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Offentligt



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Washington, 26 September 2005

Dear Colleague,

We would like to thank you for your hard work and your contributions to the work of the OSCE PA in July when we met here in Washington. The final OSCE PA 2005 Declaration includes a number of suggestions and recommendations which are important for the future work of the OSCE. As President of the Assembly and Chairman of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability respectively, we have been advocating a better follow-up to the Assembly's Declarations and recommendations, and so far, this goal has not been fully accomplished. Therefore, we would like to ask you for your support and assistance. We know that Secretary General Spencer Oliver has sent a copy of the OSCE PA 2005 Washington Declaration to your Foreign Minister with a copy to your OSCE Ambassador in Vienna, and we would like to ask you to write to your Foreign Minister to follow-up on this and get some feedback on some of our ideas. We have prepared a draft letter which you could use for this purpose.

As you know, during the Annual Session, the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability discussed the Report of the OSCE Eminent Persons as well as the Report of the Colloquium which was a joint effort of the OSCE PA and the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, to discuss the future of the OSCE. We agreed that the most important thing for Members of the OSCE PA to do is to help ensure that the recommendations of the two Reports are considered and debated among the governments of participating States. Many of the ideas presented in the two Reports coincide with recommendations put forward by the OSCE PA in the past. A few examples: both Reports stress the need for increased transparency in the decision making process within the OSCE, particularly when blocking consensus; they suggest strengthening the OSCE Secretary General, and to enhance professionalism in the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Missions through changes in the recruitment process as well as to improve the budget process to avoid persistent delays.

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In our Washington Declaration, we support any efforts within the OSCE to further discuss and implement these changes. We also point out that the Assembly will closely follow and discuss the progress of the implementation of the conclusions of the Reports at our upcoming meetings in October and February 2006. In order for us to have a fruitful debate, it would be important to receive some indication from our Foreign Ministries on how they intend to proceed. We hope that you would be able to get a response from your Minister on this question.

Hopefully, by focusing on implementation of the recommendations made by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, we can help promote the process within the OSCE.

I thank you in advance for your support and assistance.

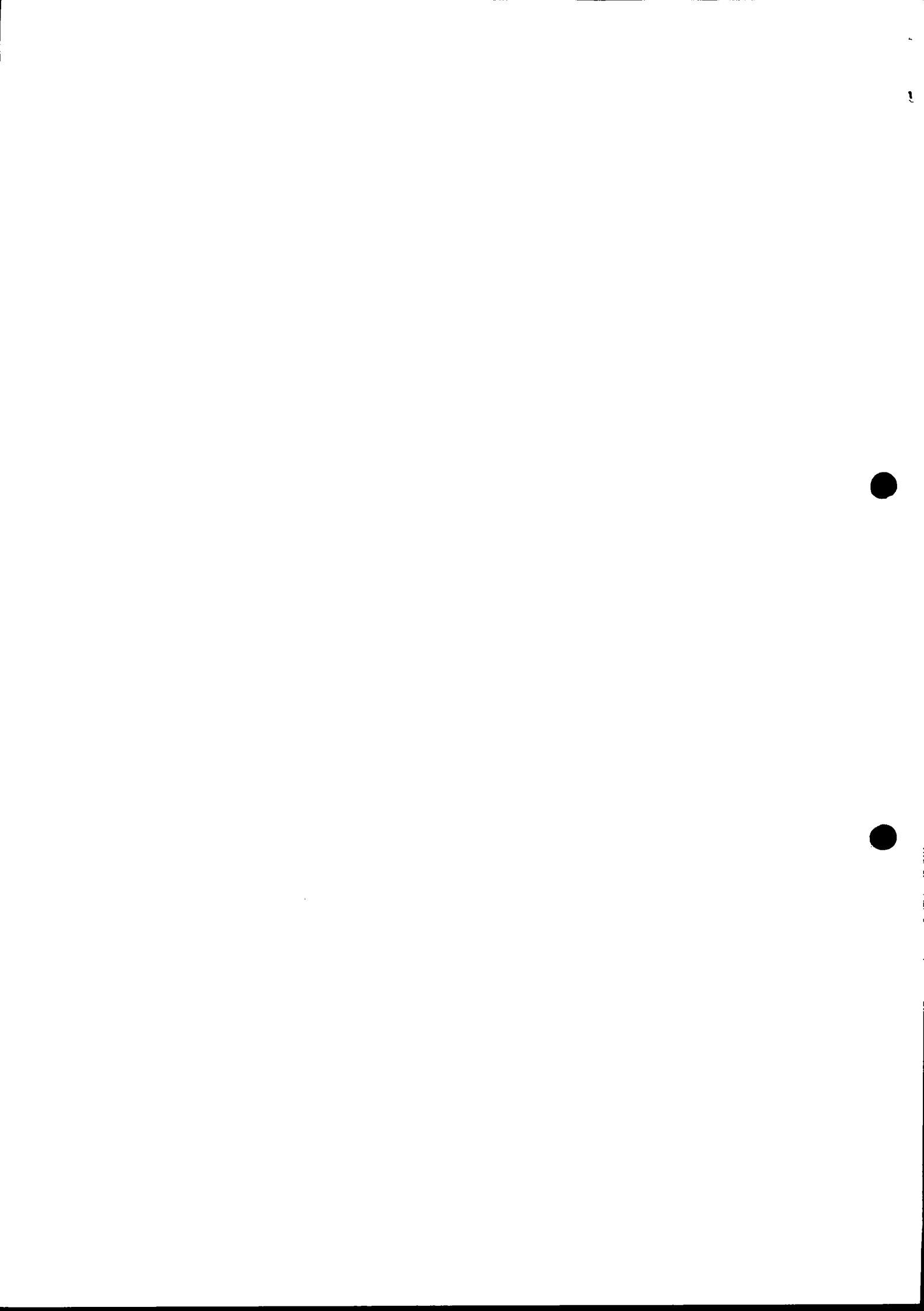
Yours sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings
President of the OSCE PA



Steny Hoyer
Chairman of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc
Committee on Transparency and Accountability



DRAFT

Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Dear Madam/Mr. Minister

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and look to the future of the OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is concerned about the need for improvement in the procedures and work of our Organization. You have recently received a copy of the Washington Declaration which was passed by the OSCE PA during the Annual Session in the beginning of July this year. This document includes numerous ideas and recommendations for the work of the OSCE. I kindly ask you to pay appropriate attention to it and to provide my colleagues and I with any feedback you may have.

In recognizing the need for changes in the OSCE, you and your colleagues at the 2004 Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia decided to establish a Panel of Eminent Persons to advise on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. Later, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Dimitrij Rupel of Slovenia, asked the Assembly to initiate a parallel process to contribute ideas to this discussion. President of the Assembly Alcee L. Hastings and Secretary General Spencer Oliver, in close co-operation with the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, organized a colloquium of experts. The reports of the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons and the OSCE PA/Swiss Foundation Colloquium were both issued at the end of June with strikingly similar conclusions concerning the future of the Organization. Both Reports stress the need for increased transparency in the decision making process within the OSCE, particularly when blocking consensus. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been advocating such a change for a number of years, and we feel this would be an important step forward in improving the credibility of the Organization. In addition, suggestions to strengthen the OSCE Secretary General, and to enhance professionalism in the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Missions through changes in the recruitment process as well as to improve the budget process without persistent delays are strongly supported by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as by both reports. During our Annual Session in Washington from 1-5 July, the Assembly passed a Declaration calling for follow-up to the Reports of the two expert groups. In this Resolution, the Assembly decided to discuss follow-up at our upcoming Standing Committee meeting which will take place in October in Serbia and Montenegro as well as during our Winter Meeting next February.

As Head of our Parliamentary OSCE Delegation, I am very interested in backing the recommendations in the two Reports, and I would like to be able to report to my colleagues in the OSCE PA that our country gives full support to the process of modernizing the OSCE.

Mr./Madam Minister, I hope that you would keep me informed about any actions or positions that you are taking in this regard so that my colleagues and I can assist you in these efforts.

Thank you very much for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Delegation to the OSCE PA