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Offentligt

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

14th Annual Session

**30 Years Since Helsinki:
Challenges Ahead**



Welcome to Washington, DC

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



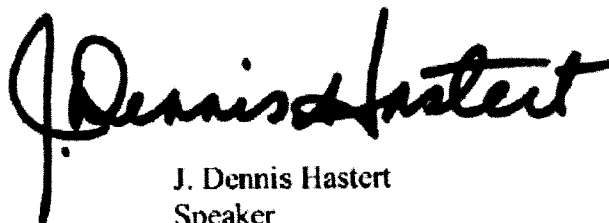
Dear Colleagues:

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

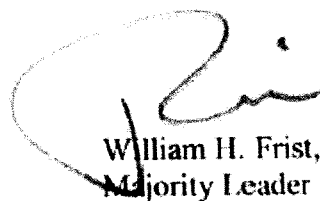
While our capital city is relatively young, it has a great deal to offer and we look forward to sharing many of our most cherished and traditional sites, sounds and taste treats during your visit. The Fourth of July – the birthdate of our nation’s independence – is a wonderful time to be in Washington 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 President



It is a great pleasure to welcome the Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to our Fourteenth Annual Session — held this year in my country's capital of Washington, D.C. I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the United States House of Representatives and to the

United States Senate for their generous assistance to our Annual Session and to the City of Washington for its warm and courteous hospitality.

I am very proud to preside over the Annual Session here in Washington, where I have worked for my constituents for more than 12 years.

As the first American to serve as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I have focused my efforts as President on strengthening the links that bring together the OSCE participating States from both shores of the Atlantic.

The United States and Europe need each other, and in order to strengthen the transatlantic relationship we must work to rebuild that foundation of confidence on which our partnership once rested. Never have we failed to assist each other in our time of need. We cannot forget that after the tragic events of September 11, our transatlantic partners expressed their support and sympathy for America in the strongest terms. The US and Europe must continue to work together, to promote peace and stability, not only in the Trans-Atlantic theater, but throughout the world.

Since we last convened in Edinburgh, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, has continued to promote parliamentary involvement in the activities of the Organization. The Assembly has also facilitated inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation, providing a vital link between the governmental side of the OSCE and elected representatives of the participating States.

The OSCE has faced important problems this past year. The Assembly has reiterated the need for reform, especially in the decision making mechanisms. We should remember that the OSCE is an indispensable Organization. The OSCE continues to be a necessary organization for the tasks we face in the politico-security field of the 21st century. In our approach, we must remember that the OSCE remains the most flexible and responsive Euro-Atlantic foreign policy instrument for

non-military contingencies. It is the primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation in our region. The OSCE is able to contribute to these tasks and reforms are underway. However, they will not be successful unless policy makers on both sides of the Atlantic are prepared to make better use of the most effective regional security organization in Europe.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE contributes greatly to the process of adapting the Organization to the new challenges by making public opinion more aware of the OSCE and its activities. The Assembly will also continue its important work supporting democratic reforms throughout the OSCE region. The various ad hoc committees of the Assembly and the election observation missions are an important input in this process.

I am particularly proud that under my leadership the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued to develop a particularly active program for observing parliamentary elections. During my mandate we have observed the electoral processes in Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also observed for the first time the Presidential and Congressional elections in my country last November. I believe that our presence in established democracies demonstrates our determination to apply uniform standards to all OSCE participating States, be they located East or West of Vienna.

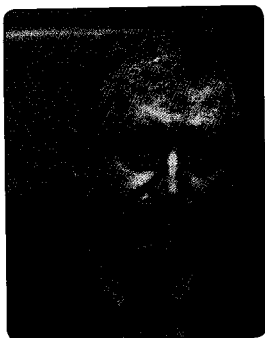
In conclusion, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly — as a unique link between citizens and governments — will continue to be a reliable partner contributing to the success of the OSCE. Many challenges still lie ahead. I am sure this Washington Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be very productive in providing our input as parliamentarians to the OSCE.

I would like to conclude by thanking all Members of the Assembly for entrusting me with the important task of leading the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and to all the National Parliaments for their continuous support during my mandate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alcee L. Hastings
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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

Report of the Secretary General

As we convene in Washington for the 14th Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I am pleased to report that the Assembly is in very good condition. Parliamentarians are more active than ever before in the work of the Assembly and in support of the multi-faceted activities of the OSCE. We have recently had the largest number of participants ever in our Annual Session, Fall Conference/Mediterranean Forum, the Winter Meeting, and the Sub-Regional Conference. During this past year, nearly a thousand Parliamentarians participated in our regular meetings, and more than five hundred OSCE PA election observers were deployed in eight elections in the OSCE area. Our Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives, the largest number ever appointed, have also been very active. We have also continued to maintain close collaboration with the governmental side of the OSCE, as well as with our partner parliamentary institutions, particularly in the field of election observation.

President Alcee L. Hastings has been one of the most active and effective Presidents in our history, crossing the Atlantic more than ten times during his first year as President of the Assembly. Gustavo Palares, our Presidential Advisor, who has worked with us for nearly nine years, continues to do an outstanding job supporting the work of Mr. Hastings, as he has done for all recent PA Presidents.

The weekly *News from Copenhagen* keeps all those involved or interested in the work of the Assembly well informed. The PA website, which contains extensive information about the Assembly, including archives of past Declarations and Resolutions, as well as current information, also serves as an important information tool which is consulted regularly by virtually everyone associated with and interested in the OSCE PA.

I am particularly proud of the professional support that the staff of the PA International Secretariat has provided to the OSCE Parliamentarians who have given their valuable time and considerable influence to their OSCE PA responsibilities. With a small permanent staff of only 14 persons, supplemented by two senior seconded officers and a six-person research assistant/intern team, the Secretariat has assisted all PA activities. The current professional staff comes from Russia,



Slovakia, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada, the U.S.A. and Denmark, representing North, South, East and West of Vienna, and as for gender balance, there are seven women and seven men on the permanent staff. I was also pleased to recently announce the appointment of Tina Schøn of Denmark as the new Deputy Secretary General to join with Vitaly Evseyev of Russia, who has given great service to the Assembly for more than twelve years as my trusted Deputy.

This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the Research Fellowship programme, which continues to be a great success, providing substantial research and linguistic capability. Many of the 140 bright young researchers from 25 countries who have served in the Copenhagen Secretariat have moved on to work in OSCE field missions and the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, as well as in their Parliaments and Diplomatic Services.

The Assembly continues to be in excellent financial condition. As in all previous years, our expenditures have remained within the approved budget, and we have received a perfect audit report by our outside auditors. This is due to the extraordinary oversight and diligence of our Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein, and our Financial Assistant, Per-Henrik Dürr, as well as our professional outside auditors at KPMG Jespersen.

Since the International Secretariat was established in Copenhagen 12 years ago, the Parliamentary Assembly has successfully developed into a major international parliamentary organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Delegations and National Parliaments that have invited and hosted Assembly events, particularly the Secretaries of delegations and staff. Without the generosity, involvement and hard work of national Parliaments the work of our Assembly would not be possible. We are very proud of our accomplishments and very grateful for the extraordinary contributions of hundreds of OSCE Parliamentarians to the success of the Assembly.

R. Spencer Oliver
Secretary General

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

the CSCE Assembly, scheduled for Budapest in July 1992. The Declaration also called for the Assembly to meet once a year, at a time when most parliaments would be out of session, enabling leaders and key members of the various parliaments to attend.

At the Budapest Session, the Assembly decided to establish a small permanent secretariat and to appoint a Director, now Secretary General, with two Deputies. The International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities.

The Parliamentary Assembly's Objectives

The Assembly's primary task is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an increasingly important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may also pursue other important objectives that are stated in the preamble of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;

- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations and co-operation between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and Seminars designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions to areas of latent or active crisis.



Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mr. Dennis Hastert, and OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings signed the host Agreement for the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE PA. Secretary General Spencer Oliver was also present at the ceremony which took place on April 5 2005 on Capitol Hill.



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

Ad Hoc Committees

The Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may appoint Ad Hoc Committees or Working Groups, sometimes called Democracy Teams or Parliamentary Teams, to address particular issues of concern.

The OSCE PA, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly sometimes work together as a Parliamentary Troika to address issues of common concern to the three institutions.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus



Uta Zapf
Chair

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus was appointed in October 1998 in order to assist in the development of democracy in Belarus and facilitate national reconciliation. The main aim of the Working Group has been to facilitate dialogue between the Government and opposition of Belarus in an attempt to promote free and fair election processes and aid in the development of democracy. Following parliamentary elections in October 2004, the Group has visited Belarus on several occasions and has been moving forward with the first in a series of seminars as agreed with the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA in the July 2004 Edinburgh Joint Declaration. In all of its meetings, the Group has stressed the importance of participation in the OSCE process and the need to find peaceful, inclusive solutions to the country's various political problems.

Parliamentary Team on Moldova



Kimmo Kiljunen
Chair

The Parliamentary Team on Moldova was established in early 2000. The Team's mandate calls on it to promote peace, stability and the rule of law in Moldova, while affirming the unity of the State, by engaging in and promoting dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the Moldovan population. Resolving the status of Transdniestria is a particular priority of the Parliamentary Team. Following parliamentary elections in March 2005, for which Mr. Kiljunen was appointed the Chair-in-Office's Special Coordinator for the Election Observation Mission,

the Team has sought ways to continue engagement with its partners in Moldova by promoting dialogue on the course of the negotiations on the status of Transdniestria.

Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia (Georgia)



Tone Tingsgård
Chair

In February 2001, the Standing Committee decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia (Georgia) in order to promote the creation of a political framework which could help facilitate reconciliation and a resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia (Georgia). The Committee has paid several visits to Georgia and has held meetings with Members of the Georgian Parliament and Government. In addition, the Committee has worked with the OSCE Mission to Georgia and the UN Observer Mission in Georgia to try to establish contact with Representatives of Abkhazia. However, no opening has been found for direct contact between the Ad Hoc Committee and Abkhaz Representatives.

Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE



Steny Hoyer
Chair

In order to institutionalize the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's efforts to enhance transparency and parliamentary involvement within the Organization, the Standing Committee decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability during its meeting in July 2001. Key priorities of the Committee have been to change the use of the secret single country veto in the decision-making procedure of the OSCE, to improve the level of feedback from the Governmental side on the Assembly's recommendations and Declarations, to establish regular contacts between the leaderships of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly and to open a liaison office in Vienna. Although progress has been achieved on some of these points, the Committee continues to push for increased interaction and feedback and in addition it has continuously criticized the strict use of consensus in the OSCE

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 Tingsgård, 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. Tingsgård 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-



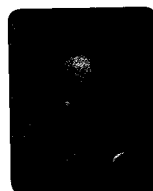
age reconciliation and rehabilitation in the area through parliamentary dialogue. After having visited Armenia and Azerbaijan and the region of Nagorno Karabakh, Mr. Lennmarker organized a joint visit to Brussels for representatives of the OSCE PA Delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia to discuss the 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, Deputy 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

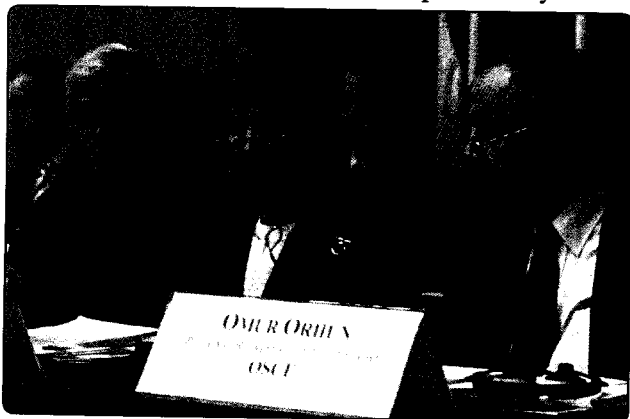


In February 2005 Senator Anne Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate, was appointed by President Alcee L. Hastings as his Special Representative on Guantánamo, to follow up and report to the Assembly on the situation of detainees from OSCE participating States in the American facility in Guantánamo.

Interaction with other OSCE Institutions

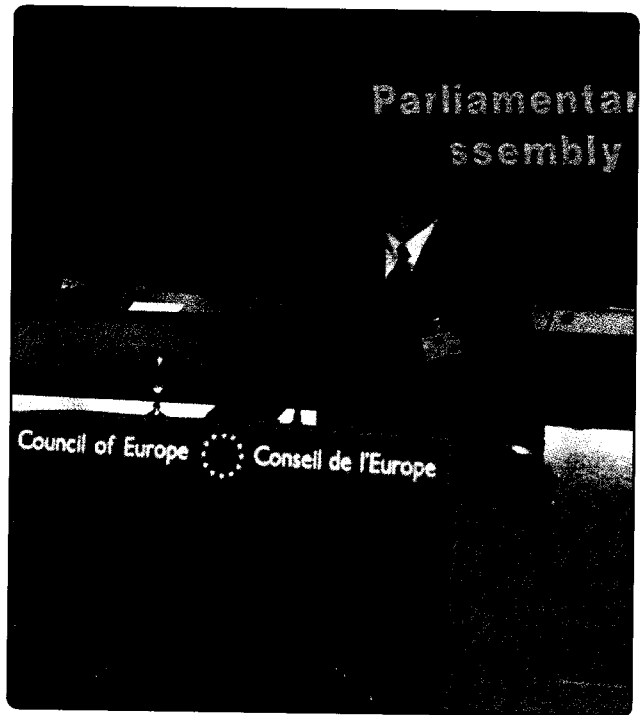
In 1991, at its Berlin Meeting, the CSCE Ministerial Council welcomed the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly and stated that the Ministers looked forward to the “collective expression” of the views of the Parliamentary Assembly on security and co-operation in Europe as well as on the future development of the CSCE. The next year, at its Prague Meeting, the CSCE took a direct step towards active dialogue by announcing that the Chairman-in-Office would be prepared to make himself available to report to the Assembly on the work of the CSCE, to answer parliamentarians’ questions in this regard and to take note of parliamentarians’ views for subsequent transmission to the Ministerial Council. It has since become a tradition for the Chairman-in-Office to address the Parliamentary Assembly and answer direct questions from the floor. The CSCE-OSCE Summits in Helsinki (1992), Budapest (1994) and Istanbul (1999) reaffirmed the participating States’ interest in the active participation of parliamentarians in the OSCE process and mandated the Chairman-in-Office to maintain close contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly, to draw its recommendations to the attention of the Permanent Council and to inform the parliamentarians of OSCE activities.

Although the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has its own independent budget and may take unilateral, independent initiatives, it has developed regular and formalized high-level interaction with the other OSCE Institutions. The Assembly is represented at every level of official OSCE meetings and maintains a close working relationship with the OSCE Chair-in-Office, the Troika, the OSCE Secretary General, as well as the other OSCE Institutions in Vienna, Prague, Warsaw and The Hague. All decisions and reports from the Assembly’s Annual Sessions, visits and election observation missions are transmitted to the Chairman-in-Office and to other OSCE Institutions. The President of the Assembly presents the annual OSCE PA Declarations to the Permanent Council and receives comments from national OSCE Delegations. The Parliamentary Assembly participates in the OSCE’s senior and Permanent Councils, OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings, as well as the OSCE Summits. In addition, leaders of other OSCE Institutions are periodically invited



to speak and answer questions at the Assembly’s Standing Committee Meetings, Winter Meetings and Annual Sessions. It has become standard practice since 2002 that the OSCE Secretary General briefs the Standing Committee on the next year’s proposed OSCE budget at the Assembly’s Fall Meetings. This provides the Assembly with an opportunity to give comments on the draft budget to the OSCE. In order to further strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the OSCE and the OSCE PA, the OSCE PA Secretary General opened a Liaison Office in Vienna in February 2003. Heading this Office, the Special Representative of the OSCE PA to the OSCE participates in Permanent Council Meetings and other formal as well as informal OSCE meetings of interest to the Assembly.

Interparliamentary co-operation



At the 1991 Madrid Conference, during which the modalities for the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly were established, it was decided that the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly would co-operate with other European parliamentary institutions. Since then, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed extensive co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Interparliamentary Union, the European Parliament and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS. These parliamentary institutions have official observer status at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and representatives of the OSCE PA are invited to attend their main meetings. In addition, the OSCE PA co-operates with the Nordic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation.



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, and 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.



Officers of the Assembly

The Officers of the Assembly, also known as the Bureau, include the President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the President Emeritus. The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out, as well as ensuring the efficient operation of the Assembly between meetings of the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes decisions by majority vote.



Alcee L. Hastings (USA)

was elected President of the Assembly at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh after having served as Vice-President, Chair and Vice-Chair of the First General Committee, as well as two terms as Committee Rapporteur. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992, he has been re-elected six times. He is a member of the House Rules Committee, and a senior member of the Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Hastings is also 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 and the elderly.

Ihor Ostash (Ukraine)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 1999 St. Petersburg Session and re-elected for a second term of three years at the 2002 Berlin Session. He serves as a member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. A scholar who has held several senior academic positions, he has been a Member of the Ukraine Parliament since 1994. He is Co-Leader of the parliamentary faction "Reforms-Congress" and has served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Parliament of Ukraine. He is Head of the Ukrainian-Italian Inter-Parliamentary Group and Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU.

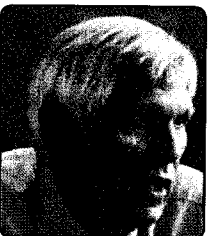


Nino Burjanadze (Georgia)

was elected Vice-President at the 2000 Annual Session in Bucharest and re-elected in 2003. She served two terms as Rapporteur of the Third Committee. She is a former legal expert for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and in the International Affairs Commission of the Parliament in 1994-1995. She was elected member of the Georgian Parliament in 1995 and has served as President of the Georgian Parliament since 2001. From end November 2003 to early January 2004 she served as Acting President of Georgia. She is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Tbilisi State University.

Barbara Haering (Switzerland)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2002 Annual Session in Berlin, having served as Second Committee Rapporteur since July 1999. A member of Parliament since 1990, Ms. Haering serves on the Defence Committee and has served as Rapporteur of the Committee on Science, Education and Culture. Ms. Haering sits on the Governing Board of the University of Zürich. Since 1998 she has been managing partner of a private consultancy in the field of sustainable development and new public management.



Gert Weisskirchen (Germany)

was elected Vice-President in 2002 at the Annual Session in Berlin after having served as Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions since February 1998. As a Professor of Applied Cultural Studies, he has held teaching positions at Humboldt University in Berlin and the Potsdam Polytechnic. A Social Democrat, he has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1976 where he has served on numerous committees focusing on educational and international issues. Mr. Weisskirchen was also recently appointed as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating anti-Semitism.

Tone Tingsgård (Sweden)

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2003 Annual Session in Rotterdam, where she was also appointed as the OSCE PA President's Special Representative on Gender Issues. She serves as Chair of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia and is a Member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Moldova. She has participated in and led numerous OSCE PA election observation missions. She has been a Member of Parliament since 1994 and is Deputy Chair of the Committee on Defence. A Board Member of the Uppsala University, Ms. Tingsgård is also a Lecturer in Russian at its Slavic Institute.





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)



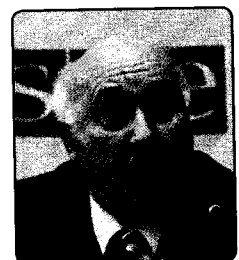
was elected as Vice-President at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh after having served as Rapporteur of the Third General Committee for two years. Nebahat Albayrak has a degree in law, and worked for several years in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate for Coordination 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.

The General Committees

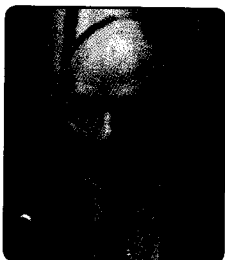
One of the most important aspects of the work of the Annual Session is the deliberation that takes place in the three General Committees. Following the Madrid Declaration, three committees were established along the lines of the three main “baskets” or sections of the Helsinki Final Act: The ‘First’ General Committee on Political Affairs and Security; the ‘Second’ General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and the ‘Third’ General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. The Rapporteur of each Committee is responsible for preparing a report and a draft resolution to be presented to the Committee. Other

speakers and experts may also be invited to address the Committees. After debate and discussion, a draft resolution is adopted by each Committee for presentation to the Annual Plenary Session of the Assembly, which is then included in the Final Declaration.

The Staff of the International Secretariat receives invaluable assistance from the British House of Commons, adding experience and expertise to the General Committees, the plenary sessions, and the drafting Committees. In addition, international Research Fellows at the International Secretariat have also provided invaluable research assistance to the Committee Rapporteurs.

Officers of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Göran Lennmarker (Sweden)



was elected Chair of the First Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin having previously served as Committee Vice-Chair. Mr. Lennmarker has been a Member of the Swedish Parliament since 1992 and has since 1995 served as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Formerly a member of the Swedish delegations to the European Union and EFTA, he has also been Adviser to the Minister of Health, and Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Göran Lennmarker is an Assistant Chairman of the International Democrat Union and Member of the Board of the European Democrat Union.

Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)

was elected as Vice-Chair of the First Committee at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh. Mr. Gardetto has been a Member of the National Council of Monaco since 2003. He is Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and a Member of the Legislative, Finance, Education & Youth and Women’s Rights Committees. As an attorney he is active in international legal organizations and associations.

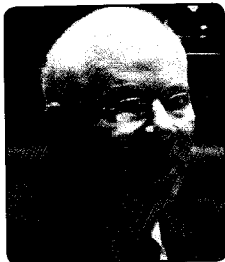


Pieter De Crem (Belgium)



was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee at the 2004 Annual Session in Edinburgh. Pieter De Crem is a member of the Domestic, Foreign and Defence Committees of the Belgian Parliament. Mr. De Crem is the Leader of the Flemish Christian Democrats.

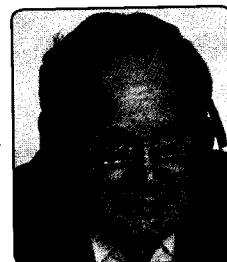
Officers of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



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, where he was Speaker of the House from 1979-1986.

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



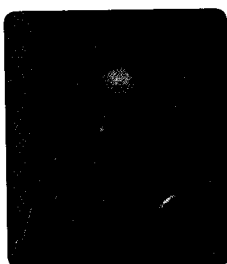
Claudia Nolte (Germany)

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.

Second Annual Session in Helsinki, 1993



"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

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 importance 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 Parlia-



mentary 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 Moldova. The Assembly stressed the need for strengthening the role and Institutions of the OSCE and called for the development of criteria that would allow for the suspension of a participating State if there has been a "flagrant failure to implement OSCE decisions and commitments." The Ottawa Declaration urged the OSCE and its participating States to actively explore decision-making procedures based on an approximate consensus.



"Our constituents see death and destruction on television news every night. They read every day about political instability, attempted coups, crime and terrible human conditions within the borders of the OSCE world. In many towns and cities throughout Europe they come in direct contact with refugees and their families fleeing from war and economic deprivation. As parliamentarians, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to support and strengthen OSCE efforts to address these critical problems and to try to prevent the occurrence of even more crises in the future."

Former OSCE PA President Frank Swaelen

The Assembly furthermore called upon participating States to ensure that equal rights are given to all individuals as citizens rather than as members of a particular national or ethnic group. It emphasized that all persons must be accorded equal consideration and respect in administrative and legislative decisions. The Assembly also strongly supported the establishment of an international criminal court which could hold accused war criminals accountable for their actions on the basis of international conventions and other humanitarian laws.

The Ottawa Declaration also urged the OSCE to give priority to organizing election monitoring exercises through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Fifth Annual Session in Stockholm, 1996

The Fifth Annual Session, held in Stockholm on 5-9 July 1996, focused on the discussion of a Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the 21st Century. The final Declaration reiterated the Parliamentary Assembly's support for the adoption of a broad concept of security, stressing, inter alia, the importance of economic stabilization and environmentally sustainable development in the security dimension. The Assembly called for the creation of a common European security area in which existing OSCE commitments could be implemented. To carry out these OSCE commitments, the Declaration also emphasized the need to develop and strengthen preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The final Declaration expressed concern about conflicts within the OSCE region and called on Govern-



"The OSCE needs you as representatives of your country to help in the fulfillment of the tasks we have been assigned: to monitor elections, the human rights situation, and the transition to democracy.

In its own particular way, and using the means at its disposal, the Assembly upholds the OSCE and the values it represents, bringing them and the name of the Organization to the knowledge of the public. Your constructive criticism of the OSCE and its activities is and always will be a contribution to fostering the fulfillment of its role and to the constant fine-tuning of its calling".

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Flavio Cotti

ments to organize and promote campaigns to further tolerance and fight xenophobia and racism. Furthermore, as proposed in previous sessions, the Assembly called for the adoption of an approximate-consensus principle to improve the OSCE decision-making process. The Stockholm Assembly also adopted a draft Code of Conduct on the "Politico-Democratic Aspects of Co-operation". The Code of Conduct recognized the increased interdependency of States and stressed that international conflicts should only be resolved through peaceful political means. Regarding the dialogue with 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.



"Active Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, will gradually provide the work of the OSCE with a foundation consolidated by the agreement of our fellow citizens."

Former OSCE PA President Javier Rupérez

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 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



"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



"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 parliament-

ary 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

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 concrete steps to set up the early warning system of social and economic indicators with a direct link to security, as proposed at the Prague meeting of the Economic Forum of 1996." A Supplementary Resolution on Kosovo appealed to all parties in the Kosovo conflict to return to the principles of non-violence, and denounced the policies of the Govern-



"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



"It is our duty as the practicing democratic wing of the OSCE to lead the way in reinforcing and developing the whole Organization's democratic credentials in order to strengthen the OSCE for the important role it will play in the 21st Century."

Former OSCE PA President, Helle Degn

ment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) for its military aggression against the Albanian population of Kosovo. The 1998 Annual Assembly also adopted a Resolution on the Economic Charter, expressing an awareness of the importance of economic, social and ecological factors for security and co-operation in Europe.

Regarding the dialogue with the governmental side of the OSCE, the Assembly called on the Chairman-in-Office to send to the Assembly, at least two months before its Annual Session, a report consisting of a political and financial evaluation of the activities of the OSCE in the last twelve months and a general plan of priority activities of the OSCE in the next twelve months. On election monitoring, the Copenhagen Declaration recommended that parliamentary institutions intensify their co-operation and that an appropriate division of labour be developed between the parliamentary and governmental institutions, including separation of responsibilities between assistance with the organization of elections and judgment of the quality and fairness of those elections. Finally, the Copenhagen Declaration urged the OSCE to implement gender mainstreaming in all its activities.



"Again, I would call on the Parliamentary Assembly and its members to play your role: you can - better than most - help convince new political leaders that prosperity, integration and peace can only be achieved when working methods become a reality in everyday life. I urge you to make use of your

privileged position in this respect to promote our common goals."

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Knut Vollebaek

Eighth Annual Session in St. Petersburg, 1999



"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

The Eighth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in St. Petersburg from 6 to 10 July 1999. Looking ahead to the new millennium, Resolutions corresponding to the main baskets of the Helsinki Final Act were passed on the general theme of Common Security and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century. The St. Petersburg Declaration also included Resolutions on the situation in Kosovo, the democratic deficit within the OSCE, the role of the OSCE in crisis prevention and conflict settlement, the problem of trafficking of women and children, as well as specific resolutions concerning Belarus, Russia and South-Eastern Europe.

Reiterating the Assembly's commitment to reforming the Institutions of the OSCE and redressing the democratic deficit in the Organization, the St. Petersburg Declaration called for the Parliamentary Assembly to be consulted more widely on issues of major importance, including developments within the Organization, such as the appointment of the Secretary General and the budgetary activities of the main OSCE Institutions. The Declaration also called upon participating States to give the OSCE greater political weight. The Declaration reiterated the importance of providing the Organization with sufficient funding. It also suggested creating a training centre for OSCE personnel and establishing an approximate-consensus decision-making process.

The Resolution on the Situation in Kosovo welcomed the end of military hostilities, and expressed support for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and other initiatives, such as the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, which seek to foster co-operation between States in the region. The Assembly decided to establish an OSCE PA Democracy Team on Kosovo, in order to promote the creation of civil society, development of democracy and the rule of law with community leaders, political parties, and

representatives of international organizations on a periodic basis. The Resolution on Belarus called upon all political forces in the country 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 Transdnistria 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 become open to the public. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the Istanbul November 1999 decision by the OSCE Heads of State or Government to recognize the Assembly as a key component in the efforts of the OSCE to promote democracy, prosperity and increased confidence within and between participating States.



Tenth Annual Session in Paris, 2001

At the conclusion of the Annual Session in Paris from 6-10 July 2001 the Paris Declaration was adopted. It included a unanimously adopted resolution on strengthening transparency and accountability in the OSCE. The Resolution contained the proposal that before making major decisions, to be defined in future consultations, the Ministerial Council should take into account the opinion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Assembly also recommends that as long as the OSCE complies with the strict consensus rule it must not be possible to participate in the decision-making process secretly and that objections to any proposal must be made known to any interested OSCE participating State or OSCE Institution. An Ad Hoc Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the resolution and to promote transparency and accountability in the OSCE.

The Paris Declaration dealt with political, economic development and human rights aspects of the central theme of OSCE PA's Tenth Annual Session: "European Security and Conflict Prevention: Challenges to the OSCE in the 21st Century". This included issues such as the implications of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) for the OSCE Region, as well as parliamentary oversight of the European Union's emerging defence capability. Recommendations were also made

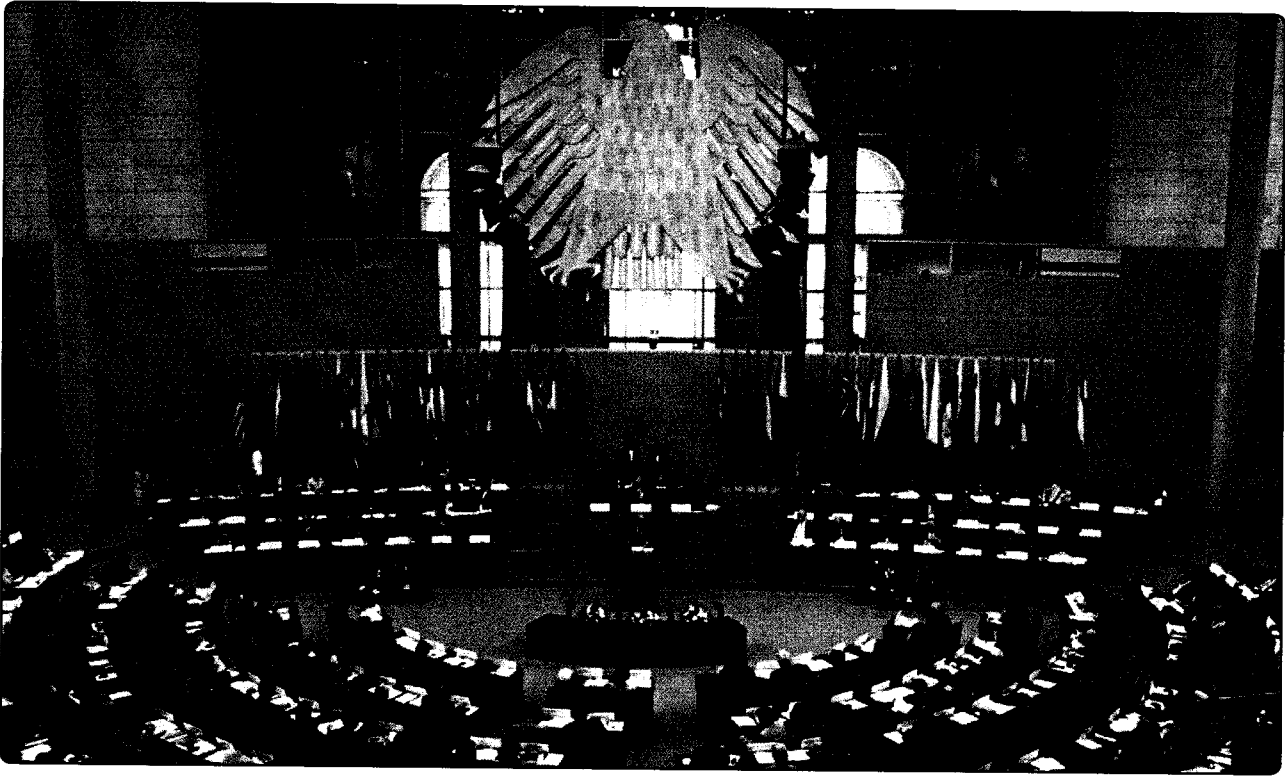
regarding women's participation in the labour market, the interplay between environmental and/or economic factors and the security of the OSCE region as well as on bringing legislation on citizenship up to international standards in the OSCE area.

Resolutions were also adopted on abolition of the death penalty; prevention of torture, abuse, extortion or other unlawful acts; combating trafficking in human beings; combating corruption and international crime; freedom of the media as well as resolutions on South Eastern Europe, the North Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine.



"The additional influence which you bring to bear on governments and parliaments alike is significant. Your experience as legislators and elected representatives of your own citizens gives you a unique advantage. Your voice may be heard in places where those of your government representatives are disregarded."

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Mircea Dan Geoana



Eleventh Annual Session in Berlin, 2002

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 Transnistrian 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 Transnistria 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



"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 António Martins da Cruz

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



Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

"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".

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.

The Rotterdam Declaration stresses that the further enhancement of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, as an integral part of its comprehensive security approach, is an essential prerequisite for the OSCE's substantial contribution to the new European security architecture.

The Declaration also suggested that the OSCE should adopt a more balanced regional approach to promoting the implementation of the participating States' human dimension commitments, and take into account the differences between countries and regions, without neglecting any of them. In this regard, the Declaration suggested that the mandate and resources of the High Commissioner on National Minorities be strengthened.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution on the parliamentary follow-up of OSCE Activities at the National Level. National Parliaments were encouraged to introduce practices whereby annual reports on the activities of the OSCE PA by national OSCE PA delegations are regularly debated in an appropriate manner in national parliaments.

In addition, the Assembly adopted Resolutions on Combating Anti-Semitism, the International Criminal Court, prisoners at the Guantánamo Base, Belarus, Moldova and on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Thirteenth Annual Session in Edinburgh, 2004

At the close of their meeting in Edinburgh from 5-9 July 2004, more than 300 parliamentarians from 52 OSCE participating States adopted the Edinburgh Declaration focusing on the political, economic and human rights aspects of the central theme of the Session: "Co-operation and Partnership: Coping with new Security Threats."

The Edinburgh Declaration recognized that terrorism, as a rule, targets civilian populations, and has as its central objective to cause instability and fear, and even incite racism and xenophobia. The Assembly condemned terrorism in all forms and manifestations and called upon the international community to target the profound political, social, economic and environmental causes of terrorism and to ensure that the fight against terrorism be carried out in compliance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including human rights and refugee protection law.

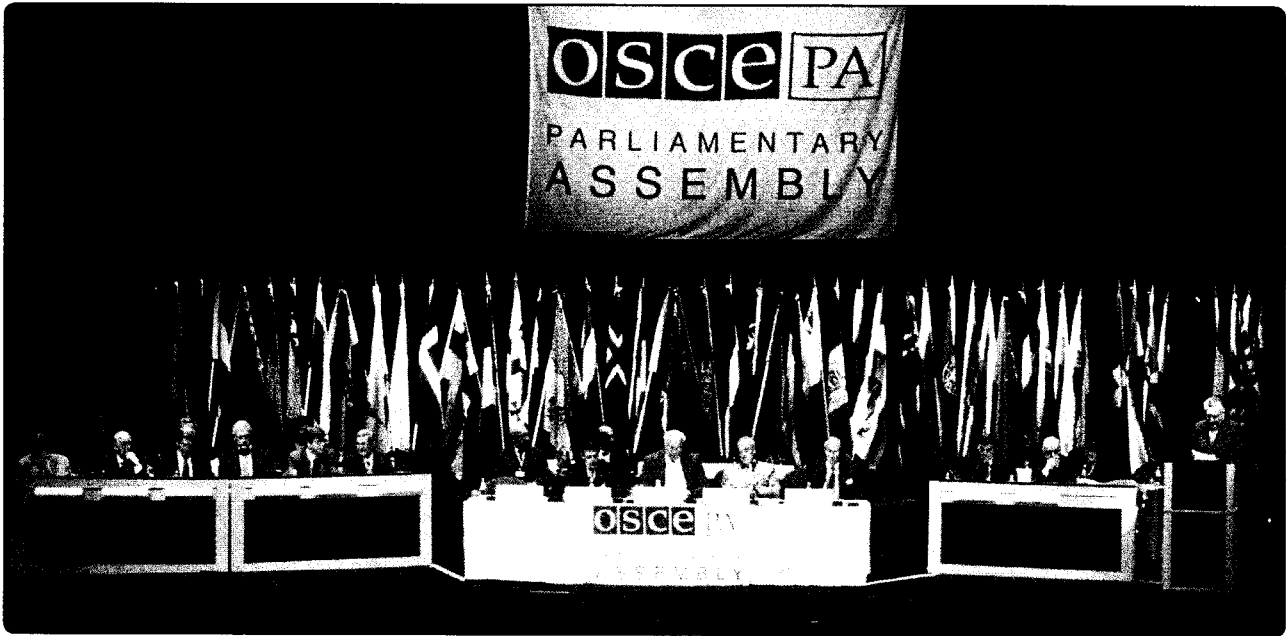
The Assembly also adopted a Resolution on Co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. With this Resolution the Assembly reiterated previous recommendations that the OSCE carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its consensus decision-making procedure. The Resolution requested that the OSCE PA be given free access to all OSCE meetings and events and recommended that the Special Representative of the OSCE PA in Vienna be included in consultative processes. The Assembly also recommended that the OSCE PA response to the draft OSCE budget be discussed in the Permanent Council and the Advisory Committee on Management and

"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



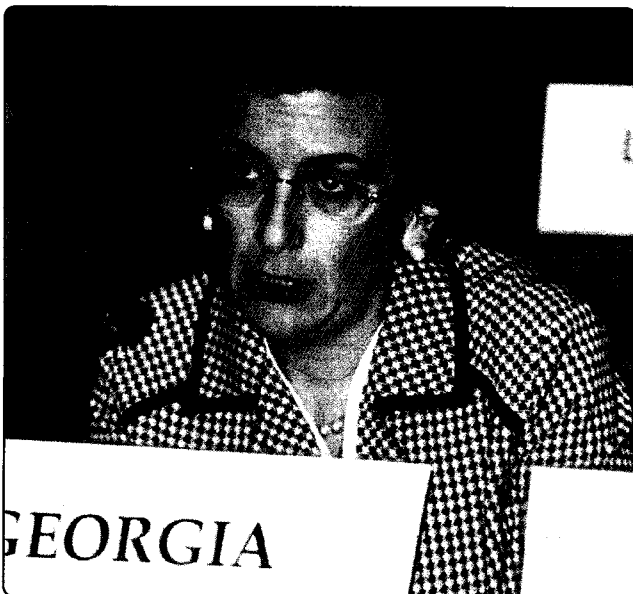
Finance. The Assembly also called on National OSCE PA Delegations to work to ensure that the OSCE PA's Declarations are followed up at the national level of parliaments as well as by governments.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution on torture calling upon all participating States to abide by the obligation that no exceptional circumstances may be invoked as a justification of torture. The Resolution on fulfilling OSCE commitments regarding the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia called for sustained attention by the OSCE in fulfilling commitments in this area. The Edinburgh Declaration stressed that OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation should enter a comprehensive process of active dialogue aimed at mutual economic growth, modernization and expanded trade among

all the States of the OSCE region.

In the resolution on Kosovo, the Assembly called 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.





Former Presidents

At each Annual Session, the Assembly elects the President of the Parliamentary Assembly who acts as the highest representative of the Assembly and presides over the meetings of the Assembly.

The first President of the Assembly was the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Ilkka Suominen, who was elected at the 1992 Budapest Session. He led the first OSCE election monitoring delegation to Russia in 1993 and became the first President to address an OSCE Ministerial Meeting. The President of the Belgian Senate Frank Swaelen, was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Vienna Session in 1994. He was the first President to address an OSCE Summit and initiated the first series of bilateral Presidential visits, including visits to OSCE field missions. In 1996 Javier Rupérez, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Parliament, became President of the Assembly. He was the first President to participate in meetings of the Troika. Mrs. Helle Degn, Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament, was elected President of the Assembly during the 1998 Copenhagen

Session. She continued the work of her predecessors, significantly increasing the visibility of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by visiting all OSCE Institutions and numerous field missions. Mr. Adrian Severin, a former Foreign Minister of Romania, was elected President during the 2000 Session and was the first President of the Assembly from the Central and Eastern European region. Mr. Severin made a particular effort at reaffirming institutional dialogue within the OSCE to enhance the contribution of parliamentarians to OSCE's role in preventing local conflicts.

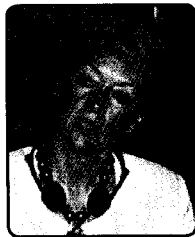
Mr. Bruce George, Chair of the Defence Committee in the British House of Commons, was elected President at the 2002 Berlin Annual Session, and was re-elected in 2003. During his presidency Mr. George has strongly emphasized the enhanced co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the OSCE, thus furthering the effectiveness of the Organization. In addition he enhanced and further developed the relations with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. Mr. George now serves as President Emeritus of the Assembly.



Bruce George
(2002 - 2004)



Adrian Severin
(2000 - 2002)



Helle Degn
(1998 - 2000)



Javier Rupérez
(1996 - 1998)



Frank Swaelen
(1994 - 1996)



Ilkka Suominen
(1992 - 1994)

Principal Assembly Activities

Winter Meeting 2005

The OSCE PA Winter Meeting is the second-largest event in the Assembly's calendar. Every February the PA meets in Vienna, allowing Members to interact with the Governmental dimension of the OSCE, follow-up on past Assembly decisions, and exchange ideas on the reports to be presented at the Annual Session in July.

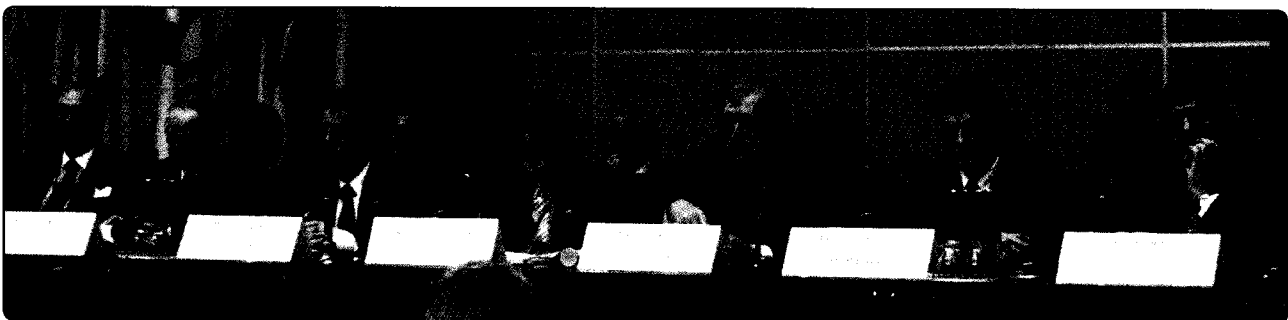
More than 200 parliamentarians met from 24-25 February 2005 in the OSCE premises in Vienna for the fourth Annual OSCE PA Winter Meeting. The Winter Meeting consisted of two Joint Sessions as well as separate meetings of the three General Committees. On the first day, parliamentarians heard welcoming remarks by OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings, followed by addresses by the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, who took questions from the floor. The Chairman-in-Office highlighted the importance of the election-monitoring work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and encouraged parliamentarians to contribute actively to the current debate on reform of the OSCE.

"The OSCE is facing a difficult moment, or an opportunity, depending on how you look at it. Significant changes in Europe, with EU and NATO enlargement and new challenges to security, have changed the way that we look at security in Europe, and, as a result, the role of the OSCE.

"You have the reputation of being an incubator for fresh ideas. At a time when reform is so high on the OSCE agenda, I urge you to live up to that reputation," he told the gathered parliamentarians.

The Winter Meeting also served as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three General Committee Rapporteurs – Pieter De Crem, Leonid Ivanchenko and Anne-Marie Lizin – and to discuss ideas regarding their draft reports for the Session in Washington, DC. The Second Joint Session of the Winter Meeting, on 25 February, started with a Report by Tone Tingsgård, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, followed by a debate. OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubiš also addressed the Meeting, followed by a question and answer session. The parliamentarians also heard reports by OSCE PA Treasurer Jerry Grafstein and OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

A separate brochure on this event is available at www.oscepa.org

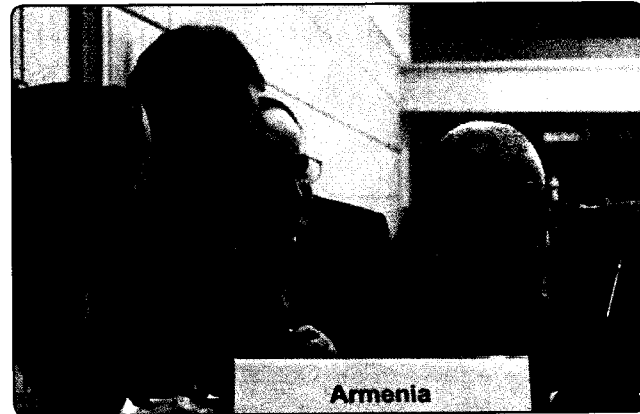
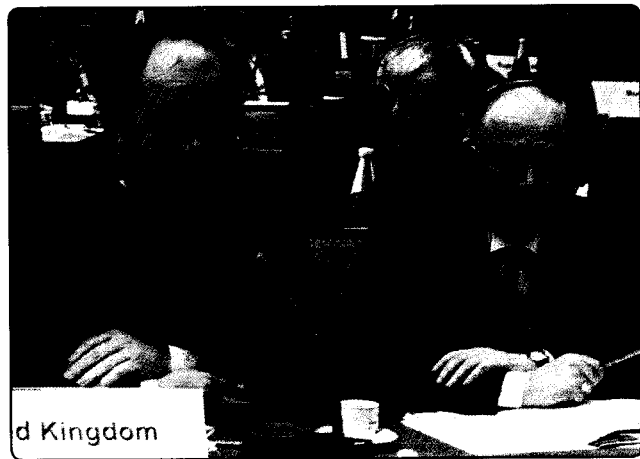
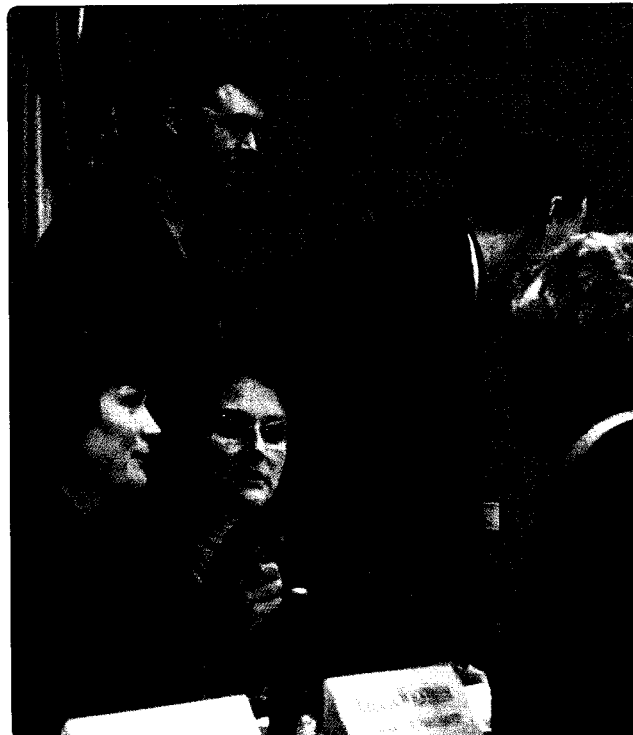
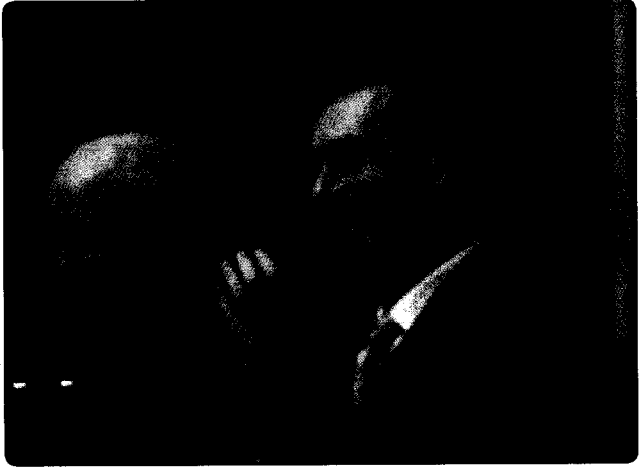


'Copenhagen Plus'

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Rupel said at the Winter Meeting that he was open to the idea of building upon OSCE election commitments agreed in Copenhagen in 1990. "Bearing in mind the fact that the OSCE Copenhagen Document is almost 15 years old, I see merit in considering whether additional commitments are needed. This is sometimes referred to as 'Copenhagen Plus,'" he said.

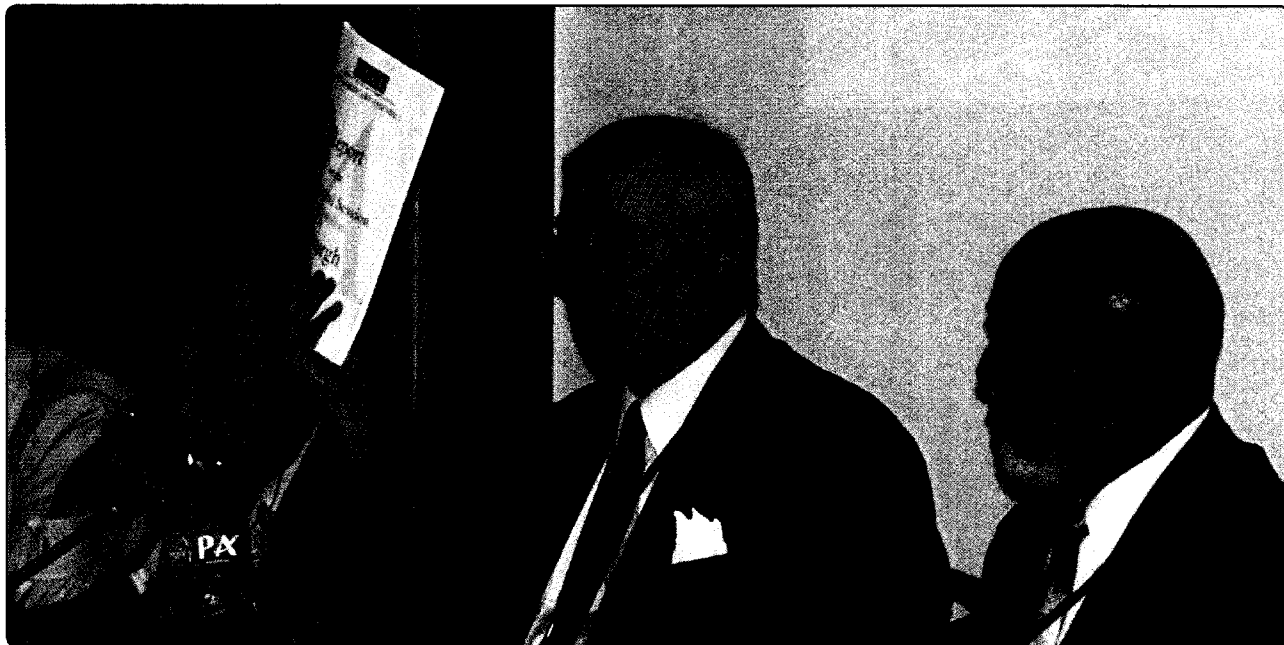
"But this process should not roll back existing commitments, or call into question the OSCE's high reputation in election-monitoring. In other words, no 'Copenhagen Minus'. That being said, we need to talk and to see if and how things can be improved."

The Copenhagen Document outlines basic criteria for democratic elections and provides for all participating States to invite observers from other countries to determine their compliance with OSCE commitments.



Standing Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee consists of 55 heads of national delegations and members of the Expanded Bureau. The Standing Committee prepares the work of the Assembly and approves the budget.



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.

Rhodes Autumn Meetings

The OSCE PA holds Autumn Meetings every year at the invitation of a Member parliament, bringing together parliamentarians for a Standing Committee meeting, a Conference examining a topical issue, and a Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean.

More than 130 parliamentarians from 43 States across the OSCE region gathered in Rhodes, Greece, for the 2004 OSCE PA Autumn Meetings, from 29 September - 1 October 2004. The two-day Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings heard a series of presentations and discussions focusing on trafficking in human beings as a security challenge, trafficking as a new form of slavery, and international strategies in the fight against trafficking.

The Conference was addressed by prominent officials including OSCE PA President Hastings, Anna Benaki, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament and Panos Kammenos, OSCE PA Vice-President and Head of the Greek Delegation to the OSCE PA. The Conference was also addressed by senior OSCE officials and expert speakers including Helga Konrad, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in

Human Beings, Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and Marjan Wijers, President of the EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean (1 October), consisted of a series of presentations and discussions focussing on fighting terrorism in the Mediterranean and economic security, trade and co-operation in the Mediterranean. Prominent speakers included the OSCE PA Special Representative for the Mediterranean, President Emeritus Bruce George, OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis, and Janez Lenarcic, Chairman of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group.

A separate brochure on this event is available at www.oscepa.org



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.

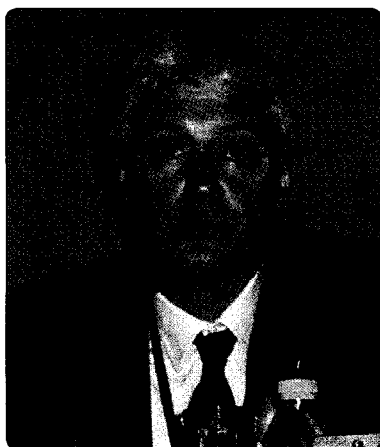
Adrian Severin, former President of the OSCE PA, addressed the opening session as the Personal Representative of President Alcee L. Hastings. Other speakers at the opening session were Professor Ognian Gerdjikov, Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament, Solomon Passy, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria and OSCE 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 oversight 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.



Participation in the Twelfth OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia

The President of the OSCE PA traditionally addresses the 'Ministerial Council' of the OSCE in December, which brings together Foreign Ministers from the OSCE participating States.

On 6 December 2004 in Sofia, OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings addressed the Opening Session of the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council. In his address, he highlighted the contributions of the Parliamentary Assembly to the work of the OSCE, the merits of the Bulgarian Chairmanship, the need to reform the OSCE, the important role of parliamentarians in election observation missions, the support of the Assembly for the OSCE Statement on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the contributions of the PA in strengthening relations between the OSCE and its Mediterranean and Asian partners. Mr. Hastings emphasized that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued throughout this past year to fulfill the task set forth in the Charter of Paris and to provide on the international level some degree of democratic legitimacy to the OSCE. He congratulated Bulgaria for the significant work carried out in the past months in the difficult and challenging task of guiding the OSCE. "The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

shares the Chairmanship's views on the need for reform and adaptation of the OSCE. I hope that this Ministerial gives a much needed impetus to the Organisation", he said. President Hastings reminded the Council that with its Resolution on Co-operation, the Assembly reiterates its previous recommendations that the OSCE carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its decision-making procedure, both in terms of enhancing its transparency and looking into the possibility of differentiating the consensus principle, providing, for instance, for a consensus minus two or three for decisions on budget and personnel, particularly for heads of institutions and missions and other high-level personnel. President Hastings welcomed Slovenia to the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2005. "We very much look forward to working with our Slovenian friends in promoting the principles that make the OSCE a unique Organisation", he concluded.

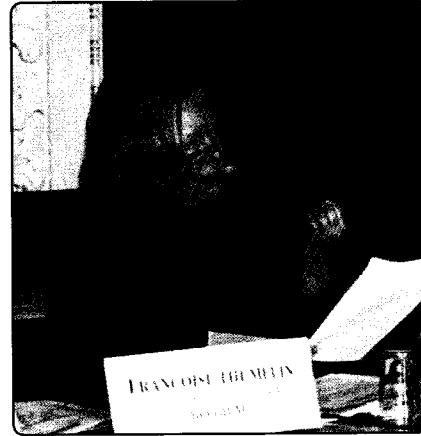
The full text of President Hastings' address is available at www.oscepa.org





Expanded Bureau Meeting

The OSCE PA Expanded Bureau convenes every Spring in the Danish Parliament, bringing together the Assembly's President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Officers of the three General Committees to prepare for the Assembly's Annual Session in July.



Under the Chairmanship of President Alcee L. Hastings, the Expanded Bureau met on April 18 2005 in preparation for the Annual Session in Washington, DC. The Expanded Bureau was warmly welcomed by the Head of the Danish Delegation, Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, who expressed his hopes that the crisis faced by the OSCE Governmental side would soon be overcome.

In his opening remarks, President Hastings noted the disturbing situation currently faced by the OSCE in Vienna. He noted that, considering the difficulties faced by the Organization, the focus of the Session in Washington, '30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead', is very timely. Mr. Hastings remarked that the OSCE region is increasingly faced by non-traditional security threats, which pose new challenges and require consideration of new approaches. He also lauded the OSCE's active work in combating intolerance, and noted the contribution that the Parliamentary Assembly is making in this regard.

Regarding future work, the President also spoke of a colloquium, being organized jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, to consider ways of strengthening the OSCE. Meeting in June, this colloquium will bring together OSCE experts, diplomats and politicians to complement the OSCE Eminent Person's Group appointed by the Chairman-in-Office.

The Expanded Bureau also heard a Special Report by Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) on recent developments in Kyrgyzstan, and on the results of the recent election observation there and in Moldova. In his report, Mr. Kiljunen offered a number of ideas on how the OSCE PA can support developments and democratization efforts in Kyrgyzstan.

The Rapporteurs of the three General Committees presented their draft reports and resolutions for the upcoming Annual Session. Pieter DeCrem (Belgium), Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia), and Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), briefed on their reports and draft resolutions, which focus on the central theme for the Washington Session. Members extensively discussed the draft reports, and provided feedback on their content to the Rapporteurs.

The Assembly Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada), reported to the Expanded Bureau that the Assembly continues to function efficiently and within budget. He praised the International Secretariat's financial management by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and his Financial Assistant, Per-Henrik Dürr.

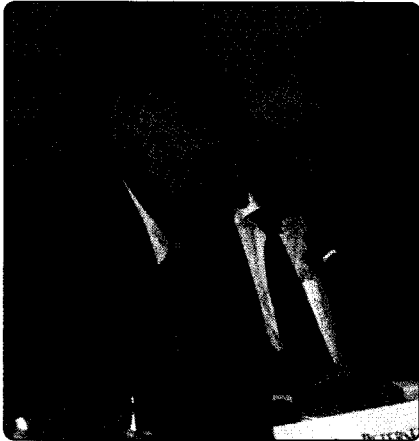
Secretary General Spencer Oliver gave an overview of current activities by the International Secretariat, mentioning the *News from Copenhagen* as a tool for staying up-to-date on Assembly activities. The Secretary General informed the Expanded Bureau that he had appointed Tina Schøn as Deputy Secretary General. He mentioned work by the International Secretariat on compiling a 'Members Directory' of all OSCE PA parliamentarians. The Expanded Bureau was also informed of preparations for upcoming activities of the Assembly.

Members were also briefed on the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives. Supplementary items on several of the issues addressed by these Members are expected to be presented at the Annual Session in July.

Members of the Expanded Bureau also discussed proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure, vigorously exchanging views on whether or not any changes should be considered.

Tromsø Sub-Regional Conference on the High North

Every two years the OSCE PA organizes a Sub-Regional Conference, providing parliamentarians with occasions to exchange views with colleagues and international experts and to deepen their understanding of OSCE issues.



Meeting for two days in northern Norway, more than 80 parliamentarians from across the OSCE region gathered to debate environmental and security challenges faced by the northern reaches of the Organization. OSCE PA Members from 26 States, including both northern and southern OSCE regions, met in Tromsø, on May 12-13, at the invitation of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Headed by Mr. Bjørn Hernæs. This sub-regional conference, organized by the Parliamentary Assembly, highlighted the links between environmental concerns and security challenges in the Arctic region.

Welcoming participants, Mr. Jørgen Kosmo, President of the Norwegian Parliament, stressed the long history of co-operation between states in the Arctic region. He noted, however, that environmental and security challenges remain and that they continue to pose a threat to the region. Mr. Kosmo welcomed the convening of this inter-parliamentary Conference as an important method of exchanging views and experiences between decision-makers in the Arctic states.

In his opening address to the Conference, Assembly President Alcee L. Hastings noted the increasing prominence of new security challenges related to the environment. He stressed the importance of inter-generational solidarity, and called upon participants to maintain a long-term perspective in their discussions and debates, reminding Members that economic development and environmental protection must be integrally linked.

Addressing the Conference, the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jan Petersen, highlighted the many environmental and other challenges faced by the Arctic, stressing that these would require much more international attention in the future. He noted the

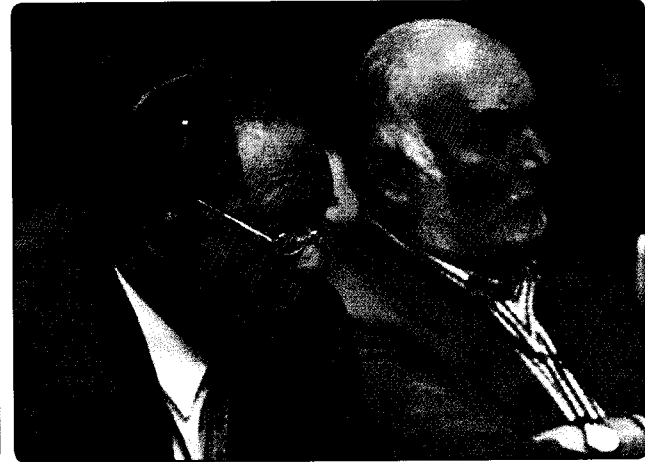
potential for this increased focus and co-operation in stating that "Conflict has been replaced by a common concern about the challenges we face in the Arctic."

Following the opening of the Conference, the parliamentarians met in four separate sessions dealing with specific themes on Climate Change; Nuclear Waste; Petroleum Exploration; and Resource Management and Pollution. The Conference was addressed by expert speakers and senior government officials who gave presentations on the primary topics of debate. Following these presentations, parliamentarians engaged the speakers on their areas of expertise, discussing the regional and global consequences of the challenges addressed by the speakers. These focused discussions provided Members with comprehensive information on the topics, which can be reflected in their legislative work.

In closing the Conference, President Hastings stressed the duties of all those gathered, from the Arctic and beyond. He stated that "we are all responsible for trying to find alternatives to the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources that is leading to the worrying situations described in this conference." He further noted that "This conference does not conclude here. I invite all of us to work in our respective parliaments to implement the principles and ideas that we have shared here in Tromsø."

The Tromsø Conference was the fourth Sub-Regional Conference organized by the OSCE PA, following Bern (2003), Nantes (1999), and Monaco (1997).

A summary report on this event is available at
www.oscepa.org



Presidential Activities

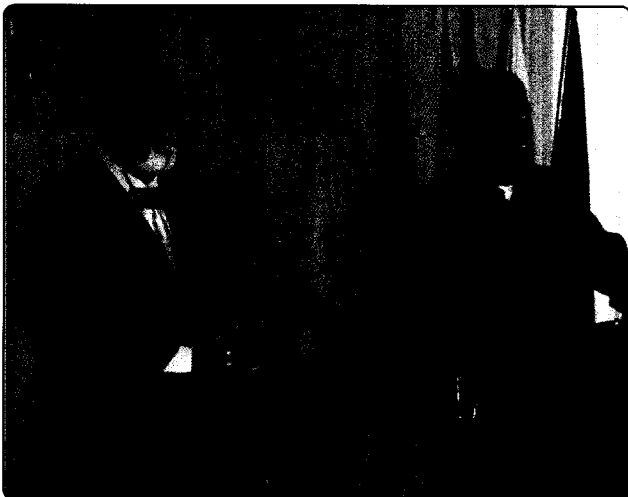
U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 2004 at the 13th Annual Session in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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.

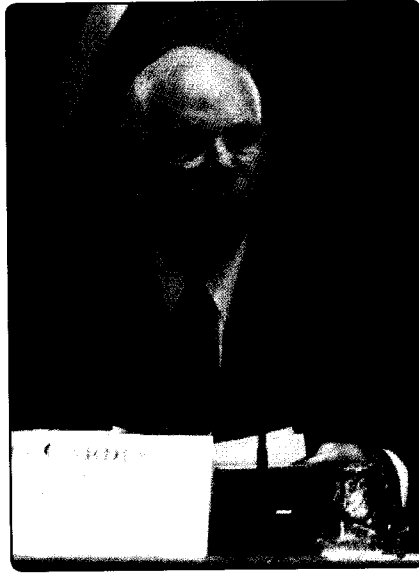


Congressman Hastings has also been the first President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to have visited all the OSCE Mediterranean partners for Co-operation. In addition to appointing, in co-operation with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, senior PA Members to lead election observation missions in six countries,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



Election Observation

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed a particularly active programme for observing elections in the OSCE area. The presence of parliamentary observers at elections emphasizes the importance of legislatures as institutions that must provide a balance to executive authority. Due to the fact that parliamentarians are themselves directly elected public officials, local and international media often greatly value their observations.

In 1997 a Co-operation Agreement between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was signed, defining the respective roles of the two Institutions in election observation missions. The ODIHR is responsible for arranging Needs Assessment Missions, long-term observation and establishing an OSCE Co-ordination Office prior to elections. Long-term observers are sent into the field several weeks before an election, so that the OSCE can properly evaluate developments leading up to the election. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's role is to deploy parliamentarians, primarily as short-term observers, and to provide political leader-

ship to the OSCE observation operation.

The Co-operation Agreement states that the OSCE Chair-in-Office may designate a political figure as a Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE Observation Mission. Normally, this person, who also acts as a Representative of the Chair-in-Office, will be the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly or another senior official of the Assembly. The Special Co-ordinator works closely with the ODIHR on-site Co-ordinator of the election observation mission who assists the parliamentary delegation with critical logistical support. The Special Co-ordinator delivers the OSCE Post-Election Statement in conjunction with other appropriate officials.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has also developed close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in observing elections. Since the programme began, more than 1800 parliamentarians from over forty countries have provided their expertise to the OSCE in the field of election observation.

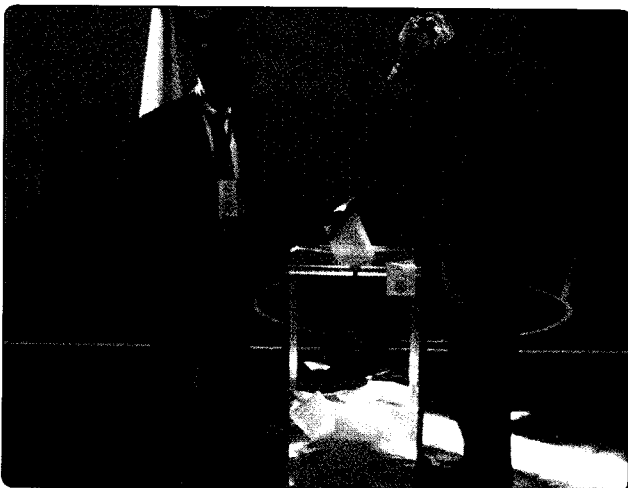
Kazakhstan

19 September 2004

On 20 September 2004 in Astana, OSCE PA Vice-President Ihor Ostash, appointed by the C-i-O as Special Co-ordinator for the short-term observers, delivered the preliminary post-election conclusions on the previous day's parliamentary elections, in conjunction with Tana de Zulueta, Head of the parliamentary delegation of the Council of Europe, and Ambassador Robert Barry, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission. The joint statement concluded that the elections in Kazakhstan fell short of OSCE and Council of Europe standards in many respects. Of particular concern were the failure to fully implement improved election observation legislation and the manner in which

electronic voting was introduced. "It is disappointing that the improved election legislation did not result in a more transparent election than we witnessed yesterday," concluded Vice-President Ostash. "However, we did note some improvements from previous elections and we stand ready to continue the work with the election authorities to strengthen both the legislation and the process."

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 30 parliamentarians from 15 participating States. Prior to election day, the parliamentarians attended an extensive briefing programme, during which they heard from leaders of the main political parties, representatives of the mass media, observers and experts. On election day, parliamentary observer teams were deployed in the Almaty and Astana areas.



Belarus

17 October 2004

Presenting the preliminary post-election statement on Belarus' parliamentary elections, Vice-President Tone Tingsgård, along with Ambassador Audry Glover, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, concluded that the elections in Belarus fell significantly short of OSCE commitments for democratic elections.

The Belarusian authorities failed to ensure the fundamental conditions necessary for the will of the people to serve as a basis for authority of government. Freedom



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 Tingsgård, 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

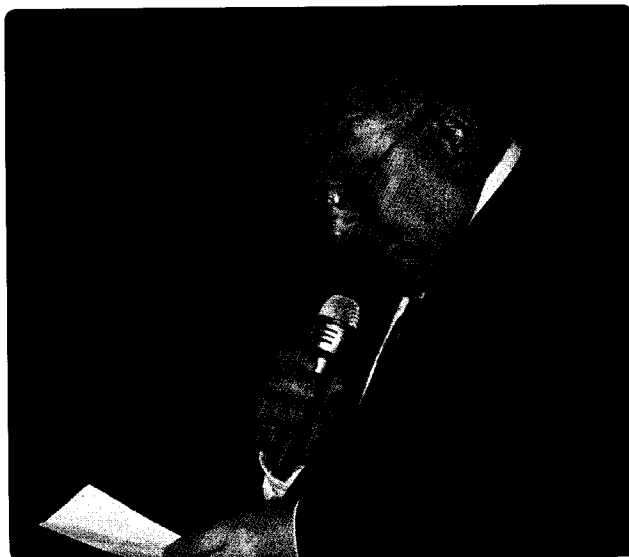
From October to December, OSCE PA President Emeritus Bruce George visited Ukraine three times to lead OSCE election observation missions as the Special Co-ordinator for the presidential elections of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

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-



tions have moved substantially closer to meeting OSCE and other European standards in such a short period of time. In our judgment the people of this great country can be truly proud that yesterday they took a great step towards free and democratic elections, by electing the next President of Ukraine”, concluded President Emeritus Bruce George.

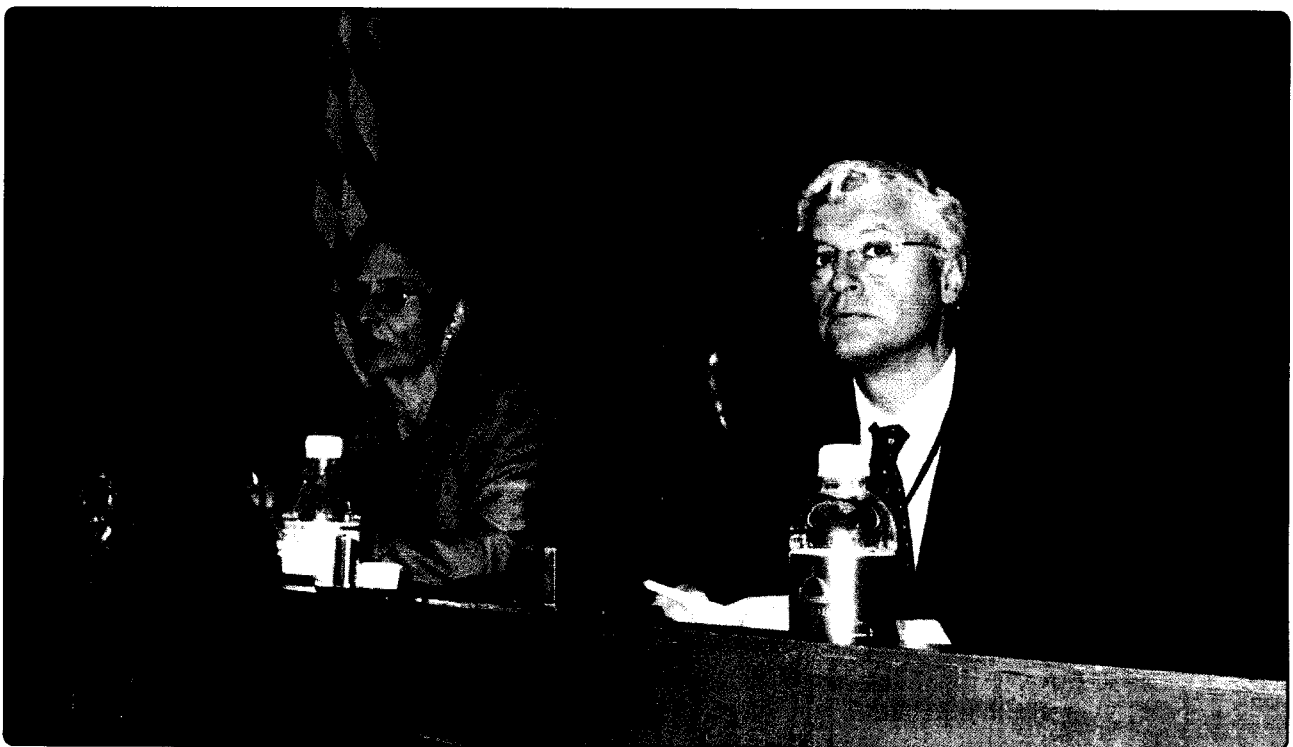
The International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), composed of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament, NATO PA and the OSCE / ODIHR concluded that there had been great improvement in the work of the election administration, in particular, the Central Election Commission. Other positive elements included fewer examples of abuse of state resources, respect for freedom of association, media coverage was significantly more balanced, editorial instructions issued to journalists disappeared and there were far fewer reports of people dependent on the State for their livelihood being pressured in their choice of candidate. However, some shortcomings remained, such as poorly prepared voter lists, inflammatory campaign material and the failure to incorporate provisions in the newly amended electoral legislation clarifying the role of the police on election day and requiring the Central Election Commission to publish all polling station results promptly.

The OSCE PA Observer Team of 90 parliamentarians was also led by PA President Alcee L. Hastings and Senator Jerry Grafstein, who participated in the negotiations on the unanimously agreed joint statement. The IEOM deployed a record 1 370 observers for the 26 December elections.

USA

2 November 2004

The OSCE PA deployed forty-six parliamentarians from 23 OSCE countries across the United States in the first comprehensive OSCE election observation mission to the USA. OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings had chosen Vice-President Barbara Haering to lead the Short-Term Observation Mission and asked the Chairman-in-Office to appoint her as the Special Co-ordinator of the C-i-O, who also appointed Giovanni Kessler as the deputy to Mrs. Haering. Since the OSCE / ODIHR chose to deploy only a limited observation mission, the PA International Secretariat, assisted by the staff of President Hastings as well as



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

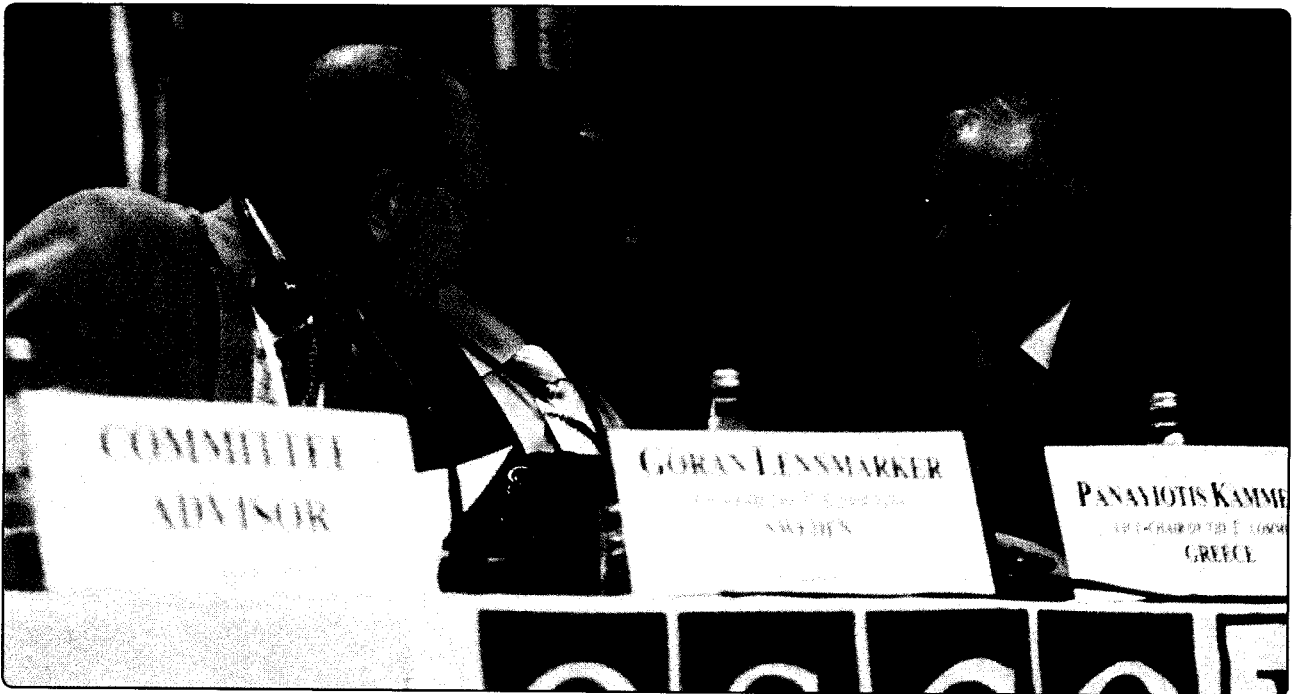
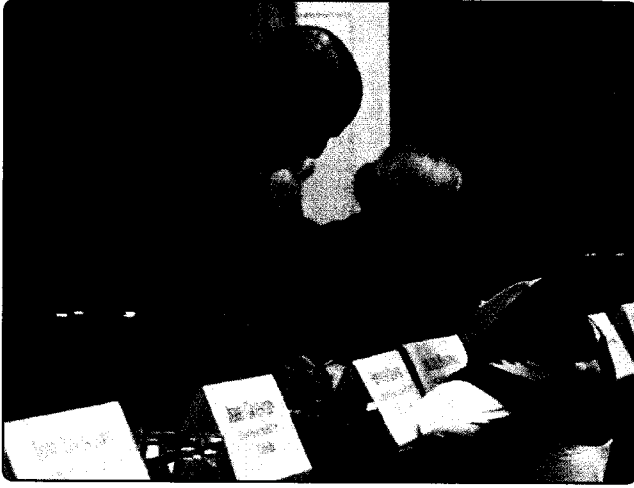
of the potential of civil war undermined the pre-election environment, as did the restrictive application of the Election Code, which cancelled the right to candidacy of a number of prominent individuals on the grounds that, as former diplomats, they had recently lived outside of the country. Nonetheless, 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

The OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy was established by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1996 and has since become an important instrument in raising awareness on media freedom issues worldwide. The Prize is awarded annually to journalists and organizations who, through their work, have promoted OSCE principles of human rights and democracy.

According to the Rules governing the Prize, "The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will present the prize to journalists, or groups of journalists, working for the print or electronic media, who have, through their work, promoted the OSCE principles on human rights and democracy." The Prize amounts to USD 20,000 and is granted annually to one or more winners. The funding is raised through private donations from publishing companies in OSCE participating States.

Awarding the first Prize to Polish journalist Adam Michnik, Mrs. Birgitta Dahl, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag remarked that: "His intellectual and moral standing expressed with total courage laid the foundation for, and was one of the most important driving forces behind the political developments in Poland which led to democratization."

The second Prize was given to *Reporters sans Frontières*, the independent organization founded in 1985 that works on behalf of journalists who have been persecuted or imprisoned for their reporting. Through their work around the world, particularly during the war in Bosnia, *Reporters sans Frontières* has promoted OSCE principles on human rights and democracy.

In 1998 the Prize was presented to Timothy Garton Ash by the Speaker of the Danish Folketing, Mr. Ivar Hansen, who commended Mr. Garton Ash for his "analyses of the political developments in the former communist states of Central-Eastern Europe."

In 1999, the fourth Prize was awarded to the Ms. Christiane Amanpour, who earned her reputation as an international correspondent beginning with her coverage of the dramatic changes following the

collapse of Communism in 1989 and 1990.

In 2000, the Prize was awarded to Andrei Babitsky. Presenting the Prize, the Chairman of the Third Committee, Gert Weisskirchen stated that "Andrei Babitsky is awarded this Prize because as a journalist, he reports on the life-endangering situations that people may find themselves in if power alone is at stake."

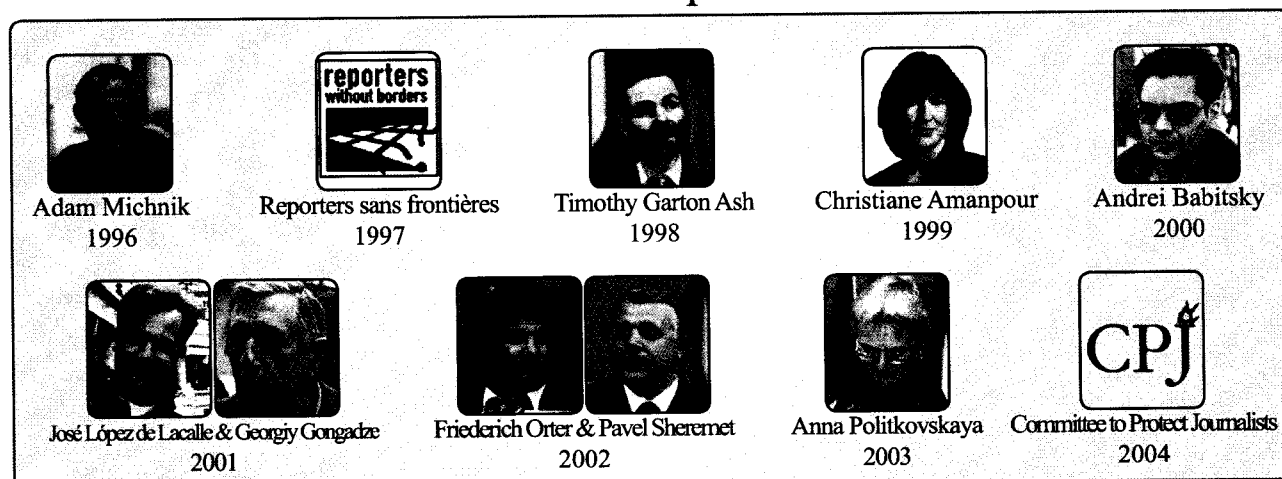
In 2001, the Prize was awarded in absentia to Spanish journalist José Luis López De Lacalle, who was killed in a May 2000 terrorist attack, and Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze, who was murdered in 2000 in what many people believe to be a direct order from the office of the Ukrainian president.

In 2002, the OSCE PA awarded the Prize to Austrian TV-journalist Friedrich Orter and Belarusian TV-journalist Pavel Sheremet. Dr. Orter was recognized for promoting the OSCE principles of human rights and democracy through his reporting in the Balkans and Afghanistan. Mr. Sheremet was granted the award for his courage in reporting on the lack of freedom of expression in Belarus and on violations of human rights, including disappearances of opposition politicians and journalists.

In 2003 the Prize was granted to Anna Politkovskaya for her extensive and balanced reporting in Chechnya, drawing attention to widespread human rights abuses in the region.

Last year the OSCE PA awarded the Prize to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which has gained international recognition as a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the global defence of press freedom.

Past Recipients



The International Secretariat

A decision was made at the First Annual Session in Budapest to accept the invitation of the Danish Folketing to locate the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen. The Standing Committee met in Copenhagen in January of 1993 to approve the Bureau's choice of a Secretary General and to adopt formal Rules of Procedure for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and a budget for its Secretariat.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved R. Spencer Oliver of the United States as the Assembly's first Secretary General. The Secretary General appoints two deputies to support his work. The Secretary General recently promoted Programme Officer Tina Schøn to the position of Deputy Secretary General, to join Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev who has been with the Assembly for twelve years. The Standing Committee has twice unanimously re-elected Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver to new five-year terms.

The Danish Folketing, as a gift to the Assembly, provides premises near the Danish Parliament, and equipment for the Assembly's use, making the Danish Parliament the single largest contributor to the budget of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Danish Government signed a headquarters agreement with the Assembly, providing for full international diplomatic privileges and immunities

on the same level as other diplomatic missions in Denmark.

The primary responsibility of the International Secretariat is to support and organize all activities of the Assembly, including the Annual Session, the Winter Meeting, meetings of the Standing Committee, the Bureau and Expanded Bureau, and other meetings and conferences of the Assembly. It also serves as a central communications link between the OSCE parliamentary delegations, other OSCE Institutions and the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Secretariat maintains the records of Parliamentary Assembly activities and programmes carried out since it was established in 1993, including the minutes of all official meetings. The Secretary General, along with Financial Assistant Per-Henrik Dürr, is responsible for the financial affairs and administration of the Assembly under the guidance and oversight of the Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada). Independent audits by outside auditors from KPMG are carried out on at least an annual basis. Expenditures have consistently remained within the annual approved budget since the International Secretariat was established in 1993.

The Secretariat provides support to the President, the Bureau, the Officers of the three General Committees and the ad hoc Committees, as well as the five

Special Representatives and other missions. The Staff of the Secretariat also organizes special missions and visits, as well as election observation projects. Senior staff have participated in meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and the Ministerial Troika and frequently represent the Assembly at other meetings and forums.

In January 2003, the International Secretariat opened a Liaison Office in Vienna, headed by a Special Representative, to facilitate communication with the OSCE structures in Vienna.



OSCE PA International Secretariat Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark

Members of the International Secretariat

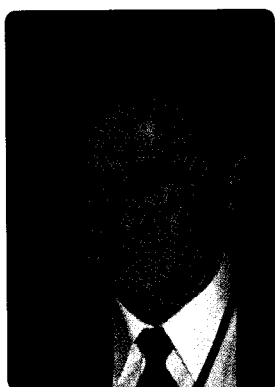
R. Spencer Oliver, United States



Secretary General Spencer Oliver was chosen as the first Secretary General 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. 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.

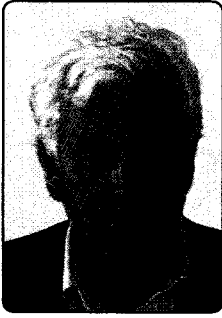
The Secretary General's mandate includes responsibility for managing the affairs of the Assembly, ensuring the efficiency of the Secretariat, and carrying out the decisions of the Bureau, the Standing Committee and the Assembly. He reports to the President, the Bureau, the Standing Committee and the 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, Russian Federation



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.

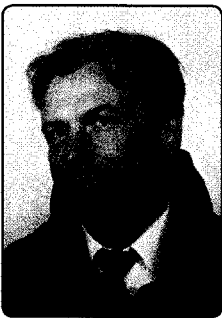
Mr. Evseyev has primary responsibility for organizing all of the meetings of the Assembly, including the Annual Sessions, meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau, and various conferences and seminars. In addition, he is responsible for working with the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, 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.



Jan Jooren, Netherlands

Press Counsellor Jan Jooren is a career civil servant, specialising as an information officer with the Dutch government. He has also worked in a senior position with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Dutch parliament. He was seconded by the Dutch government as the press officer for annual OSCE PA Sessions from 1993 through 1997, as well as for several election monitoring projects. Since the fall of 1998, he has

been seconded on a full-time basis by the Dutch parliament and government to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's International Secretariat in Copenhagen. He is responsible for press and publicity related to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's activities. He is responsible for publishing the OSCE PA's internal newsletter, *News from Copenhagen*, administering the OSCE PA website and providing information on the PA for the OSCE Newsletter published by the governmental OSCE in Vienna. He also oversees the production of various brochures and other materials describing and publicising the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.



Andreas Nothelle, Germany

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle is a constitutional lawyer and a senior career civil servant, who has served in the German Bundestag for more than 18 years. He was seconded by the Bundestag to head the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna which serves, since its establishment in February 2003, as an important link in the communication between the governmental OSCE structures in Vienna and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Nothelle has held a wide range of posts within the German Bundestag Administration, including that of Secretary of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, and Head of the Office of Former President of the Bundestag, Annemarie Renger, who was a leading member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Fluent in English, French and Spanish, Mr. Nothelle has represented the Bundestag Administration as an expert on numerous programs designed to provide administrative assistance, especially to parliaments, primarily in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and China.

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Gustavo Pallarés, Spain

Presidential Advisor Gustavo Pallarés joined the staff in February 2001 after the Standing Committee approved funding for a position for liaison and coordination of the activities of the Assembly's President. Mr. Pallarés is also a former Research Fellow and served as Presidential Adviser to former President Javier Ruperez in the Spanish Parliament when he was President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and then when he

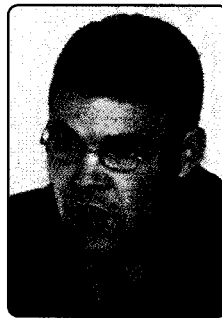
was President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Pallarés also works with Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev on matters related to the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee) and serves as liaison officer with the Spanish Parliament, and has responsibility for Mediterranean matters. He is responsible for co-ordinating the President's schedule, speeches, correspondence and statement. He speaks fluent English and French.



Tina Schøn, Denmark

Programme Officer Tina Schøn has primary responsibility for the Caucasus, including the ad hoc committee on Abkhazia and the Special Representative on Nagorno Karabakh. She has visited the region on several occasions and participated in all election monitoring projects in the area. Ms. Schøn works with the Secretary General on issues related to the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, and also serves as the Gender Adviser in the International Secretariat. Ms. Schøn was recently promoted to the position of Deputy Secretary General. She has a Masters degree in international relations and apart from the Scandinavian languages, she speaks fluent English and French, as well as some German. Ms. Schøn joined the office in April 1999.

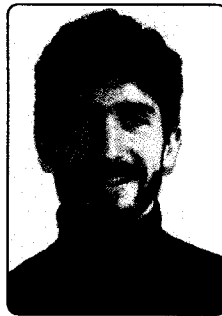
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Paul LeGendre, United States

Programme Officer Paul LeGendre has primary responsibility for Central Asia and works with Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev in that area as well as in other countries in the geographical area of the former Soviet Union. Mr. LeGendre has a Masters degree from Columbia University in international affairs and speaks fluent French and Russian. He formerly served as a staff member for the International League for

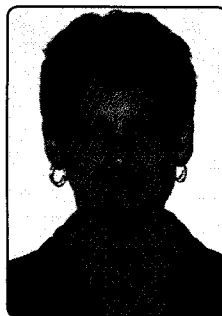
Human Rights in New York and also worked for the Committee to Protect Journalists. He works with the Working Group on Belarus and with the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, as well as on matters related to the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (Third Committee). Mr. LeGendre joined the office in June 2000.



Andreas Baker, Canada

Programme / Press Officer Andreas Baker joined the International Secretariat in February 2005. He assists Press Counsellor Jan Jooren in publicizing the work of the Assembly, producing the OSCE PA's news bulletin *News from Copenhagen*, overseeing the OSCE PA website, and publishing other promotional material on Assembly events. He joined the Secretariat after working in the Canadian House of Commons. A

former Research Fellow, Mr. Baker has degrees in international relations from Uppsala University and the London School of Economics, and speaks French and Danish.



Dana Bjerregaard, United States

Ms Bjerregaard serves as the Assistant to the Secretary General. She arranges the schedule of the Secretary General and is responsible for his correspondence and liaison with OSCE Institutions, as well as coordinating the flow of information between and among the staff members. Prior to joining the International Secretariat, Ms Bjerregaard worked for various law firms in the United States. She speaks English and Danish.



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.



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.



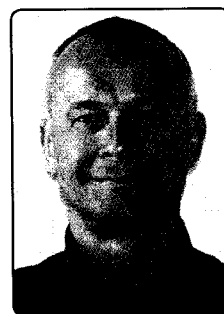
Zuzana Straponckova, Slovakia/Czech Republic

As former OSCE PA Conference Coordinator, Zuzana Straponckova 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 Straponckova administers the OSCE PA website. She also assists Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev in organizing OSCE PA meetings. Ms Straponckova has a Masters Degree in Modern Philology and speaks fluent English, French, Russian, Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian.



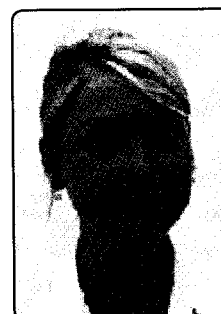
Connie Mathiesen, Denmark

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.



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.



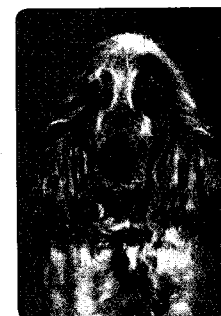
Kathrin Miriam Volz, Germany

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.



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.



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.

The International Research Fellowship Programme



2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Secretariat's Research Fellowship Programme in which one-hundred and thirty-five young people from more than twenty-five participating States have taken part. The programme continues to provide a unique opportunity for graduate students from OSCE countries to experience and work in an international organization for a period of six months, to learn more about international relations and in particular the importance of inter-parliamentary work and co-operation. Research Fellows work very closely with the permanent staff of the International Secretariat and they contribute not only high-level research for speeches and briefing papers, but also language capabilities, logistical support and administrative assistance.

The primary duties of Research Fellows include preparation of briefing reports for election monitoring missions and briefing papers for visits of the OSCE PA President, the Ad Hoc Committees, Special Representatives or other Officials to various participating states or OSCE events. Fellows also assist in the planning and conduct of meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly, follow the work of the OSCE Field Missions and write regular updates. In addition, Fellows are often asked to help draft speeches and statements and write papers on special projects undertaken by the Assembly's Secretariat. They also assist with day-to-day prac-

tical work in the office such as answering phones, copying, filing and other necessary chores.

Research Fellows are mainly recruited from graduate students of law, international relations and political science from universities in the OSCE area. Fellowships are normally granted for a period of six months, although, in exceptional cases, some Fellows have extended for an additional six-month period.

The Research Fellowship Programme was established after approval by the Standing Committee in July 1994 and started with two Research Fellows in February 1995. Since the very beginning, the programme has proved to be an important and valuable asset to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and at present the International Secretariat employs six Research Fellows. After ending their term with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, quite a high number of the Fellows pursue a career in the OSCE where, in particular, the field missions and the OSCE Secretariat have benefited from the experience of past OSCE PA Fellows. Other Fellows have moved on to jobs in their national governments or other international organizations.

Programme Officer Tina Schøn and Conference Co-ordinator Lisa Callan are in charge of co-ordinating the Programme. More information is available at the OSCE PA's webpage, www.oscepa.org.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

International Secretariat

Rådhusstræde 1

1466 Copenhagen K

Denmark

Telephone: +45 33 37 80 40

Telefax: +45 33 37 80 30

E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

Internet: www.oscepa.org

