, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, Iran, Egypt and Indonesia, although the latter recently announced that it would initiate the process of ratification.

Although the treaty has not yet entered into force, its verification system is already in place. There are already 264 monitoring stations and with the capacity already in place, the verification facilities can already cover the whole world. Once the full capacity is installed, the verification system will consist of 337 stations scattered over almost the entire globe. The CTBTO relies on four different types of monitoring stations: seismographic, infrasound, hydroacoustic, and radionuclide & noble gas meters. Together, they create a powerful tool that can practically detect any underground nuclear testing activity over two kilotons. 8 gigabytes of data from all monitoring stations are sent

daily to the Data Centre in Vienna, where it is analysed and from where reports are sent out to each member state. In order to make this happen, 160 analysts are employed by the CTBTO.

The verification system can also be used for civil purposes, like tsunami warnings, cloud spreading after volcanic eruptions and radio nuclide measuring, such as in Fukushima. However, since the data is proprietary, the CTBTO is only allowed to provide this information to member countries.

Kristian Kouros



4. European Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna (FRA)

Speaker: Thomas Schwarz

Thomas Schwarz introduced the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), where he has been working since 2003. The agency was founded in 1997 as a European monitoring centre on racism and xenophobia. In 2002, its mandate was extended to cover all fundamental rights. The mission of the FRA then became to make fundamental rights a reality for everyone within the EU.

The agency's approach is a top-bottom one. The advice given to EU agencies and member states is based on prior systematic data collection from the 27 EU member states. The FRA usually provides advice on topics for which the EU has a mandate or on topics which are connected to the EU through national law. Nevertheless, Schwarz admitted that there are grey zones and that the Agency does not feel limited by EU mandates. He cited the example of migration, a topic covered by the Agency despite being a matter of national jurisdiction. Schwarz further mentioned the issues of civil participation, visa and border control, rights of the child and integration as being excluded from the EU mandate, yet still addressed by the FRA. The agency also observes the human rights situation in countries under "stabilisation" processes, such as Croatia for instance. In the next three years it intends to cover countries of former Yugoslavia.

Schwarz explained that the FRA was not responsible for setting standards and instead worked within the context of international human rights standards, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, monitored by the Council of Europe, and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. Schwarz reminded us that the European Charter of Fundamental Rights entered into force when the Treaty of Lisbon became binding to all EU member states, therefore granting more protection to EU citizens. There is now the expectation that the EU as an institution will itself become part of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Schwarz said that the FRA was established through a regulation and was in close contact with the European Parliament, the EU Commission and the Council of Europe. Schwarz informed us that overlapping with these institutions was prevented by the presence of a member of the Council of Europe in the Executive Board. NGOs can also ask for registration to a special platform in order to be involved in the agency's work.

Schwarz presented the latest publications and surveys of the FRA, which are available on its website. He informed us that the FRA has 100 staff members, who are independent from foreign interference.



When asked about the French policy regarding the expulsion of EU citizens from France, the FRA representative answered that the agency had cooperated closely with the EU Commissioner Reding, at the time just sworn into office. On the issue of protection of minorities, he underlined that there is no common European approach in minority politics, given that France, for instance, does not recognise minorities.

In response to the question on the agency's work on IMF policies and its potential dangerous effect on social and economic rights, Schwarz admitted that despite the strengthening of the protection of those rights since the entry into force of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, the

Agency had failed to report adequately on the situation during the financial crisis. He admitted that this was perhaps due to the top-down approach, which did not include pre-emptive assessments.

The FRA representative informed that the agency's budget amounts to 21 million Euros, of which 50% cover operational costs. He also mentioned that the agency does not collect the data alone but also commissions institutes and NGO's.

Finally, Schwarz admitted that the knowledge on human rights issues in Europe is still very poor and that, unfortunately, there is no European strategy to tackle this issue.

Lisa Acker & Mariana Groba Gomes

5. Energy Community Secretariat

Speakers: Slavtcho Neykov (Director), Dirk Buschle (Legal Counsel),
Predrag Grujicic (Head of Hydrocarbons Unit),
Simon Uzunov (Head of Electricity Unit),
Gabriela Cretu (Electricity Expert)

Director Slavtcho Neykov briefly introduced the Secretariat and welcomed the participants before introducing his Legal Counsel, Dirk Buschle. Buschle spoke about the history of the Energy Community, which was established in October 2005 in Athens, Greece and entered into force in July 2006. The institution includes the Ministerial Council (where the EU represents all member states with one vote), the Permanent High Level Group, the Regulatory Board, four Fora (electricity, gas, social issues, oil), and a Secretariat. He explained that its mission was to extend the EU internal energy market to South East Europe and beyond, thereby providing a stable investment environment based on the rule of law that tied the Contracting Parties together with the EU.

These Contracting Parties include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, and the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Interestingly, Moldova only became a full-fledged member in May 2010 and Ukraine officially acceded in early 2011. In addition to the Contracting Parties and the EU, Georgia, Norway, and Turkey take part as Observers. Buschle argued that these three countries took part in the Energy Community for different reasons. For example, Norway was there to follow local processes in which it had invested while Turkey was using its role as an observer to tie closer with the EU, perhaps with the objective to speed up its accession to the EU.

Buschle also emphasized the most important part of the mission: the Energy Community's contribution to the security of energy supply in wider Europe. Especially since 1950 with the Coal and Steel Community, energy resources have been the basis for European integration and have played a significant role in integration and stabilization in South East Europe. Buschle argued that the present challenges facing the Energy Community were ideology and the market structure. The current market structure, he showed, was complex as it promoted monopoly throughout the network line. Of course this was a problem because there was little room for competitors, which in turn gave consumers little choice in terms of energy.

Thus, the main goals of the Energy Community were to create a stable regulatory and market framework capable of attracting investment; to create a single regulatory space for trade in Network Energy; to enhance the security of supply of the single regulatory space; to improve the environmental situation in relation to Network Energy and related energy efficiency; to foster the use of renewable energy; and finally, to develop Network Energy market competition on a broader geographic scale and to exploit economies of scale.

Head of the Hydrocarbons Unit, Predrag Grujicic, spoke about the legal and institutional framework of the Energy Community. He also discussed EU energy policy towards natural gas and its support of renewable energy resources. In terms of the security of supply, he argued that the EU needed to diversify the types of energy it relied on as well as whom it relied on for energy. Essentially, according to the International Energy Agency, 68% of the energy the supply came from Russia and the rest was produced in the EU (2009). Grujicic argued that this needed to change in order to enhance the security of supply and to ensure more affordable access to energy.



This was why the Ministerial Council was currently focused on three main goals: interconnecting Bulgaria and Serbia, developing the Ionian-Adriatic pipeline, and developing the LNG Terminal in Kirk (Croatia).

Head of Electricity Unit, Simon Uzunov, shared about the electricity infrastructure and the electricity market in the region. The main issue today was affordable energy supply and balanced trade. Regarding the future of electricity, he argued that because investments were currently missing, a regional approach should be applied because the energy market must absolutely work in favor of supply.

At the end, the floor was opened for questions and comments and participants raised some concerns regarding the future of renewable energy. Electricity Expert Gabriela Cretu responded and emphasized the necessity of developing renewable energy, increasing the energy efficiency of economies, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, she also emphasized the fact that solely relying on renewables was impossible today, mainly because of the cost. Though renewables could make up much of the energy market in the future, she said this was not an option today.

Thus, to ensure fiscally responsible energy and the security of supply, she stated that the Energy Community would be interested in dealing with Central Asia, especially Turkmenistan, but admitted that as of yet, there were no formal negotiations between the Energy Community and Central Asia. She believed that it could be possible to open better relations with Central Asia in terms of energy through cooperation with the OSCE.

When questions regarding nuclear power arose in light of the recent Japanese tragedy, Neykov clarified that the Energy Community did not have a mandate in the nuclear field and that nuclear policy was still a national issue, not an issue for the Energy Community. Thus, as representatives of the Energy Community, questions about the future of nuclear power could not be dealt with explicitly during the conversation. Uzunov spoke personally on this point and reminded that it was the low cost energy, not simply renewable energy that was compatible with the goal of carbon reduction. He argued that once a nuclear power plant was built, it was certainly cost effective and directly in line with the carbon reduction.

Though acceptance of nuclear power had recently waned in Germany, he argued that acceptance of nuclear power worldwide went through phases and that recently, although nuclear power had not changed, the perception of nuclear power had changed in certain countries due to recent events in Japan. Neykov concluded the meeting by saying that political security and the protection of infrastructure were prerequisites for the development of energy security.

The meeting was both energetic and productive, especially because of the diverse presentations and opinions given.



Anna-Karina Bayer & Ram Kumar Bhandari

6. International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Speakers: Slávka Zborovianova (External Relations Officer),
Julien Simon (Mediterranean Transit Migration i-Map),
Mariya Dzhengozova (Research & Documentation)

External Relations Officer Slávka Zborovianova welcomed participants and presented an overview of the history and work of the ICMPD. She first mentioned that the purpose of the ICMPD was to achieve comprehensive, sustainable, and future-oriented migration governance at the regional, national, and international levels. The ICMPD works with the belief that migration challenges can only be solved through tight cooperation with all related stakeholders of migration issues including governments, civil society, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and of course migrants.

The fall of the Iron Curtain caused a migration pressure in Europe and in light of these problems; the ICMPD was created in 1993 through Austrian and Swiss initiatives. In 1996, the ICMPD received its status as an international organization and in 2000, it signed a Headquarters Agreement with Austria. In 2002, the organization took an observer status to the UN and shifted its geographical focus to the small Central European countries. The ICMPD currently has twelve member states (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland) and plans to add Bosnia & Herzegovina in the near future.



ICMPD is headed by the Steering Group, made up of the Director General (and his Advisory Board), the Secretariat, and the Senior Advisors. ICMPD is organized into three different units including General Affairs and Research, Human and Financial Resources, and its Competence Centers (areas of focus): 1) Illegal Migration and Return, 2) Trafficking in Human Beings, 3) Border Management and Visas, 4) Asylum, 5) Migration and Development, and 6) Legal Migration and Integration. The ICMPD is financed via donations from international organizations and institutions such as the European Commission, membership contributions, and contributions from crucial partner states.

According to Zborovianova, the activities of the ICMPD are divided into three categories. The first is the intergovernmental dialogues that promote governmental discussion and the improvement of the inter-state dialogue. The second is capacity building to improve the migration governance and to strengthen national and regional capacities. The third is policy-relevant research with an overview of interdisciplinary and international approaches.

Julien Simon presented one of the main activities of the ICMPD: the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) created in 2002. Its purpose was to build an informal, intergovernmental dialogue between 44 participating states in the Mediterranean area. This project (co-funded by Cyprus, Italy, Hungary, and Switzerland) consisted of two pillars: irregular/mixed migration and migra-

tion/development. Simon also presented the Interactive Map on Migration (i-Map) concept, a tool for analyzing the flux of migration to help in the development of knowledge-based migration policies. The main challenge was to support the national governments to deal with Diasporas through a South-to-South exchange. At the end of his presentation, Simon showed a brief overview of the i-Map online (see <https://www.imap-migration.org/index2.html>).

Finally, Mariya Dzhengozova presented the research and documentation aspect of the ICMPD. She briefly discussed its funding system and then explained three ongoing projects in more detail including the Rapid Asylum Inflow Alert System (RAIAS), the Treatment of Third Country Nationals at EU's External Borders, and the Study on Typology and Policy Response to Child Begging in the EU.

Through the open discussion at the end of the presentations, it became clear that there is only limited cooperation between the ICMPD and Germany. Students also asked about the cooperation with the Italian government in light of the rising migration flow from Northern Africa. Zborovianova answered that some related projects were running, but it failed to officially cooperate directly with the Italian government.

Sofia Antunes & Yumi Igarashi

7. National Defense Academy, Institute for Peacekeeping and Conflict Management

Speakers: Brigadier Dr. Walter Feichtinger and Dr. Gerald Hainzl

Brigadier Dr. Walter Feichtinger met us outside of Austria's National Defense Academy and briefly introduced the Austrian Armed forces before leading the group to a lecture at the Institute for Peacekeeping and Conflict Management.

Dr. Gerald Hainzl introduced his lecture on the Horn of Africa by stating: "There is no Africa." With this statement, Hainzl wanted to highlight the simplification that is constantly made about Africa—a simplification that treats Africa as a single entity without accurately recognizing the enormous geographical, cultural, and linguistic diversity of the continent.

He illustrated his point with several maps and fact sheets on the region and the conflicts that occurred there (e.g. the geographical distribution of Muslims and Christians, or nomads and farmers throughout the continent). One particularly interesting map was one that showed the occurrence of "conflicts without borders." It provided a differentiated view on Africa's conflicts and showed potential factors that could contribute to conflict such as military, ecological, political, economic, historical, linguistic, ethnic, religious, gender, psychological, and resource-based factors.

After this general introduction of Africa, Hainzl elaborated more on the Horn of Africa—especially on Somalia and its history. He focused extensively on Somalia's most northwestern territory, Somaliland, and its implications for the secession of southern Sudan. Somaliland is of course an unrecognized self-declared sovereign state and Hainzl speculated that southern Sudan's secession could lead to greater calls by Somaliland's leaders to recognize their secession as well.



Thereafter, he talked about Sudan in more detail, especially the upcoming secession and its consequences for Africa and the international community. He introduced potential scenarios that could have taken place after the referendum. Those included: unity without violence, separation without violence, unity with violence, and separation with violence. In his view, all four scenarios were still possible today since it has only been four months since the referendum that was overwhelmingly in favor of southern secession.

After discussing internal Sudanese politics, Hainzl highlighted the interests that the EU, India, Brazil, Russia, Turkey, Japan, and the US pursued in Sudan. Considering the fact that Sudan was an oil-rich state, he argued that issues would probably arise concerning pipelines and transit routes to the oil importing countries in the near future.

After his presentation, Hainzl opened the floor to questions. The students were especially interested in the role of oil in the conflict as well as China's increasing role in Sudan and its implications for European development policy.



Edith Novy & Rebecca Schmitz

8. Austrian Institute for International Affairs (ÖIIP)

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Otmar Höll (Director),
Dr. CengizGünay (Senior Fellow)

The Austrian Institute for International Politics (Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik – ÖIIP), an independent and non-profit research center, was founded in 1978 by the former Austrian Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky. ÖIIP was the first institute in Austria to focus on globalization, European integration, comprehensive security, and the comparative study of international affairs.

Today, there are 12 academic researchers working at ÖIIP. Prof. Dr. Otmar Höll serves as Director and former Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer serves as President of the Board.

Höll was the first speaker and began by discussing the importance of the institute. He explained that ÖIIP represented Austria in a number of international associations and enjoyed bilateral contacts with over three-dozen international research institutes. Höll then showed the four focus areas of ÖIIP:

1. Basic research on the question of comprehensive human security in international relations and in comparative regional research
2. Applied research and scientific policy advice
3. Transatlantic relations, the European integration process, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Black Sea Region
4. Cyber-security and Austria in the international arena

After introducing the institute, Höll asked participants for their view of Austria. Many stated that it was “irrelevant” or “pacifist” in terms of international politics. Others mentioned its small size in terms of geography and skiing as its most famous pastime. He agreed with this reaction and admitted that many times, Austria’s position in international affairs was minimal. To explain this, Höll began by discussing one of Austria’s most important constitutional mandates: neutrality. It became clear that the status of neutrality was still very important to both Austria’s domestic and foreign policies, and it was this neutrality that many times made Austria seem almost invisible at the international level.



The Declaration of Neutrality, enacted in 1955, was a declaration by the Austrian Parliament declaring the country permanently neutral — a direct result of the post-World War II Allied occupation of Austria (1945-1955). Since 1955, neutrality has become a deeply rooted element of the Austrian identity.

Höll went on to discuss Kreisky’s chancellorship (1970-1983), especially since foreign policy became more important in Austria under his leadership. Kreisky played a prominent role in international affairs, promoting North-South dialogue

and working with like-minded European leaders like former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt and former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme to promote peace and development. Although the Austrian State Treaty (1955) prevented Austria from joining the EU, he supported European integration. He also launched the idea of a “Marshall Plan” for the Third World where western economies, while increasing their own capacity, were also encouraged to support Third World countries in strengthening and developing their infrastructure and economies.

In 1995, Austria became a member of the EU and took part in several peace enforcement missions, especially in the Balkans. So far, however, Austria is not a member of the NATO.

Dr. Cengiz Günay briefly discussed Austria's position on current events in Libya as well as its place within the EU. Like several other European countries, he explained that Austria did not have a clear-cut position on the conflict in Libya and would not send troops because of its status of neutrality. He did emphasize, however, that Austria still took clear positions within the EU, regardless of its neutrality. For example, they had a relatively clear position of not enlarging the EU in the near future, a position that had direct consequences on Turkey's membership bid for the EU. In such cases, Austrian "neutrality" seemed anything but neutral.

At the end of the presentations, participants were interested in Austria's domestic politics, especially the current topics of debate. Günay and Höll stated that much of the focus was currently on the reform of the Austrian Armed Forces. Similar to recent debates in Germany, Austria was debating whether to move from an obligatory service towards a voluntary service in light of the new Austrian security concept that was introduced in autumn 2010. Höll also explained that many Austrians did not even necessarily understand the point of the military, considering Austria's position was supposed to be one of neutrality. Then again, it was exactly this neutrality that the military was mandated to protect.

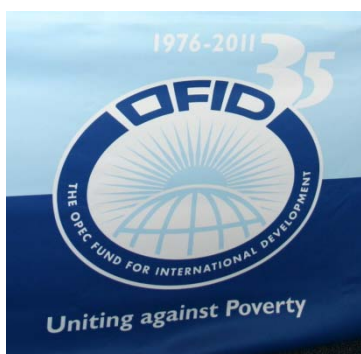
When asked about the Austrian public's interest in politics, Höll responded that participation had always been high, but that voter participation had been steadily decreasing in recent years.

Kirsten Eberhardt & Kristina Tonn

9. OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

Speakers: Mauor Hoyer (OFID Director of the Department of Media) and Reem Aljarbou (Information Officer)

Mauor Hoyer and his deputy, Reem Aljarbou, introduced OFID activities, explaining that it started its operation in August 1976 and was originally intended to be a temporary facility. The OPEC Fund became a full-fledged, permanent international development agency in May 1980. It consists of 12 member states (Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela), all of which also belong to OPEC.



According to Aljarbou, OFID's key aim was to foster social and economic progress in the developing world through the provision of concessional financing for developing countries. One of its central aims was to advance South-South solidarity by promoting cooperation between OPEC member countries and other developing countries. She explained that OFID's vision was a world where sustainable development, centered on human capacity-building, was a reality for all. Therefore, their mission was to foster South-South partnerships with fellow developing countries worldwide with the ultimate goal being the eradication of poverty (in fact, their slogan is "Uniting Against Poverty"). In order to implement this, OFID provides financial assistance in countries that request it. Much like the UN, OFID cannot enter a country without a request.

OFID is currently engaged in 129 countries worldwide, though they do not work in their own member states. Past projects have included supporting access to clean and reliable energy, promoting capacity-building and internal security, and helping to build hospitals and schools. Additionally, they have Special Grant Accounts open for Food Aid to Africa, HIV/AIDS mitigation activities, and relief and reconstruction efforts in Palestine.

When participants questioned the Special Grant Account for Palestine, the presenters stressed that OFID had no influence on the governments or groups they work with. They further explained that the reason OFID was involved in Palestine actually goes back to the very beginning of its organization. OFID has been extending assistance to Palestine since 1979. However, in 2000 the socio-economic situation in the area deteriorated so fast that humanitarian and development assistance was required on a much larger scale. In November 2002, and in coordination with its sister organizations, OFID setup its Special Grant Account to Address the Needs of Palestine. Endowed initially with \$10 million, the Special Account has accelerated social and economic assistance to Palestinians in both the West Bank & Gaza. Subsequent replenishments have boosted the Account to US \$90 million. At the end, Aljarbou clarified that all of this assistance went directly to the Palestinian people and not to the government.



As a follow-up, she was questioned about OFID's ideological aims. Aljarbou stressed that OFID does not and cannot do any projects that have an ideological connotation. In fact, the moment a request for assistance implies any religious, nationalist, ethnic, or similar bias, OFID must refuse the request. They carefully take into consideration the environmental, social, and economic aspects when deciding whether to fund a project.

OFID has done more than 2,000 projects throughout its history, all of which have been in conjunction with other international organizations. Most of its projects have been in Africa, followed by Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Only a handful has taken place in Europe. While OFID helps the people of a country, it is very important to note that OFID's help is credit-related, not simply aid-related. In other words, OFID is not a charity.

After the discussion with Aljarbou and Hoyer, participants were given a tour of the OFID headquarters. The headquarters are located in what was the residential palace of the Austrian Archduke Wilhelm Franz Karl. It was built between 1864 and 1868 and became the property of OFID in December 1982. This palace was certainly one of the most beautiful locations for an international organization in Vienna that we had the opportunity to see.

Kenneth Gbandi & Nerkez Opačin

10. OSCE – Hofburg Congress Center

a. The State of Play in the OSCE after the Astana Summit

Speaker: Thomas Lenk (Political Advisor of the Permanent German Delegation to the OSCE)

Political advisor Thomas Lenk warmly welcomed the group to the OSCE and informed the students that the German Ambassador to the OSCE, Heiner Horsten, unfortunately did not have time to brief the group as originally planned. Thus, Lenk took his place and introduced the OSCE by touching upon several aspects such as its mission, principles, history, structure, and activities.

Lenk explained that the OSCE acted as an important instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict operations. It was still being debated whether the present means of the OSCE could actually meet these goals, however.

The organization is composed of all European countries, all former Soviet states, as well as the US and Canada (56 countries in total). Lenk stated that since the OSCE was a regional organization, it had no intent of growing. However, the organization was very much aware of current political incidents in its vicinity and maintained political talks with crucial both OSCE and non-OSCE actors.

Lenk emphasized that the OSCE was based on the principle of consent, which made it difficult at times to find consensus amongst all Member States. Consent could also be difficult politically for certain Member States; for example, tensions within the OSCE have arisen when different principles collided such as the Principle of Non-intervention in Internal Affairs and the Principle of Adherence to Human Rights (currently the case between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict). Because of the constant political back-and-forth without tangible results, the organization has been dismissively characterized as a “talking shop” at times.

The OSCE deals with three main dimensions. The first dimension is the Politico-Military Dimension. It consists mainly of conflict prevention and resolution. Additionally, it covers military security by promoting openness, transparency, and cooperation. The second dimension is the Economic and Environmental Dimension. Lenk pointed to the fact that this area might have been neglected lately. As conflicts about water and energy would rely increasingly on international cooperation, however, this dimension would most likely gain importance.

The third dimension is the Human Dimension. It deals with respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratization, and election monitoring. Especially the observation of elections has become a sharp tool for the OSCE. If a member country refuses to host OSCE observers, it usually pays a high price politically. If, on the contrary, OSCE observers are invited, a given country cannot affect their report and might face international criticism. Lenk emphasized that all OSCE countries were subject to election monitoring, not simply those countries that have a history of troublesome election processes. In fact, German elections were recently monitored by the OSCE.



Unfortunately, due to time constraints, Lenk was cut short and there was not time for questions and comments from participants.

Daniel Kulms

10. b. Observing Permanent Council proceedings

Various speakers

Placed on the left corner of the Council meeting room, where visitor groups always take their seats, we attended the 859th meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE on April 14th, 2011. The item on the agenda which was discussed during our visit was the role of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), responsible for promoting regional cooperation in South East Europe (SEE) and supporting European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Hido Biščević, the Secretary General of the RCC was invited to give a speech about the work and objectives of the organization.

Biščević spoke about the current situation in South East Europe and pointed out that the region has made “a positive move” in relation to the on-going reconciliation process and initiatives for cooperation. The improvements mean EU membership aspirations in the region could be fulfilled thus bringing European integration a step closer. However, there is still a clear need for genuine cooperation by all involved including politicians, the media and economic partners to develop sustainable policies. Strategic goals need to be decided in order to overcome the persistent underdevelopment of energy supplies and transportation in the region, especially as the region has been hit hard by the international financial crisis. For the development of the region the RCC will focus on concrete projects aimed at fostering RCC EU cooperation and the development of public-private partnerships.

Following Biščević’s address, the ambassadors of different states such as the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Serbia and the Hungarian representative for the EU expressed in their statements their support and commitment to the goals of the RCC.

As Hungary currently holds the presidency of the EU, the Hungarian ambassador spoke on behalf of the EU. He described the RCC as a platform for cooperative security which offered the possibility to compare options and synergies without duplicating efforts. The EU welcomed the existing partnership with the RCC, but also urged the latter to include the gender perspective in its work. The EU and its transatlantic partners welcome further cooperation with all SEE governments, mainly to combat corruption and foster rule-of-law in the region.

The US-Ambassador Kelly pointed out that the Council’s role as a leader in Southeast Europe is evident from the social, political and economic progress the United States sees in the region. Kelly noted that the US supports the RCC 2011-2013 activities, in particular those that involve the OSCE, including the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, the Women Police Officer Network, and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative – Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime. The Ambassador pointed out that the US commends the work of the RCC in combating organized crime and corruption in the region, as these activities know no borders. But he also urged the RCC to increase its efforts to include Kosovo in all of its activities, since inclusivity is an essential principle for effective regional cooperation.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia also highlighted the importance of including representatives from the UN Mission to Kosovo for the general development of the region. Serbia’s priorities are concentrated on the security sector, with a priority being combating organized crime. The first goal of Serbian foreign policy is focused on the advantages of regional co-operation, namely building a network of people and institutions and defining common policies for the SEE region. The Russian ambassador to the OSCE also made a speech however he was much more critical of the work being done in the Balkans and whether there was in fact evidence of the great improvements of which the others spoke.

The Chair of the meeting, Ambassador Renatas Norkus of Lithuania, thanked all the delegations and the RCC Secretary for its contributions and work. He fully supports the cooperative approach to the region and welcomes continuing cooperation between the RCC, the governments of the region and the OSCE.

Stefanie Probst & Julia von Studzinski

10. c. The role of the military group in the German OSCE Delegation

Speaker: Staff Colonel (Oberst i.G.) Jörg Prescher

Colonel Jörg Prescher (Oberst i.G.) presented the work of the military group within the German OSCE delegation - which focuses on topics related to the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

The participating states of the OSCE deal with a vast array of issues such as: environmental protection, weapons of mass destruction, developments for the peaceful use of outer space, conflicts, the role of civil society, energy and resources, terrorism and migration. Questions such as how access to energy can be assured in a peaceful manner or how conflicts can be prevented or solved, exemplify why the military dimension of the OSCE is still relevant today. Prescher stressed that, although the OSCE participating states form a 'community of values', differing views of the states often collide, for example, the member states have differing opinions on whether or not certain tasks constitute police or army work.

Prescher stressed that the OSCE, which was established in the Cold War era, is today engaged in a number of important fields such as; police reform, election monitoring, disarmament and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE is seen by the participating states as a valuable forum for discussion. Consent of the host nation is required for the OSCE to carry out its work on the ground, however, even if this consent is withdrawn there are mechanisms which allow the OSCE to continue receiving information about events happening within the state (e.g. in the case of Belarus).

Prescher also noted the importance of the Helsinki principles for the OSCE, which can at times prove divisive. The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms can infringe on sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a state: the right to national self-determination can stand in contradiction to the territorial integrity of a state. Even the application of the fundamental principles can prove contradictory. In relation to border management for example, one goal is to make the border permeable in order to facilitate tourism, trade and freedom of movement however, strict border control is also necessary to impede illegal trade and the spread of terrorism, etc.

An important feature of the OSCE is the consensus-based approach of the organization. On the one hand it can lead to lengthy negotiation processes in order to reach a decision. On the other hand it has the advantage that once a decision is finalized, one can be sure that it has the support of all states. The OSCE is committed to the realization of various goals and the principle of consensus forces the member states to find a common approach to realize them.

In answer to the question on the motives and gains for Germany to participate within the OSCE, Prescher explained that the German security policy is comprehensive and multinational in outlook. International organizations like the UN or the OSCE are therefore important forums within which Germany can seek to forward its interests and goals.



Prescher explained that the daily work of the military group is characterized by a comprehensive dialogue across the three dimensions of the OSCE. The work is based on contractual agreements and other such mechanisms. Three officers constitute the military group within the German OSCE delegation. The work of the first officer is divided into three main fields: he deals with politico-military key questions, including European security and the further advancement of conventional arms control. His second field of interest includes military strategy and NATO related issues. Finally, the officer covers topics related to the German armed forces and peace-keeping missions and coordinates with the German ministry of defense and the Bundeswehr Centre for Verification, as well as with the relevant departments of the German armed forces.

The second officer of the military group deals with issues related to arms control and disarmament contained within the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1995. His work also encompasses the Treaty on Open Skies, a treaty with 34 states parties, which establishes a program of unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the territory of its participants.

The work of the third officer, Prescher, is divided into three fields: the first focuses on border control and -management, police work, organized crime and drugs, as well as cyber security. (The latter item is a relatively new addition only being brought to the fore two years ago and the OSCE is yet to decide how it wants to address threats emanating from cyberspace.) His second area of expertise includes military aspects of conflict prevention, -management and post-conflict reconstruction. The third area focuses on the politico-military aspects of the environmental and economic dimension of the OSCE.

When asked about the suspended Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Prescher said that the odds are not in favor of a swift resumption of the treaty in the near future due to a number of factors, including a need to negotiate regional exemptions, for example for Georgia.

Ellen Holder & Mélanie Gerber

10. d. Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Speaker: Mike Stone - Senior Adviser

During the first day of the OSCE visit the group was given a lecture on the work of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM). Senior adviser at RFOM Mike Stone explained that this body was established as a watchdog for media freedom within the 56 participating states of the OSCE. It operates as an independent institution that reports directly to the Permanent Council (PC). The Office of RFOM was established by PC Decision No. 193 on 5th November 1997. The Office started operating in Vienna on 1st January 1998. The current OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is Dunja Mijatovic from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main focus of RFOM is the freedom of the media and security. Stone stressed the fact that free press is important for democratic societies as it fulfills a watchdog function for governments and politics in general, companies and the economy. Free press can help in the fight against corruption whilst free media helps to maintain the rule of law. However, there are a number of challenges to media freedom such as violence and intimidation; legal restrictions of free speech (criminalization of defamation); sanctions for breaches of secrecy; protection of confidential sources; administrative obstacles (such as registration, licensing and accreditation); digitalization; overregulation of the internet which endangers pluralism and the free flow of information.

Stone further explained that the mandate of RFOM reaffirms the OSCE principles in regard to media freedom. It is there to assist participating states in: furthering a free, independent and pluralistic media; observing relevant media development in all participating states; assuming an early warning function and mechanisms for the rapid response to non-compliance with OSCE principles. RFOM fulfills its mandate by offering assistance, legal expertise, workshops and conferences, publications

and monitoring in all 56 participating states. What makes the mandate of RFOM unique is the high diplomatic level with which it communicates with participating states (unlike NGOs) and it has a policy to go public with all its observations. To achieve its goals, RFOM closely cooperates with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) as well as other IGOs and NGOs.

Stone pointed out that there are a number of different methods employed by the RFOM in order to fulfill its mandate in participating states. Interventions such as sending letters to (foreign) ministers, assessment visits to participating states, legal reviews, interventions at the Permanent Council and press releases to name but a few. In 2010 the RFOM sent over 75 intervention letters and published 65 press releases as well as 8 legal reviews (of 6 participating states).

Over the years RFOM has established a vast external co-operational network with various organizations including the Council of Europe (CoE), UN, Reporters Sans Frontières and a number of other local, regional and international NGOs.

Some of the on-going projects of RFOM address the problems of decriminalization of speech offences, access to information, protection of journalists' sources, media self-regulation, and guaranteeing media freedom on the internet etc.

When asked what he thought of the Wikileaks phenomena, Stone said that in his opinion no journalist should be condemned for using information he has been given, but stealing the information was a crime and therefore an issue that needed to be dealt with legally. Confronted with some criticism regarding the lack of access for the Serbian public and journalists to the work of the OSCE, Stone answered that it was difficult to guarantee who was actually "getting the information" due to the lack of media freedom in the mentioned participating state. Finally, Mike Stone stressed the importance of decriminalizing defamation.



Mariana Groba Gomes & Natalija Miletić

10. e. Conflict Prevention Center (CPC): Missions and Mandates

Speaker: Ms. Rasa Ostrauskaite, Senior Policy Support Officer

Ms. Ostrauskaite made a presentation about the missions and mandates of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), an integral part of the OSCE. The CPC helps to promote regional security and stability based on the OSCE's comprehensive and cooperative approach to security.

The OSCE, through the CPC, addresses the various elements of the conflict cycle (from early warning to conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation). One of the most important objectives of the OSCE is conflict prevention (aided by comprehensive security on the ground and through mediation at a local level).

An example of when the CPC used its work on the ground in an attempt to prevent a conflict occurred in the 2009 conflict in Georgia where the OSCE was warned of a potential outbreak of violence by the staff of the OSCE mission. In relation to the post-conflict rehabilitation, Ostrauskaite cited the Balkans as a region where a long-term mission was set up to assure the security on the region. Many of the countries in this region hope to become members of the European Union and they are looking to international organizations to help with the development of their practices and policies to achieve this aim. Helping host and member states to achieve regional stability is one of the key commitments of the OSCE.

OSCE helps to facilitate reforms and political processes which aid conflict resolution. In this respect they use monitoring in the field to keep track of gender issues, education and human rights protection. The reports are made daily, weekly and monthly to ensure more awareness about the situation on the ground and to hopefully prevent further outbreaks of violence in the future. This is why the missions are subject to continued review, e.g. those in Moldova and other regions in Central Asia. The CPC also publishes “Spot Reports” which are ad hoc reports on important incidents.

The mandates for field missions are established by consensus of the Permanent Council and the agreement of the host country. In some cases the countries invite the CPC in to help with specific projects. They can be adapted on a case-to-case basis, open –ended or time limited, but each must report to the headquarters in Vienna. Each mission must have regard for the political situation, environmental threats and human rights protection in the host country. OSCE has been cooperating in South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The name given to the field offices is also dependent on the host country- some are called “Mission in...”, “Mission to...”, but as some countries believe that this title may impede their candidature for organizations like the EU, the term suggests a lot of development is still required, they prefer for the field office to be called “Office in...” or “Presence in...”.

OSCE missions co-ordinate their activities with other relevant international and regional organizations working in the field. In Kosovo they cooperate with the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK). The OSCE mission there has a complex structure. It is one of the largest missions, representing 64% of the budget, and to ensure a clear view of the problematic cases on the ground it covers 33 municipalities.

In Central Asia the situation appears more difficult and challenging and despite the large area there is a very small presence there. The conflicts in these countries are not solved and there have been further outbreaks of violence in the last few years. The situation appeared to escalate during talks with Russia on the issue of borders. Formal talks on the issue of Moldova and Transnistria are to be held in later this year. However one of the big issues in the Central Asia region is water- access to it and control over it. The field office for the area of Nagorno Karabakh is located in Georgia as both Armenia and Azerbaijan said no to hosting a field office.



As the OSCE operates on the basis of consensus there can be a lack of development in these conflicts, e.g. Russia and Georgia always oppose one another in relation to plans for the Caucasus. A complex working environment within OSCE also impacts other areas for example when trying to develop policies in other regions. Ostrauskaite made the suggestion that to prevent so much time being taken to get a consensus, maybe the OSCE should consider allowing for a principle of consensus minus one or minus two, whereby if one or two countries consistently block initiatives all others are in favor of, then action could be taken. Of course this could raise questions about sovereignty etc., should the planned actions be taking place on the territory of the objecting state.

Ram Kumar Bhandari & Sofia Antunes

10. f. Office of the Coordinator of the Environmental and Economic Activities of the OSCE (OCEEA)

Speakers: Roel Janssens, Economic Program Officer and Raul Daussa, Environmental Program Officer

Roel Janssens, Economic Program Officer and Raul Daussa, Environmental Program Officer, gave us an overview of the OCEEA activities and its related field offices. Environmental and economic activities represent the second dimension of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

Janssens explained that the OCEEA comprises two main units: the economic governance unit and the environmental unit. The unit's work is divided into three thematic blocks: good governance, migration management and transport.

The first one focuses on good governance in both the private and the public sector with a special emphasis on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The OSCE published a guide on best practices for combatting corruption in 2004 and closely co-operates with other relevant bodies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).



'Migration management' includes supporting and advising OSCE member states which have requested the help of the OCEEA in implementing or improving political structures, in particular those relevant for the establishment of an effective labor migration policy and with a strong focus on gender issues. Through its network of field offices the OSCE can also facilitate border management by carrying out regional projects in co-operation with the participating member

state. The OSCE co-operates closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 2007 they jointly produced the Handbook of Labour Migration. Migration management has been recognized as part of the OSCE's mandate since the Helsinki Final Act 1975.

The OSCE's involvement in transport matters also goes back to 1975, but since 2006 there has been a new initiative to develop this to cover aspects of border crossing facilitation, transport security and environmental problems related to transport. The OCEEA takes a closer look at how ineffective customs policy affects the overall security situation of a country, for instance its potential loss of fiscal income. A best practice guide with a collection of case studies analyzing the question of trade facilitation and security will be published soon. On request, the OSCE also assists countries with the implementation of international conventions through technical assistance, capacity building and training offers. The IMO, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the World Customs Organization and the Council of Europe are major partner institutions of the OSCE in this matter.

Daussa stressed the link between environmental changes and their potential for conflict. He gave the example of the melting Arctic which will raise the question of repartition of the natural resources in the region and the rise in sea levels will also affect international borders. Environmental changes such as global warming could also damage pipelines and thus hinder effective energy supply to importing countries. It could also effects global migration flows, a phenomenon which is already being

seen on the African continent. All this will have direct consequences on security and thus environmental changes can be seen as a potential source of conflict. The OSCE therefore promotes the idea that climate change is a key catalyst for peace. It is developing a common environmental policy, sharing knowledge and technology. The ministerial decision of December 2007 can be seen as the political basis for this. The OCEEA develops scenarios with the help of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), based in Berlin, which explore the possible consequences of climate change.

Daussa then showed a video about the Envsec-Initiative. This initiative takes a different perspective on environmental issues: environmental change should not be seen as a pretext for conflict and war but as an opportunity for co-operation. This joint UN-OSCE initiative provides its member states with an assessment of security related environmental issues and possible solutions to overcome them. It focuses on four regions: Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and South East Europe (SEE). Daussa underlined the fact that the work of the OCEEA can be crucial in countries of ongoing conflict. The OCEEA was present in the Southern Caucasus Region in 2006 with an international group of experts from the UN and the OSCE assessing the fires in regions of Azerbaijan which were affecting lines of contact. The expert group included an Azeri, Georgian and Nagorno-Karabakh representative who considerably helped in developing a line of communication between all three conflict parties. Activities focused on environmental issues can be seen as confidence-building measures, and can also be linked to the third dimension of the OSCE's work which is the human dimension. The OSCE supports the creation of the so-called Aarhus Centers which are based on the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. They provide environmental information to the public through libraries and internet facilities; organize meetings for governments and NGOs to facilitate communication on environmental issues; draft public law and offer media training to NGOs and students.

Yumi Igarashi & Julia von Studzinski

10. g. The Russian Perspective: Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

Speaker: Mr. Dmitry Maltsev, Third secretary

Mr. Maltsev started his presentation with a brief history of the OSCE, before announcing that, from his perspective, since the end of the Cold War, the OSCE has not followed the principles agreed in Helsinki in 1975 but is simply conforming with other western institutions like the IMF and the EU and countries like the USA. In Russia's view the OSCE has not developed into a proper organization, it remains simply a forum; it is an institution with good ideas, but was established without a charter and those from western countries hold most of the important posts. It is ineffective and participating states are divided into teachers and pupils and there is a lack of transparency in the mechanisms of the OSCE.

He continued his presentation by discussing each of the different bodies of the OSCE in turn: The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); he believes the actions of this body are too open to the will of the person in charge at any given time and due to this it has lost much of its support among member states; and instead of working on conflict prevention it currently works more on post-conflict projects. Generally ODIHR is, in Russia's view, too critical towards Russia and there are no approved rules on election monitoring / assessments etc. and election monitors are unsuitable. ODIHR's focus appears to be on states east of Vienna with no monitoring being carried out in western countries like Norway or the USA. (Some western states also have mechanisms whereby the OSCE simply cannot be invited to observe elections.)



He noted that the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) maintains monitoring activities in Russia, but not in Kosovo or the Baltic states.

When talking of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), Maltsev claimed that despite on-going problems everywhere, in Hungary and France for instance, the focus is on Russia.

He ended his presentation with a brief overview of OSCE Missions and other field activities. In Balkan and Central Asia states, Russia supports the idea of assisting countries but regrets that no clear improvement has taken place after so many years. Russia therefore underlines the limited effects of the work of the OSCE. In Kosovo and Georgia mistakes were made, even when information was provided they did not act on it. In the Baltic States offices were closed too early, because the states wished to join the European Union and believed having OSCE missions in their countries would be disadvantageous. The OSCE

field activities focus on human rights and democratization and appear inactive in the areas of economy and security. Another problem is the pressure put on former Soviet states to allow missions to be opened in their country. Many western countries refuse missions, claiming they violate their right to sovereignty, which is why there are no missions in Spain or the UK monitoring the situation in the Basque region or Northern Ireland.

In the follow-up questions and answers session, Maltsev reiterated the official stance of Russian foreign policy in relation to different regions: Kosovo's declaration of independence, in their view, violates international law; in Georgia Russian peacekeepers are needed for security; and Russia is not trying to influence countries in the Balkans.

Maltsev then expanded on Russian views- Russia finds the OSCE frustrating, but it remains important because of the diversity of its member states and it is still a forum to discuss security matters and it helps to bring different countries together. Russia is not in favor of changing the system to majority voting and wants to keep the consensus principle which is, in the Russian perspective, one of the most important attributes of the OSCE. However, in his view, the OSCE institutions are sometimes misused by certain states. Bilateral relations between other participating states and Russia are friendly, but in the Permanent Council there is constant criticism of Russia, mainly by the EU, the USA and Canada, and this takes time away from solving real problems. Thus Russia sees the OSCE as very slow forum, but in the Astana Summit the EU, the USA and Russia were able to come to an agreement on certain issues, which was a very positive development.

In answer to the more specific issues of the OSCE actions, Maltsev defended the Russian government's stance in relation to freedom of the media and he spoke positively about the new head of the office, but there are still problems, he believes RFOM needs to be more balanced and should not focus solely on certain countries.

Matti Inkeroinen & Anna-Karina Bayer

10. h. The U.S. Perspective: U.S. Mission to the OSCE

Speaker: Andrew Hyde, Deputy Political Counsellor

The U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) represents the interests of the United States in the OSCE.

Mr. Andrew Hyde focused on the work of the organization and, in particular, on how the OSCE as an organization is perceived from the U.S. perspective. Hyde pointed out that the OSCE, with its 56 participating states, spanning the globe from Vancouver to Vladivostok, and 12 additional partner countries, can be regarded as a major forum for discussing and taking action on vital issues of peace, security and human rights in Europe and Central Asia. It is moreover important from the U.S. standpoint that collective security and stability are sought through consensus-based agreements. In the US the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the Helsinki Commission) was created by the US Congress which monitors and encourages compliance with the Helsinki Principles which underlie the work of the OSCE.

Hyde made it clear that the United States strongly supports the work of the OSCE and views it as the paramount instrument for building a region of stable, open societies in which every state is at peace with its neighbors. As Hyde puts it, the OSCE mainly takes action by “generating political will” as happened, he believes, in 2008 during the Russia-Georgia crisis.

Hyde stated that the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) is important and he discussed how RFOM has started to monitor the freedom of information on the internet. Hyde referred to the OSCE’s views on human rights as perceived by the U.S. and commented that closing the OSCE’s field office in Minsk (Belarus) in 2010 was a negative development but, if the OSCE were to begin working in Afghanistan, the U.S. would see this as a positive step but he acknowledged that the Russians would be opposed to this but he found their reasoning for not wanting the OSCE to work there unclear. Bilaterally, the U.S. and Russia have no problem on this issue, but in the OSCE agreement is not possible.



In relation to the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, Hyde clarified the OSCE’s added value, especially as the EU has a strong interest in this field. He also gave support to the Moscow Mechanism which allows participating states to establish ad hoc missions in relation to the human dimension of the OSCE’s principles in other participating states.

When asked for a reaction to the Russian view that the OSCE is focusing too much on the ex-Soviet area, Hyde said that he understands it, and there is a need for balance. However, the OSCE focuses on the countries which do not follow through with their commitments, which from the U.S. perspective is one of the strengths of the OSCE, the center of attention thus seems to be on states east of Vienna, but this is where some of the biggest problems lie.

The main areas of interest for the U.S. mission to the OSCE are; the security in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, democracy in North Africa, protracted conflicts (such as the conflicts in Azerbaijan, Moldova/Transnistria and Georgia) and combating transnational threats. The U.S. is the largest financial contributor to the OSCE (unless the contributions of the EU states are viewed as a whole) and its donations account for 11.5 % of the total OSCE budget. The U.S. is, therefore, closely observing the efficiency of the various projects. One project which, in Hyde’s view, achieved a signifi-

cant positive outcome was the project which focused on police reform in Central Asia (in particular in Kyrgyzstan).

In concluding his talk, Hyde argued that the most important issues for 2011 are transnational threats, energy security and better protection of journalists and media freedom in the digital age. The U.S. sees the OSCE as an important forum for developing policies to alleviate these problems.

Matti Inkeroinen & Stefanie Probst

Seminar report

International Organizations in Practice: Uniqueness, Cooperation or Overlapping?

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