



## The OSCE PA Budget Compared

April 2009

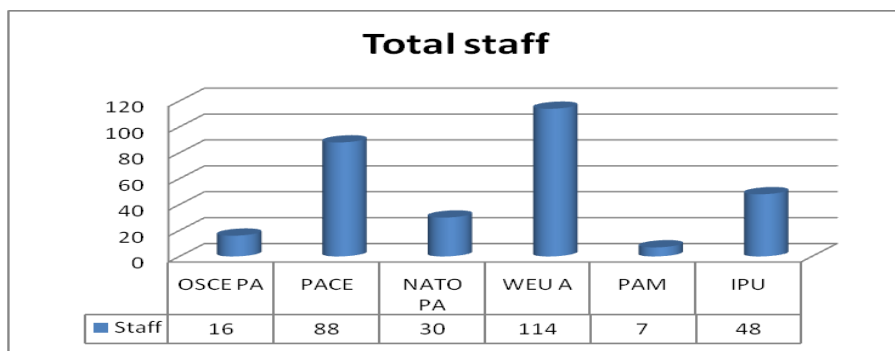


- *Office of the President* -

Since being elected as President in July 2008, I have worked to strengthen the role of the Parliamentary Assembly as a vital OSCE Institution. In particular, I am pleased that during my Presidency the Assembly continues to serve as a forum for open debate on the most important issues facing the OSCE region; the Crisis in Georgia (September 2008), European Security Architecture proposals (February 2009), World Financial Crisis (May 2009).

I strongly believe in the work of our Organization. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has a pivotal role in the future of the whole Organization: promoting the dialogue between all participating States in an inclusive manner, ensuring the respect for the OSCE founding principles and working for the resolution of all forms of conflicts. This has been our task during the last 17 years.

The OSCE PA was built with the effort of each one of our National Parliaments. However, I must underline the work of the Secretariat and of Secretary General Spencer Oliver in particular. Thanks to him and to our Treasurers the PA has been presenting a succession of balanced budgets. With a small staff of just 16 persons, our Parliamentary Assembly participates every year in a number of election observation missions, organizes the Annual Session, the Winter Meeting and the Fall Meetings and is also engaged in other relevant activities and field visits. This is not to mention support for other activities such as presidential trips.

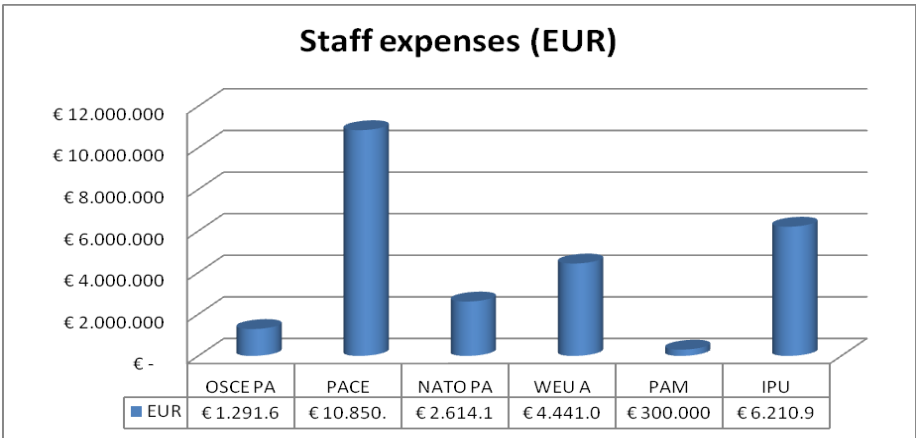
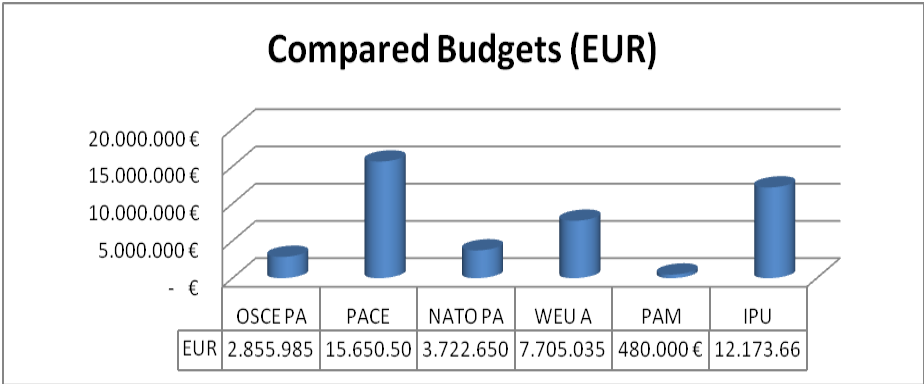


During the last year I had the opportunity to work almost on a daily basis with the International Secretariat and to experience their professionalism and enthusiasm.

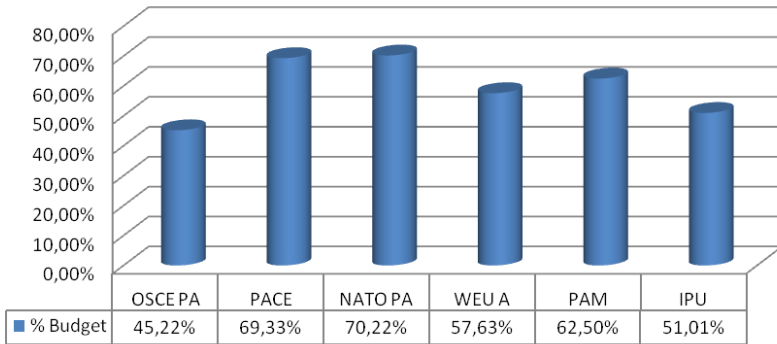
When we compare the total budget, number of staff and staff expenses between the OSCE PA and other Parliamentary Organizations we can have a better idea of the effectiveness of our work.

In terms of election observation each national parliament pays for the expenses of each one of its members. If we take in consideration the election observation activities in the ODIHR budget (5.974.200 EUR, i.e., more than two times the total budget of the OSCE PA) we have to think about the results they achieve, especially in relation to the results of our own work in the field.

When compared to other inter-parliamentary bodies, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has the smallest budget and the smallest staff (with the exception of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean which is newly formed).



## Staff expenses in % of the total budget



If we compare the staff expenses in percentage of the total budget the difference is even bigger. We are clearly the most cost effective Assembly.

As for the OSCE governmental side's budget recently approved in the Permanent Council in Vienna, we notice that, year after year, there is a decrease: 164.168.200 EUR in 2008 and 156.375.200 for 2009.

The OSCE is a vital Organization for the European security. And although 68.5% of the OSCE budget (107.361.800 EUR) is committed to the work in the field, this cutting of capacity will affect the daily work of our Organization, its programs and initiatives in a time when this effort is more needed.

João Soares

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PACE – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
 NATO PA – North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly  
 WEU A – Western European Union Assembly  
 PAM – Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean  
 IPU – Inter-Parliamentary Union