

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
3RD DISTRICT MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE  
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT  
GROUP ON TRADE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE  
RANKING MEMBER

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS  
STEERING COMMITTEE

SENIOR WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515-2003**

July 3, 2006

Dear Assembly Colleague:

I am so pleased to join you in Brussels, Belgium for our annual session of the OSCE PA. **I am writing to seek your support for my election as Vice President.** I do hope that I can enjoy your support when the Assembly holds its elections.

I have been pleased to serve as your Chairman of the Second Committee (Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment) since 2003, and that you have unanimously re-elected me to this position in 2004 in Edinburgh and 2005 in Washington. As Chairman I have focused our Committee's effort on combating corruption; promoting small-, minority-, and women-owned businesses; improving coordination of international humanitarian activities; and creating sustainable forms of energy that do not harm the environment.

Three years ago I became the Ranking Member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly referred to as the Helsinki Commission. Like the Assembly, the Commission operates independently of the executive branch. The Commission seeks to hold Participating states – including the United States – accountable for the commitments they have made to OSCE principles. I have worked closely with our State Department to advocate human rights issues abroad, as well as to call the United States to account for its own practices.

During my decade of service on the Helsinki Commission I have traveled extensively and conducted meetings with parliamentarians in OSCE participating States to assist states in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act. Since 1994 I have been a member of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I have had the privilege to travel extensively to the Middle East and Europe, and have particularly encouraged Israel, Jordan, and Egypt to use the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation structure to further improve ties between their countries.

I am proud to be a member of the OSCE PA, a body that distinguishes itself as one of an initiator of change and significant accomplishment. I know that we will continue in this spirit. As I seek to continue my leadership role in this Assembly, I pledge that working together we can advance democracy throughout the OSCE region and make significant progress in the upcoming year on the important political, economic, and human rights issues before this Assembly.

Again I look forward to serving as your Second Committee Chairman during our session in Brussels, and I hope to have the privilege of serving as your Vice President after our session concludes.

Sincerely yours,

  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, M.C.

Chairman, Second Committee, OSCE PA

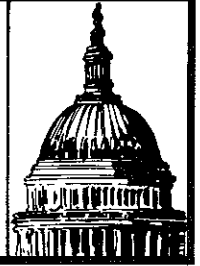
Ranking Member, U.S. Helsinki Commission



*Congressman*

# Ben Cardin

## Third District — Maryland



### BIOGRAPHY OF CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

#### OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

2003-present Chairman, Second Committee (Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment)

1994-present Member, United States Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

#### U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, Helsinki Commission)

2003-present Ranking Member

1994-present Member

#### U.S. Congress

1987-present Representative, Third Congressional District of Maryland  
U.S. House of Representatives

House Committee on Ways and Means  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade  
Subcommittee on Human Resources

Chair, Organization, Study and Review Committee of the Democratic Caucus

Member, Steering Committee of the Democratic Caucus

Senior Democratic Whip

#### Maryland General Assembly

1979-1986 Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates

1974-1979 Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

1967-1986 Member, Maryland House of Delegates

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 14, 2006

Dear Fellow Parliamentarian:

We write to ask your support for our friend and colleague, Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland, who is seeking to become Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We believe that Ben's experience, and unwavering dedication to human rights, democracy, and economic development for all people, make him highly qualified to serve as Vice President of the Assembly as we face new challenges and opportunities.

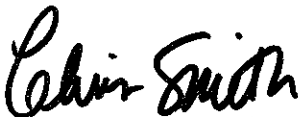
As many of you may know, Ben has ably served the Assembly for the past three years as the Chairman of the Second Committee (Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment). As Chairman he has focused the Committee's efforts on combating corruption, promoting entrepreneurship of women and minority owned businesses, improving coordination of international humanitarian activities, and creating sustainable forms of energy that do not harm the environment.

He has also served as the Ranking Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission (formally known as the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe) for the past three years, which operates independently of the executive branch and seeks to hold Participating states accountable for the commitments they have made to OSCE principles.

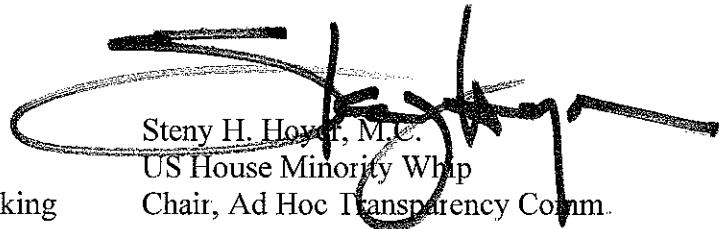
In addition to the skills Ben gained as an officer of the OSCE PA, he also brings substantial knowledge from his now 40 years of experience as a member of the United States House of Representatives and the Maryland General Assembly. Congressman Cardin is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Ranking Member of the Trade Subcommittee, and a former member of the Homeland Security Committee.

We respectfully request your support for Ben's candidacy for Vice President.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Smith, M.C.  
Co-Chairman, US Helsinki Commission  
Special Representative on Human Trafficking



Steny H. Hoyer, M.C.  
US House Minority Whip  
Chair, Ad Hoc Transparency Comm.



Louise McIntosh Slaughter, M.C.  
Member, US Helsinki Commission  
Ranking Member, Rules Committee