



## PRESS ADVISORY

### **OSCE Parliamentarians meet in Washington to debate international security and human rights topics**

COPENHAGEN, 22 June 2005 – Nearly 300 parliamentarians from the 55 OSCE participating States will meet in Washington, DC, from July 1-5, to debate issues affecting the OSCE area, including gender equality, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia (Georgia), trafficking in human beings, and respect for human rights. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe will be addressed by senior officials including the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel. The current President of the Assembly is US Congressman Alcee L. Hastings of Florida.

Coming from all parts of the OSCE, parliamentarians from North America, Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia will meet to debate current issues. In addition to the resolutions prepared by the Assembly's Rapporteurs on political, economic, environmental and human rights issues related to the Session's theme '*30 Years since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead*', supplementary resolutions on specific issues have been prepared. Consideration will be given to topics such as piracy, trafficking in human beings, standards of conduct by international humanitarian workers, combating terrorism, trafficking in small arms, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, gender equality, co-operation with Mediterranean states, Abkhazia (Georgia), money laundering and corruption, Moldova, anti-Semitism, election observation activities and OSCE reform. The Final Document, to be adopted on the last day of the meeting, will include recommendations on these and other issues.

Meeting for the first time in the United States, this will also be the first opportunity for the OSCE parliamentarians to meet and hear an address by the newly appointed Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. The Assembly will also honour Ukraine Television Channel Five with the tenth OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy, to be awarded on the first day of the Session.

The meetings of the Assembly will take place in the premises of the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. All documents and forms for the Session, including press applications, resolutions and other general information, can be found on the Assembly's website: [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

---

*For further information, representatives of the media are kindly requested to consult [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org), or to contact Press Counsellor Jan R.M. Jooren, (e-mail: [jan@oscepa.dk](mailto:jan@oscepa.dk), Mobile: + 45 40 41 16 41) or Press Officer Andreas Baker, (e-mail [andreasb@oscepa.dk](mailto:andreasb@oscepa.dk)) at the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen at, Tel +45 33 37 80 40, Fax +45 33 37 80 30.*

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