

## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

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### Key features

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**Type of organisation:** Inter-governmental organisation

**Charter/Constitution:** The OSCE does not have a charter or a constitution, but relies on a series of political documents, including the Helsinki Final Act ([www.osce.org/mc/39501](http://www.osce.org/mc/39501)), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe ([www.osce.org/mc/39516](http://www.osce.org/mc/39516)), the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Charter for European Security ([www.osce.org/mc/17502](http://www.osce.org/mc/17502))

**Membership:**

- Nature: Representatives from governments
- Number: 57 members

**Year of establishment:** 1994, 1975 for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)

**Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria

**Country offices:** 3 autonomous institutions in Warsaw (Poland), Vienna (Austria) and The Hague (Netherlands) and 16 field operation offices

**Secretariat staff:** 2 320 (entire organisation, including headquarters, field operations and 3 related institutions)

**Total budget:** EUR 142,053,800 (2017)

**Type of activity:** Policy dialogue, data collection and analysis, confidence and security building measures, capacity-building, crisis management

**Sectors of activity:** Arms control and CSBMs, border management, countering transnational threats, economic and environmental aspects of security, human dimension of security, conflict prevention and resolution

**Webpage:** [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)

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### Members

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

### Relationship with non-members

The OSCE maintains a regular dialogue and co-operation with 11 Partner States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Korea, Thailand and Tunisia.

The OSCE Secretariat and the respective Chairs of Contact Groups with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners are responsible for maintaining the relationship with the Partners for co-operation, and for the planning and organisation of regular events with the Partners, including an annual Mediterranean Seminar and an annual joint conference with an Asian Partner.

### Mandate

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratisation, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

## IRC processes taking place within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	
Legally binding decisions (Decisions)		1849 (OSCE decisions)
Recommendations		62 decisions taken per year for the 2012-2017 period
Political declarations	√	
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	The OSCE maintains a regular dialogue and co-operation with a large number of IOs, regional and sub-regional organisations, such as: European Union, CoE (Council of Europe), NATO, UNODC, UNECE, UNDP, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization)
MoU or other agreements	√	
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	15	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	
Exchange information	15	

#### OSCE history

The OSCE traces its origins to the early 1970s, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. The CSCE reached agreement on the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed on 1 August 1975. With the end of the Cold War, the Paris Summit of November 1990 set the CSCE on a new course. In the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the CSCE was called upon to play its part in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to the new challenges of the post-Cold War period, which led to its acquiring permanent institutions and operational capabilities. As part of this institutionalisation process, the name was changed from the CSCE to the OSCE in 1994.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>