

MINUTES of the STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Vilnius

Monday 29 June 2009

9:00 am

1. *Call to Order*

The meeting was opened at 9.00 am with Mr Joao SOARES (Portugal), President of OSCE PA, in the Chair.

2. *Adoption of the Agenda*

**DECISION:** The agenda was adopted.

3. *Remarks by the President*

The PRESIDENT welcomed the Standing Committee to Vilnius and thanked the Lithuanian hosts. He reported on his activities since the Committee's last meeting at the Winter Meeting in Vienna, including his continued meetings with the Chairmanship of the OSCE, visits to Belarus, the Balkans and Central Asia, the Bureau meeting in Lisbon and the Economic Conference in Dublin.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Standing Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure, where the Assembly's accounts showed that a Member country had not made its due contribution for a period of nine months. Members of its delegation would not be allowed to vote until the contribution had been received.

Speaker: Mr CARDIN (USA)

4. *Report of the Treasurer*

- *Present Financial Situation and Annual Contributions*
- *Approval of the Budget for 2009/2010 Financial Year*

Mr RAIDEL (Germany), Treasurer of OSCE PA, addressed the Standing Committee and replied to questions.

Speakers: Mr KANERVA (Finland).

The President thanked the Treasurer.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Budget for the Financial Year October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

The Budget would be made available to the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

5. *Report by the Secretary General*

Mr OLIVER (Secretary General of the OSCE PA) presented his report to the Standing Committee.

6. *Practical and Procedural Matters for the Eighteenth Annual Session*

The President informed the Standing Committee that the deadline for the nomination of Assembly officers would be at 10 am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and that the elections would be held on the morning of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July between 9 am and 11 am.

The Standing Committee ratified the membership of General Committees in accordance with Rule 35(2).

7. *Supplementary Items*

The PRESIDENT informed the Standing Committee that 24 Supplementary Items had been submitted in accordance with Rule 21.

**DECISION:** The Assembly approved the inclusion of Supplementary Items 1 and 2 on the Agenda.

Supplementary Item 3 (*Divided Europe Reunited: Promoting Human Rights and Civil Liberties in the OSCE Region in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*)

Speakers: Mr FEDEROV (Russian Federation), Ms ABRAMIKIENE (Lithuania), Ms KARPOVICH (Russian Federation), Mr COMPAGNA (Italy), Mr TSERETELI (Georgia)

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee approved the inclusion of the Supplementary Item on the Assembly's agenda.

**DECISION:** The Standing Committee approved the inclusion of the remaining Supplementary Items on the Assembly's agenda.

The PRESIDENT's proposal for the distribution of Supplementary Items between the General Committees and the Plenary was agreed as follows:

**Plenary:**

Strengthening the OSCE;  
Election Observation.

**First Committee:**

Afghanistan  
Security Sector Stabilization and Compliance With UN Black Lists;  
Small Arms and Light Weapons;  
A Renewed Discussion on Arms Control and Disarmament in Europe;  
Labour Migration in Central Asia;  
The Role of the OSCE in Strengthening Security in its Region.

**Second Committee:**

Energy Security;  
Tax Havens;  
Energy Co-Operation;  
Climate Change;  
Freedom of Expression on the Internet;  
Water Management in the OSCE Area;  
European Union Seal Products Ban;  
Mediterranean Free Trade.

**Third Committee:**

Protecting Unaccompanied Minors and Combating the Phenomenon of Child Begging;  
Divided Europe Reunited: Promoting Human Rights and Civil Liberties in the OSCE Region in the 21st Century;  
The Moratorium of the Death Penalty and Towards Its Abolition;  
Maternal Mortality;  
Strengthening OSCE Engagement on Freedom of Opinion and Expression;  
The Guidelines on Aid and Assistance to Refugees;  
Co-Operation for the Enforcement of Criminal Sentences;  
Anti-Semitism.

Speaker: Mr BILORUS (Ukraine)

8. *Changes to the Rules of Procedure*

Ms CHRISTMAS-MØLLER (Denmark), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure, presented the Committee's proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure.

A change was proposed to Rule 1, to add a new paragraph at the end of the Rule:

*"Each national Delegation should have both genders represented."*

Speakers: Mr FRANKEN (Netherlands) Ms HABSBURG-DOUGLAS (Sweden).

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to the proposed change to Rule 1.

It was proposed to amend paragraph 2 of Rule 21 as follows:

*“If more than one supplementary item is presented on the same issue, the President may ask **the principal sponsors of the draft resolutions on the same issue to hold consultations** in order to present a compromise draft resolution. If such a compromise draft resolution is received at the Secretariat at least **fourteen days** before the opening of the first plenary session with signatures of the principal sponsors and at least **ten signatories** of each of the two or more draft resolutions in question, it shall be presented to the Annual Session as a supplementary item and all other draft resolutions on the same issue shall fall. The principal sponsor of the draft resolution which was received first shall be the principal sponsor of the compromise draft resolution. If there is no agreement on a compromise draft resolution, the draft resolution which was received first shall be presented to the Annual Session and others on the same issue shall fall”.*

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to amend Rule 21 (2).

It was proposed to amend paragraph 1 of Rule 23 as follows:

*“A compromise amendment may be submitted in writing and signed by at least ten Members, representing at least three OSCE countries, including at least two principal sponsors of amendments already submitted in accordance with Rule 22 on the same issue to the same draft resolution. Any compromise amendment shall be submitted no later than **10 a.m. on the day before the Assembly or relevant Committee starts consideration of amendments**”.*

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to amend Rule 23 (1).

It was proposed to add a new rule after Rule 23:

#### ***Validation of Signatures***

*“The signatures of Members of the Assembly who signed a supplementary item or an amendment are valid provided they register for the Annual Session”.*

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to the proposal to insert a new rule after Rule 23.

It was proposed to insert a new paragraph (3) in Rule 30 as follows:

*“A Member who has an unavoidable obligation to leave an Annual Session before the day of the election of a President, Vice-President and a Treasurer has the right to vote earlier provided that he or she has notified in writing the Assembly President accordingly. Early voting shall start only when all candidates have been duly nominated”.*

Speakers: Mr NIEDERBERG (Switzerland), Mr CARDIN (United States), Mr VOISIN (France), Mr LLOYD (United Kingdom); Mr COMPAGNA (Italy), Ms CHRISTMAS MØLLER, Mr VOISIN (France)

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to the proposed change to Rule 30 (3).

It was proposed to amend paragraph 4 of Rule 31 as follows:

*“In the case of election of officers, voting will take place in accordance with Rule 5 above. Three tellers shall be appointed by the Chair. **All duly appointed candidates or those that represent them have the right to monitor voting procedure, the counting of the ballot papers and the tabulation of the votes in all polling places.** Only those ballot papers bearing the names of persons who have been duly nominated as candidates shall be taken into account for the purpose of calculating the number of votes cast. The Chair shall announce the result”.*

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to the changes proposed to Rule 31 (4).

It was proposed to amend paragraph 4 of Rule 36 as follows:

*“The Vice-Chair of each General Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of a report on the follow-up of the resolutions adopted by the General Committee and the Parliamentary Assembly. **These reports shall be presented by the Vice-Chairs at the next Annual Session.** The President of the Parliamentary Assembly shall assign the resolutions adopted directly by the Assembly, to an appropriate General Committee for a follow-up report, after having consulted its Chair”.*

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to amend Rule 36 (4).

A change was proposed to Rule 40, to amend paragraph 2 as follows:

*“The Treasurer shall circulate the draft annual budget to the Standing Committee after it has been discussed by the Bureau but not later than thirty days before the opening of an Annual Session”.*

Speaker: Mr RUMMO (Estonia)

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to the proposed change to Rule 40 (2).

It was proposed to delete Rule 44 on “**Non-Governmental Organizations**”

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to delete Rule 44.

9. *Address by the Secretary General of the OSCE*

Ambassador Marc PERRIN DE BRICHAMBAUT, the Secretary General of the OSCE, addressed the Standing Committee.

The PRESIDENT invited the Secretary General to respond to questions from Members of the Committee.

Speakers: Mr GRAFSTEIN (Canada), Mr LLOYD (United Kingdom), Mr DE DONNEA (Belgium), Ms POZUELO (Spain), Mr CARDIN (United States).

Ambassador DE BRICHAMBAUT responded to the questions.

The PRESIDENT reminded Mr Lloyd of the possibility of raising a matter of urgency under Rule 25.

10. *Reports and Information on the Activities of the OCSE Parliamentary Assembly*

Mr EFTHYMIOU (Greece) reported on election monitoring in Moldova.

Speakers: Mr PETRENCO (Moldova)

Deputy Secretary General SCHØN informed the committee about forthcoming election observation missions for the elections in Kyrgyzstan on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and Moldova on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Ms ZAPF (Germany) reported on her work as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus.

Mr LENNMARKER (Sweden) reported on his work as the Special Representative on Nagorno-Karabakh and Special Envoy for Georgia.

Mr VOISIN (France) reported on his work as the Special Representative for Afghanistan

Speaker: Mr LENNMARKER (Sweden)

11. *Future Meetings*

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that the Fall Meetings would take place in Athens, Greece, from 9-12 October.

Speakers Mr EFTHYMIOU (Greece), Mr CARDIN (United States)

The PRESIDENT announced the dates of the Winter Meeting in Vienna (February 18-19, 2010) and of the next Annual Session in Oslo (July 6-10, 2010).

Speaker: Mr HOGLUND (Norway).

12. *Other Business*

Mr LLOYD (United Kingdom) raised a question of urgency relating to the detention of locally engaged staff of the UK embassy in Iran. A draft Resolution had been circulated and had gained the required number of signatures.

Speakers: Mr GRAFSTEIN (Canada)

**DECISION:** The Committee agreed to put the Question of Urgency on the agenda of the Assembly.

Mr FRANKEN (Netherlands) raised the matter of progress on a legal framework for the OSCE.

Mr COMPAGNA (Italy) informed the Assembly that it would be invited to hold the Autumn Conference 2010 in Palermo, Italy.

13. *Close of Meeting*

The PRESIDENT closed the meeting at 12.03 pm