



OSCE's parlamentariske Forsamling
(2. samling)
OSCE alm. del - Bilag 20
Offentligt

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

14th Annual Session

30 Years Since Helsinki:
Challenges Ahead

DRAFT



Welcome to Washington, DC

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



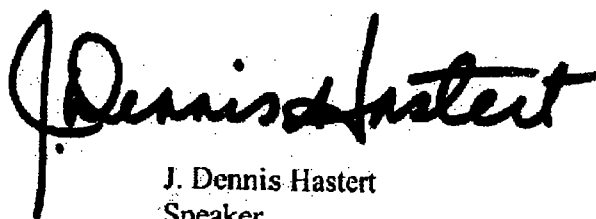
Dear Colleagues:

We are delighted to welcome you to the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Washington, DC, from 1-5 July 2005.

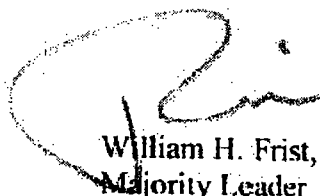
While our capital city is relatively young, it has a great deal to offer and we look forward to sharing many of our most cherished and traditional sites, sounds and taste treats during your visit. The Fourth of July – the birthdate of our nation's independence – is a wonderful time to be in Washington as the city celebrates with great fanfare. We are very proud of our capital and welcome this opportunity to share its beauty and grandeur with you.

We are also pleased that the theme for this Annual Session is "30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead." As we have stated previously, the Members of the United States Congress have played a key role in advancing the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and we have been pleased to contribute to the debates in the OSCE PA on the important issues of human rights and the rule of law. As we look to the future, we are reminded on a daily basis of the importance of redoubling our efforts to advance and strengthen democracies around the world.

Again, we look forward to welcoming you to Washington, DC!



J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives



William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate

Message from the OSCE Chairman-in-Office



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meets in Washington at an historic time for the OSCE. Not only is this a year of anniversaries for the Organization – marking thirty years since the signing of the historic Helsinki Final Act and fifteen years since the Charter of Paris. It is also a year of vital renewal, as we take steps to enable the OSCE to deal more effectively with Europe's contemporary security challenges.

Some say that the OSCE is in crisis. The lack of a budget or scales has not been helpful, but this is a minor issue compared to the challenge of fostering security through co-operation in Europe. Any disagreements over figures are marginal compared to the more fundamental differences of view over the application of OSCE standards, perceptions of bias, and the threat of new dividing lines being drawn in Europe.

Accusations that the OSCE is becoming irrelevant ring hollow when one considers the important role that we are playing in Kyrgyzstan or in Ukraine, assisting in conflict settlement in Moldova, Georgia, and between Armenia and Azerbaijan, or assisting States in a range of security-related activities from policing to national minorities, from election monitoring to counter-terrorism.

It used to be the case that most people were either complacent about the OSCE or had never even heard of it. Now the OSCE is discussed at a high political level, it is in the news, and people are talking about its future. This is healthy and exciting.

We have an opportunity to better define the OSCE's role in the European security network, to evaluate – and concentrate on – what we do best, and improve what needs fixing.

We need to channel the political energy being generated around the OSCE and focus it into improving the ability of the 55 States to use this instrument for what it was designed to do – contribute to peace, security, justice and co-operation in Europe.

We have heeded the calls for reform. At the end of June, a Panel of Eminent Persons presented their recommendations for strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. I hope that some of their views may already be a topic for discussion here in Washington. After all, the Parliamentary Assembly is an ideal forum for exchanging new ideas.

High level consultations will be held this autumn

to drive forward the reform debate, and I hope that a number of important decisions can be taken at the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in December.

Maybe it is also the right time to consider holding another OSCE Summit. There is a great deal for our Heads of State and Government to discuss, and there has not been an OSCE Summit since Istanbul in 1999.

Europe is being transformed, sometimes at a pace which catches us by surprise. We were just coming to terms with EU and NATO enlargement, when we had to shift gears and look at developments in Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan as well as seeking a sustainable future for Kosovo.

At the same time Europe, like the rest of the world, is being forced to come to terms with new threats to security, particularly those posed by extremism and terrorism.

These are not only challenges for the OSCE, they are challenges for the whole continent and all participating States, as well as our neighbours. That is why change within the OSCE (like the UN and European Union) is both necessary and logical. It should not be reform for reform's sake, rather an improvement of our ability to deal with real world issues.

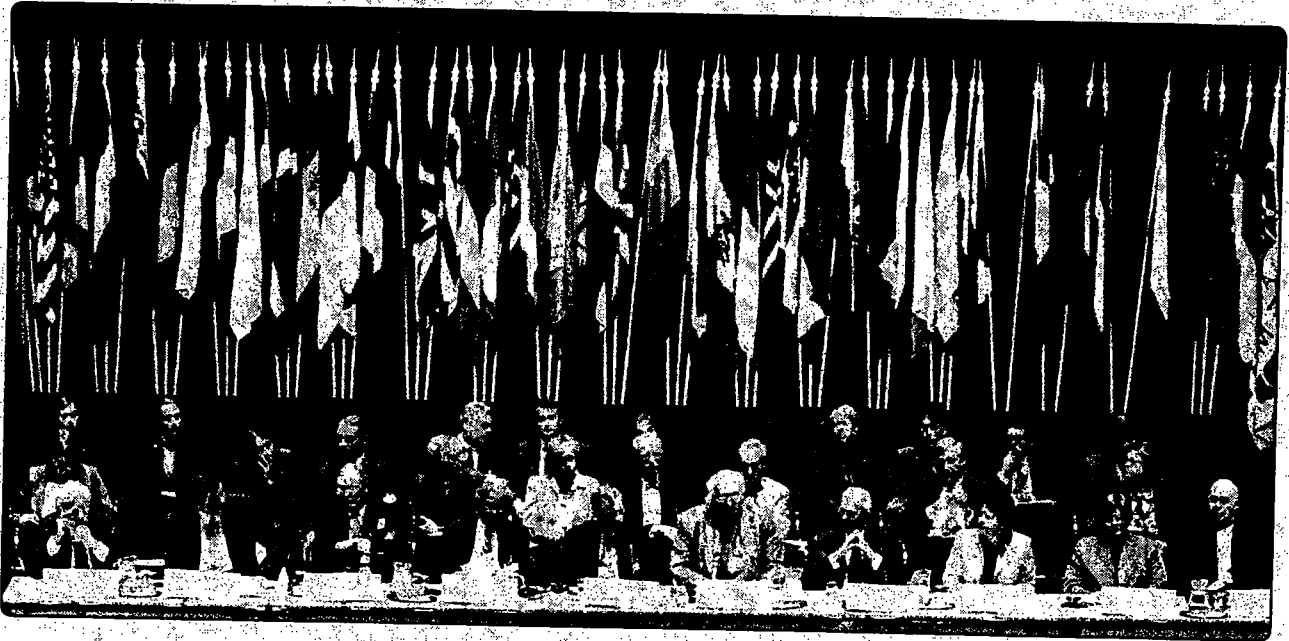
Thirty years ago, the original Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had an immediate impact on people's lives, as did the OSCE when it was created 20 years later, particularly in countries undergoing a period of post-Communist transition. Today, people in Bishkek, Kyiv or Tbilisi will certainly be able to tell you what the OSCE is and why it remains important.

However, we need you, as Parliamentarians, to spread the word among your constituents, to enable people to better appreciate the merits of this Organization and to encourage their political leaders to invest the political will so necessary to enable the OSCE to reach its full potential.

I look forward to actively participating in this Fourteenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to hear your views on how we can face the challenges ahead.

Dimitrij Rupel
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia,
OSCE Chairman-in-Office

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



A Unique OSCE Institution

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly gathers over 300 parliamentarians from the OSCE participating States with the aim of promoting parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE and facilitating inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation. The Assembly occupies a unique place in the structure of the OSCE by providing a vital link between the governmental side of the OSCE and parliamentarians from the OSCE countries.

Parliaments of all OSCE States are entitled to be represented in the Parliamentary Assembly, which comprises 317 representatives. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the European Parliament, and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS all have observer status in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Short History

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was established by the leaders of the Parliaments of all States signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe. The Charter of Paris, signed by the Heads of State or Government of 34 states meeting in Paris in November 1990, stated:

“Recognizing the important role parliamentarians can play in the CSCE process, we call for greater parliamentary involvement in the CSCE, in particular through the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly, involving members of parliaments from all participating States. To this end, we urge that contacts be pursued at parliamentary level to discuss the field of activities, working methods and rules of procedure of such a CSCE parliamentary structure, drawing on existing experience and work already undertaken in this field.”

At the invitation of the Spanish Cortes, leading parliamentarians from all CSCE signatory countries gathered in Madrid in early April 1991 to establish the modalities of a CSCE Parliamentary Assembly as requested by their respective Heads of State or Government.

The Madrid meeting, attended by parliamentary leaders from all CSCE States, encountered several challenges from the very beginning due to the wide variety of views among the 34 delegations. These included whether to maintain the consensus procedure used by the governmental CSCE, the determination of the frequency of Assembly meetings, the role and number of committees, and the number of votes to be assigned to each parliament. Compromises were eventually reached, and a document, the Madrid Declaration, was adopted by consensus.

The Madrid Declaration set forth the basic rules of procedure, working methods, size, mandate, and distribution of votes for the first official meeting of



Assembly Bodies

The main elements of the Parliamentary Assembly are the Plenary Assembly, the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation, the Bureau, the Expanded Bureau, and the three General Committees. The Standing Committee and the Bureau prepare the work of the Assembly between Sessions, ensuring the efficient operation of the Assembly. The three General Committees correspond to the three main baskets of the Helsinki Final Act: the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security; the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

The Standing Committee makes decisions according to the principle of "consensus-minus-one". The Bureau, the General Committees and the Assembly Plenary take decisions by majority vote.

Annual Sessions

One of the most important events in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calendar is the Annual Session held in the beginning of July. During each Annual Session the Assembly Plenary adopts a Final Declaration addressing contemporary issues within the fields of Political Affairs, Economic Development and Human Rights. The Final Declarations contain specific calls on participating States to adhere to their OSCE commitments as well as recommendations on strengthening OSCE institutional structures. Annual Sessions of the OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly have taken place in Budapest (1992), Helsinki (1993), Vienna (1994), Ottawa (1995), Stockholm (1996), Warsaw (1997), Copenhagen (1998), St. Petersburg (1999), Bucharest (2000), Paris (2001), Berlin (2002), Rotterdam (2003), Edinburgh (2004). Washington DC will host the 2005 Session, and Brussels will follow as the host for 2006.

Summary Reports of Annual Sessions (as of 1998) are available at www.oscepa.org

Winter Meetings

In February 2001 the Standing Committee approved the holding of an annual OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna. The Winter Meetings allow the three General Committees to have additional discussions and debates amongst themselves as well as to be briefed by high-level OSCE officials who have responsibilities related to the work of each of the three General Committees. The Winter Meeting also serves as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three General Committee Rapporteurs and to discuss their draft reports for the Annual Session. Winter Meetings have now been held in February 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. In all of these cases, parliamentary interest in the event far exceeded initial expectations. The Winter Meeting is the second largest event in the OSCE PA calendar, topped only by the Annual Session.

Summary Reports of Winter Meetings are available at www.oscepa.org

decision-making process. As a direct result of the Committee's work, in 2003, the OSCE PA Secretariat opened a liaison office in Vienna which provides a direct link to the governmental structures. Furthermore, the OSCE Secretary General now reports to the Assembly's Standing Committee during the Autumn Conference where he presents the Draft OSCE Budget for the upcoming year, allowing an opportunity for PA Members to discuss the budget and the political priorities of the Organization. The Committee continues to follow the situation in the OSCE and provides regular input to the Leadership on possible improvements.

Working Group on the OSCE Budget



Nebahat Albayrak
Chair

In the Edinburgh Declaration, the OSCE PA decided to create a Working Group to review the OSCE draft budgets in order for the Assembly to be better prepared to respond and provide information to national parliaments on the budgetary situation of the OSCE. The budget group has met on a number of occasions and discussed how to proceed with its tasks. Members of the Group have also requested information concerning the budget from the OSCE Secretary General as well as from their national Foreign Ministries.

Special Representatives

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may appoint Special Representatives on areas of particular interest to assist or act on his or her behalf.

The Special Representative on Gender Issues



The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Ms. Tone Tingstgård, who is also a Vice-President of the OSCE PA, was appointed by the PA President to strengthen the Assembly's efforts to promote gender equality within the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly. Ms. Tingstgård has continued to gather information and statistics and presented her Gender-Plan as well as the OSCE PA Gender Report to the Annual Session in Edinburgh in 2004. She continues to promote dialogue on the issue of equality between men and women and has established an informal network of parliamentarians in the OSCE who take an interest in the promotion of this issue. The Special Representative on Gender Issues is assisted by the Gender Unit at the OSCE PA Secretariat and works in close contact with the Gender related structures in the rest of the OSCE.

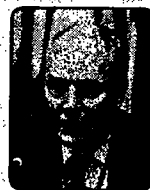
The Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs



Considering the need to develop stronger links between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the President of the OSCE PA appointed a Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Mr. Bruce George, to report to him on developments in this field.

The Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict

In July 2002, the OSCE PA President appointed Mr. Göran Lennmarker as Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict in order to encour-



age reconciliation and rehabilitation in the area through parliamentary dialogue. After having visited Armenia and Azerbaijan and the region of Nagorno Karabakh, Mr. Lennmarker organized a joint visit to Brussels for representatives of the OSCE PA Delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia to discuss the future of the two countries within the framework of European and Transatlantic institutions. The Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict works closely with the Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on this conflict.

The Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues



During the February 2004 Winter Meeting in Vienna, the President of the OSCE PA appointed Congressman Christopher Smith, Head of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA, his Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues to promote dialogue in the OSCE, and in its Parliamentary Assembly in particular, on how to combat human trafficking.

The Special Representative on Guantánamo



In February 2005 Senator Anne Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate, was appointed by President Alcee L. Hastings as his Special Representative on Guantánamo, to follow up and report to the Assembly on the situation of detainees from OSCE participating States in the American facility in Guantánamo.



At the Secretariat level, there is regular contact between the Secretaries General as well as the staff of the international parliamentary institutions. In this way, co-ordination and coherence are strengthened.

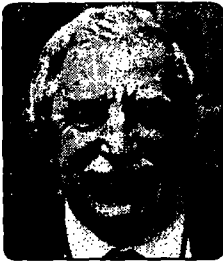
During election observation missions, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly co-operates closely with other international parliamentary institutions, particularly the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR, a joint preliminary statement is issued after the elections, ensuring that a co-ordinated and unified international assessment is presented to authorities and the general public in the given country.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has in several projects joined "Parliamentary Troikas" consisting of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE PA in order to increase the co-ordination and strength of international parliamentary projects. In Belarus, a Parliamentary Troika, including the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Belarus, has been engaged in an effort to promote dialogue and democratic development. In South Eastern Europe, the Parliamentary bodies have joined efforts in order to establish a parliamentary dimension within the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The Chairmanship of the Troika rotates between the three institutions, the OSCE PA held the Chairmanship in 2004. Furthermore, the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Moldova co-ordinates with and keeps the other international parliamentary bodies informed about its activities.

Budget

The Assembly's budget covers most of the organizational and staff expenses relating to the Annual Session, Winter Meeting, Standing Committee and Bureau Meetings, official visits, the election observation programme, as well as the costs of the International Secretariat. Host Parliaments of the Annual Sessions have all contributed significantly by providing considerable support to these regular events, ensuring their success and contributing substantive cost savings. The Danish Folketing has very generously provided excellent office facilities free of charge for the Assembly's International Secretariat, and the Netherlands and Germany have seconded our Press Counsellor in Copenhagen and our Ambassador in Vienna, respectively.





Nevzat Yalcintas (Turkey)

was elected as Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2003 Annual Session in Rotterdam. Before becoming a Member of Parliament from Istanbul in 1999, he held positions as Chief Columnist of Daily Tecuman and Daily Turkiye, Lecturer at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at Istanbul University and Director of Turkish State Radio and Television Broadcasting Company. He is the Head of the Turkish-Russian Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group and also serves as Member of the Constitutional Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

Giovanni Kessler (Italy)



was re-elected as Vice-President of the OSCE PA during the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh after having served as Vice-President for one year. A lawyer and former public prosecutor, Giovanni Kessler is a Member of the Justice Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Vice President of the Italian Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Association. In 1998 and 1999, he was the Deputy Head of Mission of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission in Pristina. He has participated in several parliamentary visits to OSCE Field Missions and has participated in and led election observation missions.



Panos Kammenos (Greece)

was elected as Vice-President at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh after having served two years as Vice-Chair of the First General Committee. Panos Kammenos has been a Member of the Hellenic Parliament since 1993 and is in his fifth term. He served as the Secretary of the Greek Parliament from 1993-1996 and currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Permanent Committee on National Defense and External Affairs and is an active member of the Permanent Committee on Public Order and Justice.

Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands)



was elected as Vice-President at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh after having served as Rapporteur of the Third General Committee for two years. Nebahat Albayrak has a long history of involvement in minority-related affairs. She worked for several years in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate for Co-ordination of Integration Policy of Minorities at the Ministry of Internal Affairs before being elected to parliament in 1998. She is currently the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.



Jerry Grafstein (Canada)

was re-elected Treasurer of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Rotterdam after having served one term as Treasurer, and two terms as Vice-Chair of the Second Committee. He was appointed Senator in 1984, while continuing his law practice in corporate and communications law. In 1966 he founded and edited the Journal of Liberal Thought and is a co-founder of a range of media companies in Canada, South America, Europe and elsewhere. He has written and edited numerous articles, papers and books on various topics within communications and politics.

Bruce George (United Kingdom)



is President Emeritus having served two one-year terms as President of the Assembly from July 2002 to July 2004. Mr. George is Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee. During his presidency Bruce George strongly emphasized the enhanced co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the OSCE, thus furthering the effectiveness of the Organization. In addition he further developed relations with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, and now also serves as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

Officers of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

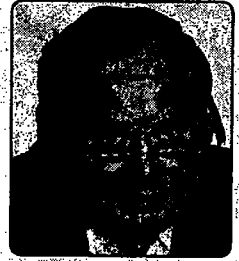


Benjamin L. Cardin (USA)

was elected Chair of the Second Committee at the 2003 Annual Session in Rotterdam. He has represented Maryland's Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1987. He currently is Ranking Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe. He is also a member of the Ways & Means Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. Prior to Congress, he served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1967-1986.

Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation)

was elected Rapporteur of the Second Committee at the 2002 Annual Session in Berlin. An economist and Professor of Management, Leonid Ivanchenko has had over 60 articles on federate inter-budgetary relations and regional policy published. Previously Mayor of Rostov-on-Don City, he has been elected to legislative authorities in the Russian Federation since 1985. Leonid Ivanchenko is also the Chair of the Management Department of the Rostov Institute.



Officers of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

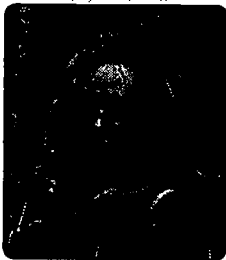
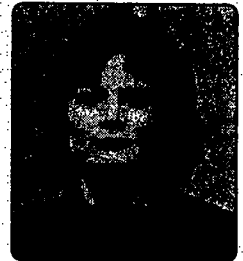


Claudia Nolte (Germany)

was elected Chair of the Third Committee at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh. Claudia Nolte has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1990 and is the member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. She has been a member of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2002 and works in the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Parliamentary Team on Moldova.

Cecilia Wigström (Sweden)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Third Committee at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh. She is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Deputy Member of the Committee on Justice in the Swedish Riksdag.



Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)

was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh. Anne-Ms. Lizin, elected Speaker of the Belgian Senate in the end of July 2004, has a long history of involvement in women's rights organizations. For several years she also worked as external professor at the University of Liège. Ms. Lizin, a former Secretary of State for European Affairs, is Chair of the Foreign Relations and Defence Committee of the Belgian Senate. She has participated in several OSCE PA Election Observation Missions and has been a Member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Parliamentary Team on Moldova since 2003.

Assembly Declarations

First Annual Session in Budapest, 1992

Budapest was the venue for the First Annual Session of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 1992. The Assembly passed the Budapest Declaration which addressed issues relating to European security, peace-keeping, environmental co-operation, human rights and the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. The Declaration also urged parliaments and parliamentarians of the CSCE to participate more actively in the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts:

"When regional tensions arise, multilateral meetings of parliamentarians of countries concerned should be arranged to foster democratic and peaceful solutions."

In addition, all national parliaments were invited to participate in a session or a debate each year to discuss the state of progress in CSCE co-operation. Furthermore, the Budapest Declaration recommended that the CSCE send observers, including parliamentarians active in CSCE matters, to Kosovo and Vojvodina and other threatened regions to monitor the protection of minorities. The Budapest Session also resolved to accept the invitation of the Danish Parliament (Folketing) to locate the International Secretariat of the CSCE PA in Copenhagen, Denmark.



"It is the task of the Assembly to bring the views and suggestions of democratically elected Parliaments and Parliamentarians to the governments of the CSCE. It is equally important that in each national Parliament there are members who know and understand the CSCE and can support and influence its policies and direction".

Former CSCE PA President Ilkka Suominen

Second Annual Session in Helsinki, 1993

The Second Annual Session of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in Helsinki on 6-9 July 1993. A full chapter on the crisis in the Former Yugoslavia in the adopted Helsinki Declaration illustrated the impor-

tance attached to this issue. The Declaration furthermore called for the establishment of a CSCE Security Committee and a CSCE decision-making procedure which no longer requires consensus or "consensus-minus-one". The Assembly expressed its determination to emphasize monitoring of elections as an important task on the CSCE Parliamentary agenda. Also, the wish was expressed that representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly will join CSCE missions sent to the centres of potential conflicts and tension. The Helsinki Declaration appealed to the parliaments of the CSCE participating States to intensify their efforts to support the transformation process in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In Helsinki, the Assembly decided to call a meeting of the female members of the CSCE at the next session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Third Annual Session in Vienna, 1994

In July 1994, the Assembly's Third Annual Session was hosted in Vienna by the Austrian Parliament.

Again the adopted Vienna Declaration contained a chapter on the crisis in the Former Yugoslavia. Other issues addressed in the Declaration included the development of a Code of Conduct in the field of political and military security, the Chernobyl tragedy, the International War Crimes Tribunal and the human rights situation in Turkey. The Vienna Declaration furthermore requested that the CSCE Budapest Summit Meeting debate the creation of a formal procedure for considering CSCE PA resolutions and recommendations, so that co-operation between the CSCE Assembly and the CSCE could be further strengthened. At the same time, the Assembly also urged national parliaments to consider the creation of a formal procedure for consideration of the resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the CSCE. The Assembly continued to call for change in the CSCE's consensus rule, in order to accelerate and streamline the CSCE decision-making procedures.

Fourth Annual Session in Ottawa, 1995

The Fourth Annual Session of the Assembly, hosted by the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa on 4-8 July 1995, was the first Annual Session to be held in North America. The Ottawa Declaration encompassed a series of resolutions and recommendations relating to OSCE activities regarding the Former Yugoslavia, the Baltic region, Nagorno Karabakh, Chechnya and



"In our search to promote respect for OSCE commitments, the recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly serve as a source of inspiration for the Danish Chairmanship to strengthen contacts and co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the other OSCE bodies."

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Niels Helveg Petersen

the governmental side of the OSCE, the Assembly expressed satisfaction with the acknowledgement, at the December 1995 Budapest Ministerial Council, that the discussions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly contributed to the work of the Permanent Council. The Chairman-in-Office was requested to report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the political action taken as a result of Assembly deliberations, discussions and resolutions.

Sixth Annual Session in Warsaw, 1997

The Sixth Annual Session, held in Warsaw 5-8 July 1997, focused on enhancing the implementation of commitments undertaken in the context of the CSCE and OSCE, including the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Budapest and Lisbon Summit documents. A Declaration containing three basic resolutions, each corresponding to one of the three main baskets of the Helsinki Final Act, was adopted.

The Resolution concerning Political Affairs and Security focused on implementing the principles of territorial integrity and the inviolability of State frontiers. In the field of Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment, a Resolution was passed to promote economic co-operation and provide assistance to the countries undertaking the transition to market economies. The Resolution on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions focused on the importance of the media in a democracy, stressing that an independent, pluralistic and free media can play a decisive role in the resolution of existing conflicts. Moreover, the 1997 Annual Session adopted a Resolution condemning systematic rape during armed conflict.

Seventh Annual Session in Copenhagen, 1998

The Seventh Annual Session, held in Copenhagen 7-10 July 1998, focused on structures, Institutions and particular perspectives of the OSCE. The Assembly adopted



"Consensus is difficult to achieve, but it clearly pays off when it is reached. I would not discount, however, the idea of 'approximate consensus' put forward and endorsed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Such ideas, which emanate from a parliamentary body, are most welcome, and represent positive elements in the continuing dialogue between parliamentarians and their governments. It may be that the time for such a change will come sooner or later."

"I am very aware of the enormous contribution the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has made to election monitoring in various OSCE countries during the past five years. The fact that you have sent nearly seven hundred parliamentarians to observe more than thirty elections during this period is strong evidence of your valuable contribution, as well as your commitment, to the OSCE effort to build democratic institutions and democratic parliaments throughout the OSCE area."

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Bronislaw Geremek

the Copenhagen Declaration recognizing that, in order to meet the challenge of implementing OSCE principles and commitments with greater effectiveness, a refinement of existing OSCE tools and resources should be pursued. The Assembly also continued to call for revision of OSCE decision-making procedures and urged the OSCE Ministerial Council to "consider expanding those circumstances under which the existing consensus-minus-one decision-making mechanism is utilized to include, inter alia, approval of budgets, deployment of missions and selection of senior personnel".

The Assembly further recommended "taking con-



"Your Assembly gives the OSCE a direct link to the people. If we did not have the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly we would have to invent one immediately...The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly serves as an engine for promoting democratic developments in Europe."

Former Prime Minister of Denmark Poul Nyrup Rasmussen



"The activities of the Parliamentary Assembly render a very valuable and often innovative contribution to the work of the Organization in promoting democracy and confidence building within and between participating States"

Former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Benita Ferrero-Waldner

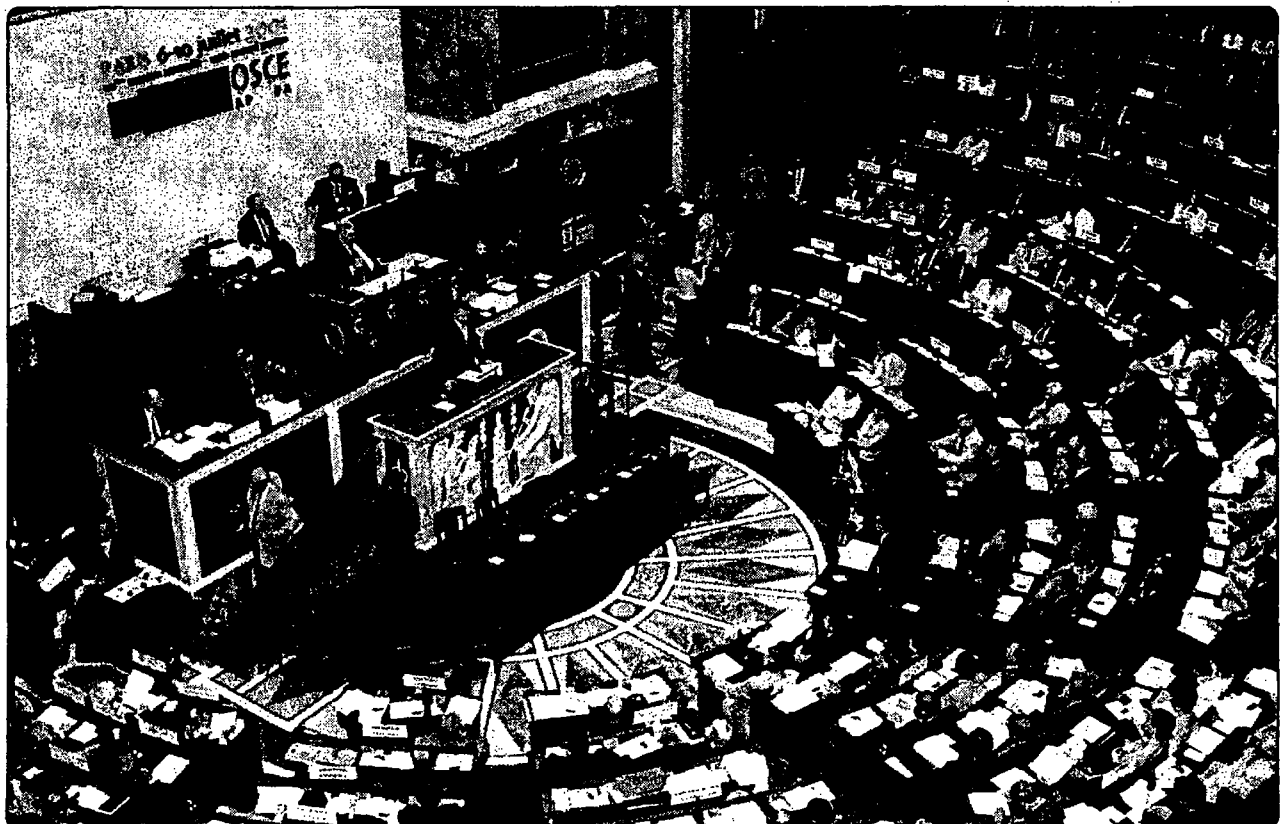
to co-operate in order to find a solution to the country's continuing political and institutional deadlock.

Ninth Annual Session in Bucharest, 2000

The Ninth Annual Session, held in Bucharest from 6 to 10 July 2000, adopted the Bucharest Declaration which covered a wide range of political, economic and human rights issues and includes Resolutions on specific topics. The Resolution on Belarus called on all sides to pave the way for free, fair and internationally recognizable parliamentary elections in Belarus. The Resolution on Moldova expressed its concern regarding the stalemate in the negotiations on the status of Transdniestra and emphasized the need for a common State for all the peoples of Moldova. The Assembly

also adopted a Resolution on developments in the North Caucasus which called for a political solution to the conflict in Chechnya, as well as the earliest possible return of the OSCE Assistance Group to the area. On arms and weapons trading, the Assembly passed a Resolution calling for a convention regulating the trade in arms and the establishment of an international body with jurisdiction over any violations of the convention.

The Assembly also debated the OSCE recruiting policies and adopted a Resolution calling for reduced reliance on secondment in the long-term field missions to ensure the continuity of the important work carried out in the missions. On economic and environmental issues, the Assembly appealed to all OSCE participating States to honour their commitments under the Kyoto and Århus Protocols. Other Resolutions included appeals to abolish the death penalty for all crimes; preserve the ABM Treaty; ensure media freedom in the OSCE region; combat corruption, and fully implement the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe under OSCE auspices. On the dialogue with the governmental side of the OSCE the Assembly repeated its strong recommendation that greater transparency be applied to OSCE Institutions, in order to increase awareness of OSCE activities and capabilities. To that end, Permanent Council meetings must be made open to the public except under special circumstances and meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation should similarly





"We also need to improve the visibility of the OSCE and to develop the public outreach policy of the Organization. This is an area of primary importance if we want to further greater public understanding and support for OSCE activities. The Parliamentary Assembly plays a pivotal role in this realm as its activities contribute to bring the OSCE closer to our citizens."

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Antonio Martins da Cruz

Eleventh Annual Session in Berlin, 2002

After meetings in Berlin from 6 to 10 July 2002, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted the Berlin Declaration dealing with the central theme of the Session: "Confronting Terrorism: a Global Challenge in the 21st Century".

The Berlin Declaration resolutely condemned all acts of terrorism, whatever their motivations or origin, and underlined the solidarity of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the struggle against terrorism. The Declaration reminded all OSCE participating States that any measures that may restrict human rights and fundamental freedoms in response to terrorism have to fully respect international law and relevant OSCE commitments. Parliaments are encouraged to actively protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms during states of emergency and other times of conflict or threats to national security, exercising in particular their responsibility for the oversight of executive power and the creation of law. The Assembly stressed the need for the international community to look into the root causes often underlying terrorist acts, these being the political, economic and social inequalities prevailing in the world. The Declaration also called upon the governments of participating states to revise the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism by including provisions relating to the impact of terrorism on women, and by recognizing the need for increased participation of women in the process of conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

The Assembly strongly urged the government of Belarus to co-operate with the OSCE in facilitating compliance with OSCE commitments. The Declaration urged the government of Moldova and the Transdniestrian leadership to resume their contact and dialogue and to show the necessary political will to define mutually acceptable arrangements for a comprehensive settlement on the status of Transdniestria within the

recognized borders of the Republic of Moldova.

The Resolution on Southeast Europe called upon the international community to remain actively engaged in the region, while encouraging governments, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, to undertake greater responsibility for public affairs and administration.

On the issue of combating trafficking in human beings, the Declaration requested that OSCE participating states take appropriate counter-measures including adoption and implementation of legislation guaranteeing effective criminal prosecution. The Resolution on anti-Semitic violence resolutely condemned the alarming escalation of anti-Semitic violence in the OSCE region. The Resolution urged all States to make public statements recognizing violence against Jews and Jewish cultural properties as anti-Semitic, as well as to issue strong, public declarations condemning these acts. With regard to Roma education, the Declaration recognized the urgent need to develop effective educational programmes addressing the needs of individuals belonging to Roma and other groups traditionally identified as Gypsies and to create conditions for equal opportunity for full participation in the life of their respective societies.

Twelfth Annual Session in Rotterdam, 2003

The Twelfth Annual Session, held from 5 to 9 July 2003 in Rotterdam, concluded with the adoption of the Rotterdam Declaration focused on the Session's theme, "The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe". The Declaration stated that with Europe's ongoing development in security structures, the OSCE's real strength lies in its capacity to respond to security threats and challenges and in its strong field presence. To uphold the credibility of the OSCE, it added, it is imperative to provide the OSCE field activities with adequate funding and high-quality staff.

The Assembly, the Declaration said, recommended that the OSCE Permanent Council be requested to consult the PA prior to making a decision to terminate any OSCE field activity.



"Your insights and recommendations are of the utmost importance. They help to keep the OSCE relevant and, what is more important, in touch with the people of its participating States".

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

"I believe that the OSCE is in need of transformation. Moreover, I think that the transformation process should start right away. I am a politician like all of you here and I am convinced that we should try to humanize the Organization and bring it closer to the people and our constituencies, thereby better responding to their needs and expectations.

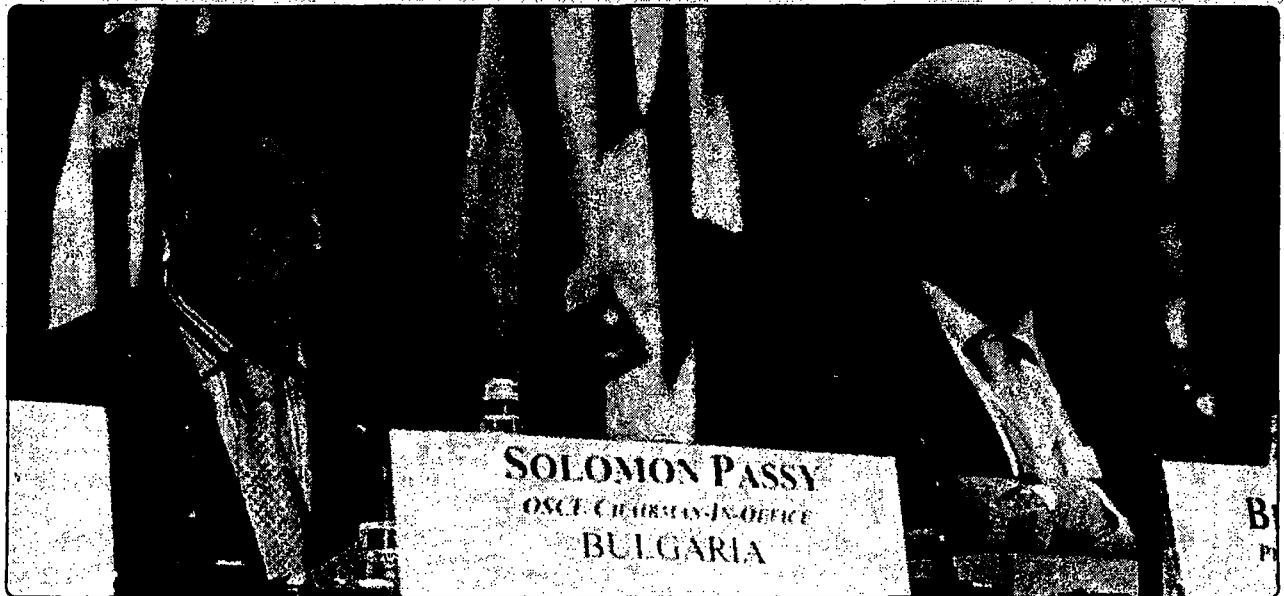
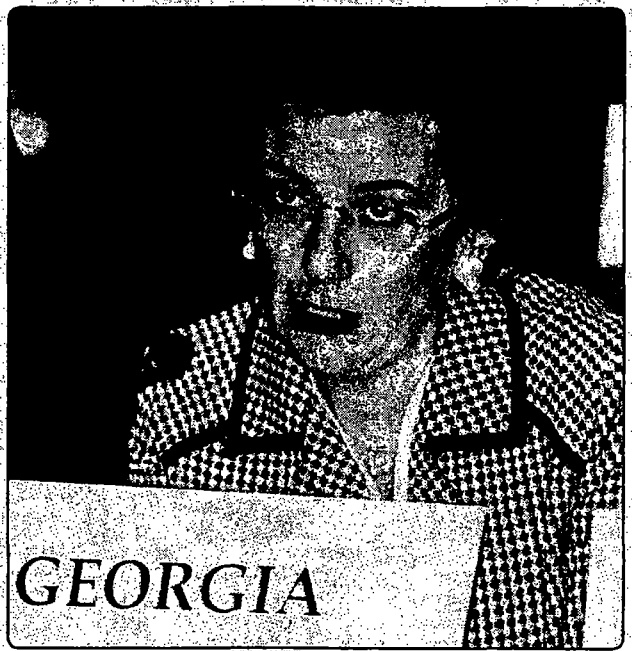
"The transformation process requires the input of parliamentarians and foreign ministries, the interest of the press, and the awareness of the public. You, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, play a vital role in generating fresh initiatives and influencing decision-takers to use the OSCE to tackle contemporary challenges and to transform it to be better equipped in the future."



Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy

upon participating States to provide the additional forces necessary to maintain stability and ensure a secure environment for those persons wishing to return to their homes in Kosovo. The Assembly passed a resolution calling for all OSCE participating States to maintain and sustain efforts to ensure equal opportunities for national minorities. The Assembly also discussed as a matter of urgency the capture and detention of Georgian peace-keepers by South Ossetian armed units and adopted a resolution calling upon authorities to find an immediate peaceful solution to the crisis.

The Parliamentary Assembly also adopted resolutions focusing on a total ban on anti-personnel landmines; trafficking in human beings; Moldova; Ukraine; Libya; and peace in the Middle East.





Standing Committee Meetings

In conjunction with the 2004 Fall Conference in Rhodes, the Assembly's Standing Committee met and discussed the general activities of the Assembly and followed up on the Assembly's Edinburgh Declaration. The Committee was briefed by OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis on the proposed 2005 OSCE Budget, which was followed by a question and answer session. The new PA Working Group on the Budget also met for the first time and agreed to thoroughly review the OSCE Budget proposal and prepare comments for the Permanent Council.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Treasurer Jerry Grafstein reported on PA activities and indicated that the Assembly will have worked within its annual approved budget for the twelfth consecutive fiscal year.

The Standing Committee also met on February 24 2005 in Vienna, prior to the Winter Meeting. The parliamentarians heard welcoming remarks by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat Dr. Andreas Khol, who called upon all participating States to address the issue of reform of the OSCE and to bear in mind the changing security environment after the enlargement of NATO and the European Union. OSCE PA President Hastings presented a summary of his activities undertaken since the previous Standing Committee meeting in Rhodes. He emphasized his intention to continue working for the development of the Parliamentary Assembly as a reliable contributing partner to the success of the OSCE.

Treasurer Jerry Grafstein reported that the Parliamentary Assembly continues to operate well within budget and to maintain the highest standards of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Secretary General Spencer Oliver gave a summary of the activities of the Assembly's International Secretariat during the past six months. He highlighted the Assembly's bulletin *News from Copenhagen*, which provides a good overall picture of how much has been done, and of the efforts of the many Members of the Assembly who regularly contribute their time and their talent to the work of the Assembly.

The Standing Committee reviewed the results of the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia. The Members proceeded to approve an amendment to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, simplifying the process for election of the President of the Assembly.

The parliamentarians heard reports on the Assembly's recent election observation missions to Belarus, the United States of America, and Ukraine. The Standing Committee also heard reports on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE, of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, and of the Working Group on the OSCE Budget.

Considering future work, the Standing Committee heard reports on preparations for upcoming events, including the Expanded Bureau in Copenhagen, April 18, the Sub-Regional Conference in Tromsø, May 12-13, the Fourteenth Annual Session in Washington, DC, July 1-5, and the Fall meetings.

Parliamentary Conference on Fighting Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe



A Parliamentary Conference on the "Fight Against Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe" took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 11-12 November 2004. The Conference was co-hosted by the OSCE PA and the Bulgarian Parliament, and was held under the auspices of the "Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact," composed of the OSCE PA, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

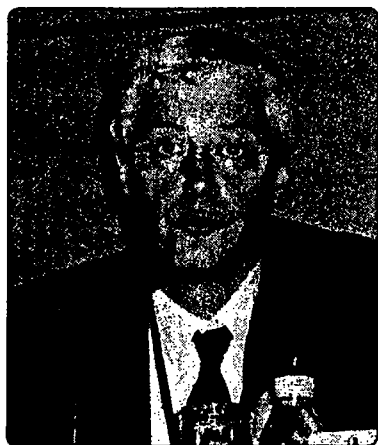
Adrian Severin, former President of the OSCE PA, addressed the opening session as the Personal Representative of President Alcee L. Hastings. Other speakers at the opening session were Professor Ognian Gerdjikov, Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament, Solomon Passy, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Tony Lloyd, Vice-President of the Council of Europe PA, Ignasi Guardans, Member of the European Parliament and Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact.

OSCE PA Vice-President Giovanni Kessler introduced the theme of the "Fight Against Organized Crime – National Legislation and Challenges to Legislators". Other representatives of the OSCE PA included Arta Dade, Head of the Albanian Delegation, who spoke on the "Fight Against

Organized Crime – International Co-operation", Hugo Coveliers, Head of the Belgian Delegation, who spoke on the "Fight Against Corruption" and Tosho Peikov, Head of the Bulgarian Delegation.

The conference agreed on a joint declaration, which was presented by Adrian Severin at the closing session (the full text of this declaration is available at www.oscepa.org). In the declaration, the participants of the Conference call for increased co-operation in the fight against organized crime in South Eastern Europe. They express their support to the efforts of the Stability Pact and appeal to all States concerned to ratify the relevant international conventions. In particular, the declaration emphasizes the responsibilities of legislators and calls for harmonization of national legislation and effective parliamentary oversights of the executive.

The declaration also deals with future activities of the Troika. It calls for the parliaments of South Eastern Europe to intensify their regional co-operation and take a more active role in the parliamentary dimension to the Stability Pact. It also suggests that meetings of specialized parliamentary committees of Parliaments of South Eastern Europe take place in order to tackle common issues.



Expanded Bureau Meeting

Presidential Activities

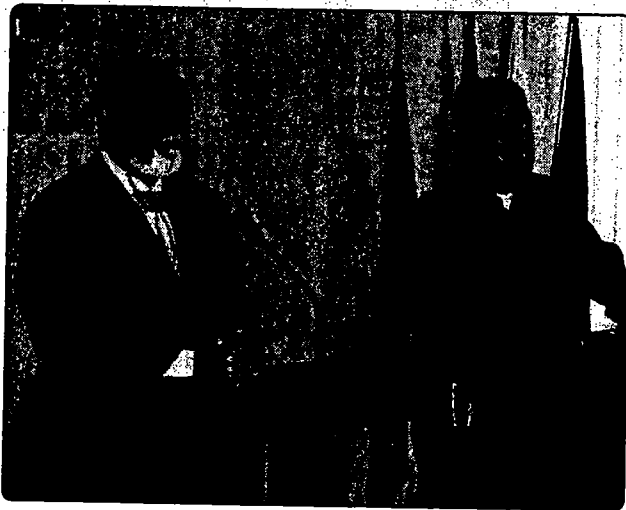
U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 2004 at the 13th Annual Session in Edinburgh, Scotland.

He has been a Member of U.S. Congress since 1993, representing his native state of Florida and most recently re-elected in 2004. President Hastings graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and earned his law degree from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. Appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, he became the first African-American Federal Judge in the State of Florida, and served in that position for ten years.

He has also served as OSCE PA Vice-President, Chair and Vice-Chair of the First General Committee, as well as two terms as Committee Rapporteur.

Alcee L. Hastings is a member of the House Rules Committee, and a senior member of the Select Committee on Intelligence. He also serves as one of only four House Democrats on the U.S. Helsinki Commission. He is Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Select Committee on Election Reform, and is Vice-Chairman of the Florida Delegation. As an attorney, judge and civil rights activist, he has championed the rights of minorities, women, the elderly, children and immigrants.

Since his election in Edinburgh, President Hastings has been very active in strengthening the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as a key institution promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation. As the highest political representative of the Assembly, the President has addressed the OSCE Permanent Council, participated in the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia, and has paid bilateral visits to many OSCE participating States.



Congressman Hastings has also been the first President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to have visited all the OSCE Mediterranean partners for Co-operation. In addition to appointing, in co-operation with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, senior PA Members to lead election observation missions in six countries, Congressman Hastings was in Ukraine to help lead the observation mission of the December 26 Presidential Elections.

In all of his speeches and public statements, President Hastings has called for the need to reform the OSCE and adapt the Organization to face new threats and challenges. To illustrate this point, President Hastings has held numerous contacts during his mandate with the Chairmen-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Ministers Solomon Passy from Bulgaria and Dimitrij Rupel from Slovenia.

As President of the Assembly, Congressman Hastings has also taken the lead in making the combat of anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination one of the main priorities of the Assembly. The President has led during the past year two high level delegations of parliamentarians to the OSCE conferences on Combating Anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination held in Brussels and Córdoba.

The President of the Assembly has also continued to develop close co-operation with other international parliamentary assemblies such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The President has addressed both Assemblies in the past year.



of expression, association and assembly were seriously challenged. This calls into question the willingness of the authorities to respect the concept of political competition on a basis of equal treatment, stated the OSCE Election Observation Mission. "Democratic principles were largely disregarded by the authorities. Many candidates were actively excluded from registering or were deregistered, which limited the choice of voters", said OSCE PA Vice-President Tone Tinggård, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Short-term Observers.

44 OSCE parliamentarians from 25 States observed the elections with the OSCE PA delegation. The preliminary statement also stressed that the OSCE and its institutions represented in the Election Observation Mission remained prepared and committed to assisting the national authorities, including the National Assembly, and civil society in Belarus, in overcoming the noted impediments to the conduct of democratic elections.

Ukraine

31 October, 21 November, 26 December 2004

From October to December, OSCE PA President Emeritus Bruce George visited Ukraine three times to lead OSCE election observation missions as the Special Co-ordinator for the presidential elections of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

On 1 November on behalf of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), which included representatives from the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, NATO PA, European Parliament and the ODIHR, Mr. George announced that "With heavy heart we have to conclude that the 2004 Presidential elections in Ukraine did not meet a considerable number of OSCE, Council of Europe and other international standards for democratic elections". The preliminary post-election conclusions noted that the incumbent Prime Minister and candidate Mr. Yanukovich's campaign did not make a clear separation between resources owned or managed by the incumbent political forces and the State

resources. International observers also criticized the State media and State administration for overwhelming bias in favour of Mr. Yanukovich. Senator Jerry Grafstein, Treasurer of the OSCE PA, was Deputy Head of the OSCE PA delegation of 46 observers.

23 parliamentarians returned to Ukraine as part of the OSCE PA delegation to observe the second round of the presidential elections on 21 November. At a press conference the following day, Mr. George reminded his audience that three weeks ago the IEOM had appealed to the Ukrainian authorities to use the interim three weeks between the two rounds of elections to improve on the shortcomings of the first round. "Today I announce that it is with an even heavier heart that we have to conclude that the authorities did not respond positively to our appeal." The IEOM preliminary statement lists a number of significant shortcomings. They include the abuse of state resources in favour of the incumbent Prime Minister, demonstrating a widespread disregard for the fundamental distinction between the State and partisan political interests.

On 27 December, Mr. George was able to announce a significantly different conclusion on the repeat of second round. "I cannot express to you how delighted I am to say that in our collective view Ukraine's elec-



Congressmen Hoyer and Cardin, was responsible for the organization of the entire programme, including deployment and briefings. On 4 November Mrs. Haering delivered the preliminary post election statement at the National Press Club in Washington. The statement concluded that the 2 November elections in the USA met most of OSCE commitments. According to the statement the presidential elections were concluded in a highly competitive environment, and leading candidates enjoyed the full benefits of media. However, the Election Observation Mission took notice of the fact that only a very small proportion of the elections for the 434 congressional districts are generally considered to be competitive. In some cases this may be attributed to the way congressional boundaries are drawn. Mrs. Haering also underlined the importance of the fact that the US Government had invited the OSCE to carry out this Election Observation Mission. "It is a sign of the credibility of the USA within the OSCE. And carrying out this Election Observation Mission in keeping with normal practice in the OSCE in accordance with agreements made by the 55 OSCE participating countries, enhances the credibility of the Organization".

Kyrgyzstan 27 February 2005

On 28 February, Kimmo Kiljunen, in his capacity as the OSCE C-i-O's Special Co-ordinator for the elections, announced that "These elections were more competitive than previous ones, but sadly this was undermined by vote buying, de-registration of candidates, interference with media and a worryingly low confidence in judicial and electoral institutions on the part of voters and candidates". In presenting the preliminary conclusions of the Observation Mission – a joint undertaking of the OSCE PA, the European Parliament and the OSCE-ODIHR – Mr. Kiljunen highlighted a number of negative aspects. In particular, repeated warnings in advance of the elections by high officials

of the potential of civil war undermined the pre-election environment, as did the restrictive application of the Election Code, which cancelled the right to candidacy of a number of prominent individuals on the grounds that, as former diplomats, they had recently lived outside of the country. Nonetheless, the IEOM noted positive trends in some areas, including an improved legal framework, greater competition offering voters a genuine choice in candidates, and improved transparency at polling stations.

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of seven parliamentarians from five OSCE participating States.

Moldova 6 March 2005

Kimmo Kiljunen, who was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel as the OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the Moldovan parliamentary elections, led a delegation of 53 OSCE parliamentarians from 16 participating States. The preliminary conclusions, as delivered by Mr. Kiljunen, note that the elections generally complied with most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments, yet fell short of meeting some that are central to a genuinely competitive election process. Delivering the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) at a press conference in Chisinau on March 7 along with colleagues from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, European Parliament and the OSCE-ODIHR, Mr. Kiljunen highlighted positive elements of the election process. The pluralistic party system in Moldova, an active civil society, and the increased number of woman candidates all contributed to the conclusion that the elections generally complied with most OSCE and Council of Europe election commitments. However, the preliminary conclusions state that biased television coverage, abuse of public resources, and attempts to prevent the election from unfolding in a free and competitive manner undermined the process.



OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy

Past Recipients

 Adam Michnik 1996	 Reporters sans frontières 1997	 Timothy Garton Ash 1998	 Christiane Amanpour 1999	 Andrei Babitsky 2000
 José López de Lacalle & Georgiy Gongadze 2001	 Friederich Orter & Pavel Sheremet 2002	 Anna Politkovskaya 2003	 Committee to Protect Journalists 2004	

Donors

 Bertelsmann AG (Germany)	 Bonnier Group (Sweden)	 Schibsted ASA (Norway)
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Members of the International Secretariat

R. Spencer Oliver, United States



Secretary General Spencer Oliver was chosen as the first Director of the International Secretariat by the first Bureau meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in October 1992 and confirmed unanimously by the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation at their meeting in Copenhagen in 1993. At the meeting of the Standing Committee in 1994 his title was changed to Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly. The Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations decided in 1995 to provide for a five year term for the Secretary General. At that time Mr. Oliver was unanimously re-elected and was subsequently re-elected to a second five year term which runs through 2005. He served twenty-two years as a staff member in the US Congress, including as Chief of Staff of the US Helsinki Commission from 1976-1985 and as Chief Counsel of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives until January 1993. He also served in several senior diplomatic positions on US delegations to CSCE Review and Expert meetings between 1977 and 1993.

The Secretary General's mandate includes responsibility for managing the affairs of the Assembly, ensuring the efficiency of the Secretariat, and carrying out the decisions of the Bureau, the Standing Committee and the Assembly. He reports to the President, the Bureau, the Standing Committee and the Annual Session. He nominates the two Deputy Secretary Generals, who must be confirmed by the Standing Committee. He appoints and directs the staff of the Secretariat and works with the Treasurer to prepare and administer the budget of the Assembly. Along with the Treasurer, he is responsible for the management of the Assembly's financial resources. He represents the Assembly at various official meetings of the OSCE and such other meetings and functions that may be appropriate. He also maintains regular contacts with members of the Bureau, Heads and Secretaries of Delegations, and OSCE officials in other OSCE Institutions. He works on a regular basis with the Secretary Generals of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Vitaly Evseyev, Russia



Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev has extensive experience in diplomatic and international parliamentary affairs, having served for more than seven years at the International Secretariat of the United Nations in New York and for nearly nine years as the Assistant Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He has also served in senior positions in the Russian Parliament. He speaks fluent French and English.

Mr. Evseyev has primary responsibility for organising all of the meetings of the Assembly, including the Annual Sessions, meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau, and various conferences and seminars. In addition, he is responsible for working with the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee) and serves as the liaison officer with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, as well as with the national parliaments of the CIS region. He has also headed several election monitoring projects, including elections in Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Mr. Evseyev joined the staff in March of 1993.



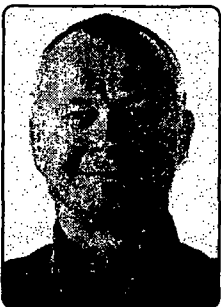
Lisa Callan, United Kingdom

Ms Callan joined the staff as Conference Coordinator in September 2004. Her responsibilities include assisting the Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev in organising all OSCE PA meetings, including logistics, hotels, notices and all other details related to the Organisation of the Annual Sessions, meetings of the Bureau, Standing Committee and various conferences and Seminars. She is also in charge of the recruiting, screening and managing the multinational research assistant team. Prior to joining the International Secretariat, Ms Callan worked for many years in the Brewing Industry. She is currently studying towards a degree in Psychology.



Zuzana Straponcekova, Slovakia/Czech Republic

As former OSCE PA Conference Co-ordinator, Zuzana Straponcekova rejoined the staff of the International Secretariat as Information Co-ordinator in October 2003. She gained her experience in conference services at the NATO PA in Brussels where she recruited and supervised international conference interpreters for the Assembly's meetings and conferences. Together with the OSCE PA Counsellor for Press and Public Affairs, Ms Straponcekova administers the OSCE PA website. She also assists Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev in organizing OSCE PA meetings. Ms Straponcekova has a Masters Degree in Modern Philology and speaks fluent English, French, Russian, Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian.



Kurt Lerras, Denmark

Kurt Lerras joined the staff of the International Secretariat in February 1993 after having served for eighteen years on the staff of the Danish Parliament, including in its International Department. He is responsible for acquiring and maintaining all furniture, equipment and supplies for the International Secretariat, and for physical arrangements of all OSCE PA meetings. He is also in charge of reproduction and distribution of all documents, including direct communications by mail, fax and email to the Bureau, Standing Committee, other OSCE Institutions and the press. He assists expatriate members of staff in a variety of ways, including with housing, transportation and medical assistance. He is in regular communication with Secretaries of Delegations and staff members of other OSCE Institutions, as well as the staff of the various parliaments who are hosting meetings of the Assembly.



Per-Henrik Dürr, Denmark

Per-Henrik Dürr has been trained as an accountant and maintains the books and financial records of the Assembly. Working with the Secretary General, he ensures that all expenditures are properly authorised and vouchered. He also works with the firm of KPMG Jespersen who perform the external audit of the Assembly's books. He provides financial information to the Treasurer and provides the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary Generals with regular reports of the status of the Assembly's finances.



Pia Cathrin Rasmussen, Denmark

Pia Cathrin Rasmussen joined the staff of the Assembly as a Secretary in 1994 and has been promoted several times as she received specialised training in IT. She sets up and maintains the computers for all members of the staff, and maintains the internal computer network. She speaks fluent English and German.



Connie Mathiesen, Denmark

Connie Mathiesen joined the staff of the International Secretariat in 1997. She is responsible for maintaining the files and the records of the Assembly and distributing all correspondence which comes to the International Secretariat. She also backs up the Financial Assistant, Per-Henrik Dürr in maintaining and administering financial matters in the Secretariat. Prior to joining the International Secretariat, she worked in one of the embassies in Copenhagen maintaining their library.



Kathrin Miriam Volz, Germany

Liaison Officer Kathrin Volz is a former Research Fellow at the International Secretariat and is responsible for assisting the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna. She maintains working contacts with the OSCE Secretariat and the Delegations and participates in the various meetings taking place in the Hofburg. She also monitors the documents and working papers produced by the OSCE structures in Vienna. Ms. Volz holds a law degree from Germany, as well as a Masters degree from the Catholic University in Leuven, and is fluent in English and French.



Max, the office dog, Denmark

Max joined the staff of the International Secretariat in 2001 and has since been responsible for upholding the good mood in the office on a day-to-day basis. He also participates in all staff meetings providing staff members with relevant documentation, whilst running around the table and collecting cookies. In the absence of the Secretary General, Max in principle takes over all major responsibilities in close consultations with the Deputy Secretary Generals.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Washington, 1-5 July 2005**

The Inaugural Ceremony and all other meetings of the Assembly's bodies will take place in the premises of the Marriott JW Hotel in Washington D.C

Thursday, 30 June

12.00 – 20.00 Registration desk will be open in the JW Marriott Hotel
17:30 – 18.00 Delegation Secretaries Meeting
18.00 – 19.30 Informal welcome reception for participants in the JW Marriott Hotel

Friday, 1 July

09.30 - 12.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee
12.30 - 14.30 Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00 Inaugural Plenary Session:
- Call to order and opening remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Address(es) by Senior Official(s) of the Host Country
- Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, followed by a question / answer session.

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break
16.30 - 18.30 Plenary Session (cont.):
- Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies;
- Address by the OSCE Secretary General
- Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues followed by a debate.
- Consideration of Supplementary items
Evening Reception offered by the host country

Saturday, 2 July

Morning
09.00 - 11.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
11.30 - 13.30 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
15.00 Excursion

Sunday, 3 July

Morning
09.30 - 11.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
09.30 - 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
11.30 - 13.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
13.00 - 14.30 Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science Technology and Environment
- Consideration of amendments
14.30 - 16.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Consideration of amendments
16.30 - 18.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Consideration of amendments
Evening Time reserved for receptions by diplomatic missions

Monday, 4 July

Morning
09.00-11.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
- Election of the Committee Officers.
09.00-11.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
- Election of the Committee Officers.
11.30-13.30 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
- Election of the Committee Officers.
13.30 - 15.00 Lunch break
15.00 - 18.00 Plenary Session
- Report by the Treasurer of the OSCE PA;
- Report by the Secretary General;
- General debate.
18.00 Meeting of the Bureau
18.30 Meeting of the Drafting Committee
Evening Star Spangled Farewell Event

Tuesday, 5 July

Morning
10.00 - 12.30 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
Plenary Session
- Consideration of Committee Resolutions
- Adoption of the Final Document
- Election of the Assembly Officers
12.30 Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly