

# SCHIFF

Schleswig-Holsteinisches Institut für Friedenswissenschaften  
an der Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel

B1998  
685

## SCHIFF-texte

Nr. 44

Hanne-Margret Birckenbach

Preventive Diplomacy:  
Conclusions from international intervention  
into the Estonian and Latvian Conflicts  
over citizenship

*SCHIFF-texte* sind Veröffentlichungen des *SCHIFF/SHIP*. Sie werden jedoch von den Autorinnen und Autoren verantwortet und stellen - soweit nicht anders vermerkt - keine Äußerungen des Instituts oder seiner Gremien dar.

© bei den AutorInnen

ISSN 0948-1869

Kiel, Oktober 1997

SCHIFF / SHIP  
Kaiserstr. 2 D-24143 Kiel,  
Tel.: +49 - (0)431 / 7 75 72 - 851, Fax: +49 - (0)431 / 7 75 72 - 852  
e-mail: SCHIFF@SCHIFF.Uni-Kiel.de  
<http://www.schiff.uni-kiel.de/>

The Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Peace Research  
at the Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel

SHIP

*Hanne-Margret Birckenbach\**

**Preventive Diplomacy:  
Conclusions from International Intervention  
into the Estonian and Latvian Conflicts  
over Citizenship**

Zusammenfassung

Abstract

1. **A disenfranchised minority and the risk for European stability**
2. **The success: conflict transformation**
3. **Supportive factors: conditions of successful preventive diplomacy**
  - 3.1 A process powered by different actors
  - 3.2 A plurality of perspectives
  - 3.3 A culture of peace
  - 3.4 Support for IGOs and elaboration of their mediating capacities
  - 3.5 An advantages for all actors: meeting the parties interests
4. **Obstacles to problem-solving - the conceptual deficit**
  - 4.1 Achieving conflict-autonomy
  - 4.2 Modernizing the state-centred conceptions of the world
  - 4.3 Increasing the credibility of recommendations
  - 4.4 Tackling crucial domestic power constellations
  - 4.5 Developing the conflicts' inherent creative potentials
5. **Conclusions: lessons to be learned**

References

---

\*) PD Dr. Hanne-Margret Birckenbach is a senior researcher with SHIP. The article a revised version of a paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association for Conflict Management „Conflict Management and Social Transformation“ (Bonn, Germany, June 15-18, 1997). The investigation was prepared in the framework of a major research project "Human Rights oriented Policy as a Field of Conflict in the Societal World", currently undertaken within SHIP's subject area "Co-operation, Prevention of Violence and the Non-military Treatment of Conflict". To a large extent the present paper draws on the recently published case study by the author: *Preventive Diplomacy through Fact-Finding. How international organizations review the conflict over citizenship in Estonia and Latvia*. Münster/Hamburg/London: Lit Verlag, 1997 (= Kieler Schriften zur Friedenswissenschaft / Kiel Peace Research Series, vol. 6), 421 pp. (ISBN 3-8258-2864-6; distributor for North America: Transaction Publishers, Rutgers-State University, New Brunswick, N.J.; distributor for the United Kingdom: World View Publications, Oxford). Here also extensive references are given. In addition to an analysis, the book contains 24 fact-finding reports by international organizations on the respective conflicts.