



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

To women parliamentarians in the
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

30 May 2005

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, the UN Commission on the Status of Women will have a session in March 2006 entitled "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels." The Commission has asked whether we in the OSCE PA would be interested in contributing to this Session, and they have suggested several ways in which we could contribute ranging from participation in experts groups, delivering an intervention and preparing our own side-event as a panel discussion.

We think that as a body consisting of elected parliamentarians, the OSCE PA does have something unique to add to the UN Commission's work. President Alcee Hastings has agreed that we should accept this offer and prepare a contribution to the UN Session.

The two of us have discussed how the Assembly could contribute to this important event, and we have decided to put together a booklet about women in politics, based on stories from Members of the OSCE PA. Therefore, we have prepared a short questionnaire, which we would like to ask you to complete before you come to the breakfast on 1 July where we would like to discuss the OSCE PA's contribution to the UN Session further. If you have any questions concerning the questionnaire, we will be available to assist you at the breakfast or during the Session. You can also contact and/or return the questionnaire to Tina Schøn at the International Secretariat at Tina@oscepa.dk.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tone Tingsgård'.

Tone Tingsgård,
Vice-President of the OSCE PA
Special Representative on Gender Issues

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Haering'.

Barbara Haering
Vice-President of the OSCE PA