

Dr. Solomon Passy: Central Asia, Caucasus and Post-Soviet Space (as CiO of the OSCE – 2004)

- In **Azerbaijan** the Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy negotiated with President Ilham Aliyev the release of some 130 political prisoners;
- In **Tajikistan** Dr. Passy negotiated with President Rahmon a moratorium on the death penalty;
- In **Belarus and Turkmenistan** he negotiated with President Lukashenko and President Turkmenbashi Niyazov the continuation of the presence of OSCE missions in these countries. He also succeeded to negotiate with **Belarus and Turkmenistan** the consensus on the appointment of the director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
- In **Georgia** the Chairman-in-Office supported the consolidation of the democratic processes and building of democratic institutions after the “Rose Revolution”. Dr. Passy successfully mediated between President Saakashvili and the separatist leader of the Ajaria province Aslan Abashidze for the solution of the Ajaria issue. Ajarian conflict turned out to be only frozen conflict in OSCE area so far that has been fully resolved.
- In **Kyrgyzstan** Dr. Passy launched a major fund raising effort which secured the continuation of the activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek;
- In **Afghanistan**, Dr. Passy as Chairman-in-Office, created consensus in OSCE to send for the first time in its history an out-of-area mission, namely election-monitoring mission in the country. With President Karzai Dr. Passy also launched an initiative for the replacement of poppy fields with Bulgarian rose production to prevent the production of opium. The first drop of Bulgarian rose oil “Made in Afghanistan” was exhibited for the first time in Berlin (International Green Week Berlin 21-30 January 2011).
- During the chairmanship of Dr. Passy and with his proactive participation, the OSCE reached an agreement to invite **Mongolia** as the newest partner of the Organization in Asia;
- Dr. Passy invested political credit to secure progress on the problems in **Transnistria and Nagorno Karabakh** appointing for his special representatives two former Bulgarian presidents and a former Prime Minister;
- In **Ukraine** under his chairmanship, OSCE was successfully involved to secure the peaceful and democratic transition in the critical period between the two rounds of the presidential elections in 2004;
- Dr. Passy strongly supported the cooperation between the five **Central Asian OSCE states** and the exchange of best democratic practices among them. The Bulgarian chairmanship put a special emphasis **on education** in the Central Asian countries as a common denominator for their further democratization. The Chairman-in-Office inaugurated a joint conference on education between the five Central Asian states, held in Tashkent.
- The Chairman-in-office strongly supported the **shift Eastwards** of some of the most attractive OSCE activities to the Caucasus and Central Asia. During the Bulgarian chairmanship, the OSCE

participating states agreed to organize a part of the Human rights forum in the Caucasus and part of the Economic forum in Central Asia;

- In **Kazakhstan** Dr. Passy negotiated with President Nazarbayev upgrading of democratic standards for the elections in 2004, as well as concrete steps for the democratization of the freedom of speech and the media; Dr. Passy was a strong supporter of the Kazakhi Chairmanship of OSCE in 2009
- Under Solomon's chairmanship OSCE sent its first ever **elections monitoring mission in the US**, in 2004, which until then was a taboo.