



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretary General

Vienna, *22* March 2006

Dear Sir,

I refer to the invitation to your seminar "Gender and Civil-Military Relations: Moving Towards Inclusion?" and take this opportunity to commend you on taking this focus in the framework of post-conflict scenarios. The OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region. It recognizes that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to security and stability.

The OSCE has taken concrete action to integrate women into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through its activities in the field and is promoting the inclusion of gender aspects into policies and procedures. It has adopted a comprehensive Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality which calls for a consistent and systematic attention to gender perspectives in the activities of the Organization based on a cross-dimensional approach, in order to promote gender equality, which contributes to comprehensive security.

Mr. J. Witzig
COL DEU A
Director
Civil-Military Co-operation Centre of Excellence (CCOE)
The Netherlands

I am therefore pleased to inform you that Ms. Beatrix Attinger Colijn, our Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, will be able to attend the seminar and further outline the process of gender mainstreaming in our work.

I wish you the best of success for your seminar and hope that the discussions will generate valuable recommendations which can be used at an operational level and thus deepen our understanding of the importance of gender aspects in our work and lead to more inclusive activities in the field of conflict prevention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Perrin de Brichambaut', written in a cursive style.

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut