

The OSCE in the fight against terrorism and organised crime

Source: On the frontlines of peace - OSCE in action- Vienna: OSCE [Prod.], 2005. OSCE, Vienna. - VIDEO (00:04:54, Colour, Original Sound Track).

OSCE Press and Public Information Section, Kaerntner Ring 5-7, 1010 Vienna, Austria.

Copyright: Transcription CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/the_osce_in_the_fight_against_terrorism_and_organised_crime-en-64d99ee5-b822-42d0-825b-409784cdac19.html



Last updated: 04/07/2016

The OSCE in the fight against terrorism and organised crime

[Commentator] But all reported back to base and relayed on to Russian and Georgian authorities, everyone aware that scenes of natural beauty like this can hide terrorists.

In the world's war on terror, the OSCE's weapon is information.

[Brian Woo] We're not operational in the sense of going out and sending troops and catching the bad guys in the hills. What we can do is provide capacity building support to governments. What we can do is line up the financial assistance that they need to train their folks.

[Commentator] Working with the UN and other world bodies, the OSCE Action Against Terrorism Unit spreads the word on how to keep terrorists out. It passes on techniques for immigration security.

[Brian Woo] Also looking at current and emerging threats, like the threat that shoulder-fired missiles poses to our civil aviation, and having a closed-door conference that addresses this issue — experts talking to experts about what you can do to mitigate this threat around your airports. Combating terrorism also includes a human dimension, which is human rights, because if you have a country that is undertaking actions against terrorists that is oppressive, that's going to be counter-productive.

[Commentator] But balancing the demands of human rights with the imperatives of security is seldom easy. Every country grapples with crime. If, at the same time, your country is wrestling with all the turmoil of adapting to democracy, the rule of law is more crucial and more difficult. This was a training exercise in the ex-Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia; a French gendarme working for the OSCE running local policemen through a mock raid on a criminal gang. This detective says it felt like the real thing.

[Melis Bainazarov] This training was very useful because we quickly acquired skills which usually develop slowly. I think we need this training. It would be even better if we had more of these training exercises.

[Commentator] Since the collapse of Communist discipline, Kyrgyzstan has been plagued with smuggling, organised crime and political unrest, all of which cripple development.

[Richard Monk] We know from our experience in other countries the scale of wrongdoing, the scale of criminality is absolutely draining many States of resources, financial investment. If we don't have the rule of law, then it's very difficult to know how on earth societies will thrive.

[Commentator] Here, the OSCE has a battery of projects aiming to forge a model police service out of an underpaid and antiquated police force.

Kyrgyzstan is on the ancient Silk Route between Europe and Asia. But now, the cargos could be weapons, terrorists, narcotics. The OSCE is giving the anti-drug police vehicles and sniffer dogs.

[Salambek Alamkoulov] Well for one thing, out of almost 2 tonnes of drugs we seized in 6 months; 360 kilos, more than 20% was found by the sniffer dogs.

[Commentator] 360 kilos of drugs. Street value: six million dollars.

[Tim Del Vecchio] Now, that's more than the budget of the entire police assistance programme for Kyrgyzstan. And just think of the amount of drugs they took off the streets of New York or Amsterdam or London. So don't even consider it charity, consider it acting in your own selfish interest.

[Commentator] Other OSCE donations, from computers to crime-fighting kits.

[Urban Karlsson] But the most important thing is, when we have been providing them with all this stuff, the training is very, very important. Equipment is just equipment.

[Commentator] Here, just finishing their training, is the next generation of officers from the national police academy, also supported by the OSCE. And it's hoped that they will lead the change from heavy-handed authority to community policing.

[Urban Karlsson] Because, in every country, you can find that the police are not capable to stop the crime on their own and they need to use the community as a resource. You know, in this country, there is a big gap between the citizens and the police. They are not used to cooperate in no way whatsoever. We are trying to implement community policing to make them start working in cooperation.