



PRESS ADVISORY

**US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to address OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly Session in Washington, DC**

COPENHAGEN / WASHINGTON, DC, 3 June 2005 – From 1 to 5 July 2005 more than three hundred parliamentarians from the 55 OSCE participating States will gather in Washington, DC for the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA). The opening Plenary Session on Friday 1 July will be addressed by senior officials including US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, who in accordance with established tradition will also answer questions from the parliamentarians. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, US Congressman Alcee L. Hastings will chair the inaugural Plenary, which will also be addressed by OSCE Secretary General Ján Kubiš.

During the meetings on 2, 3 and 4 July the Assembly's General Committees will consider draft resolutions addressing current political, economic, environmental and human rights issues. Honouring the origins of the OSCE, the resolutions will focus on the central theme of the 14th Annual Session: *'30 Years since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead'*. Supplementary resolutions on current issues and problems in the OSCE area will also be considered. In addition, the Assembly will hear reports from PA President Alcee L. Hastings, PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver, and PA Treasurer Jerry Grafstein (Canada). On Tuesday 5 July, the closing Plenary Session will consider the resolutions of the three Committees and adopt a Final Declaration. The Assembly will also elect its President and other Officers.

During a special ceremony on Friday 1 July, the tenth annual OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy will be presented to a journalist or group who, through their work, have promoted OSCE principles on human rights and democracy.

All meetings of the Assembly will take place in the premises of the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC.

Attached for your information is a draft programme of the Annual Session and an application form for a press pass. For further information, representatives of the media are kindly requested to contact Press Counsellor Jan R.M. Jooren, (e-mail: jan@oscepa.dk, Mobile: + 45 40 41 16 41) or Press Officer Andreas Baker, (e-mail andreasb@oscepa.dk) at the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen at, Tel +45 33 37 80 40, Fax +45 33 37 80 30.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, created by the CSCE Summit in Paris in 1990, is the parliamentary dimension of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The primary task of the 317 member Assembly is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area.