

MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Vienna

Friday 25 February 2011

9.00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was opened at 9.09 a.m. with Mr Petros EFTHYMIU, President of OSCE PA, in the Chair.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. **Address by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Ms Barbara Prammer**

Ms PRAMMER addressed the Standing Committee.

4. **Report by the President, Mr Petros Efthymiou (Greece)**

The PRESIDENT addressed the Standing Committee.

5. **Report by the Treasurer**

Mr Roberto BATTELLI (Slovenia) presented the Treasurer's Report to the Standing Committee, including the auditors' report on the financial year from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

6. **Report by the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr Spencer OLIVER (Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly) presented his report.

7. **Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on the Rules of Procedure and Consideration of Amendments to the Rules of Procedure**

Ms Pia CHRISTMAS-MOELLER (Denmark) presented her report and the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure.

A change was proposed to Rule 3, paragraph 1, to replace the existing paragraph 1 as follows:

1. *Members of the Assembly shall be Members of their National Parliaments.*
2. *For the purposes of these rules, a Member standing for re-election to a National Parliament will be considered a Member of that Parliament until the election is decided.*
3. *Following the new composition of a Parliament a Member may continue to be a Member of the Assembly until his or her successor in the delegation has been designated, for a maximum of six months, provided he or she is still a Member of a National Parliament.*

Speakers: Mr CORUZ (Netherlands), Mr TODESCHINI (France), Ms POZUELO (Spain), Mr SHEVCHUK (Ukraine)

Mr Oliver and Ms Christmas-Moeller responded.

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 5, paragraph 6, to replace the existing paragraph 6 as follows:

A one-year term of service of the President may be renewed only once. The retiring President shall not be eligible for election to the same office for four years. A three-year term of service of the Vice-Presidents may be renewed only once. A retiring Vice-President shall not be eligible for election to the same office for three years. A two-year term of service of the Treasurer may be renewed twice. A retiring Treasurer shall not be eligible for election to the same office for two years.

Speakers: Mr GROSSRUCK (Austria), Mr DI NINO (Canada), Ms BARNETT (Germany), Mr BODRY (Luxembourg), Mr TODESCHINI (France), Mr SHEVCHUK (Ukraine)

Mr Oliver and Ms Christmas-Moeller responded.

DECISION: The Committee DID NOT AGREE to the rule change

A change was proposed to Rule 5, after paragraph 6, to insert a new paragraph as follows:

A Vice-President who has served less than two three year terms is eligible for re-election.

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 5, paragraph 8, to leave out:

When a Vice-President ceases to be a Member of Parliament but continues to be a Member of the Assembly in accordance with Rule 3(1), he or she will have to resign as Vice-President before the beginning of the Annual Session in order to allow the Assembly to elect another Member to replace him or her for the rest of his or her term.

Speaker: Ms Christmas-Moeller

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 21, paragraph 1, as follows:

The agenda of the Annual Session may be supplemented by an item or a motion on any matter within the competence of the OSCE, which does not relate directly to subjects proposed by the General Rapporteurs to the three General Committees. Such a supplementary item shall be in the form of a draft resolution with signatures of at least twenty Members representing at least four different countries. The first signatory of a supplementary item will be its principal sponsor. A supplementary item must be received by the Secretariat after the General Rapporteurs have submitted their reports, but at least 35 days before the opening of the first plenary session. The Standing Committee shall decide by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast whether to include a supplementary item on the agenda of the Annual Session. The Standing Committee shall then decide by a majority of votes cast whether to refer a supplementary item to the competent Committee or to submit it to the plenary.

Speakers: Mr SMITH (USA), Sir Peter BOTTOMLEY (UK), Mr KOZLOVSKIY (Russia), Mr JURI (Slovenia), Mr SHEVCHUK (Ukraine), Mr DE DONNEA (Belgium) Mr Oliver, Mr KOSKINEN (Finland), Mr LLOYD (UK)

Mr Oliver and Ms Christmas-Moeller responded.

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 35, paragraph 6, as follows:

Unless otherwise stipulated in these Rules, decisions in the Standing Committee shall be taken according to the principle of consensus-minus-one until such time as the Ministerial Council of the OSCE shall agree to act by consensus-minus-two, at which time the Standing Committee shall adopt the same rule.

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 40, paragraphs 1 and 3, as follows:

1. The Secretary General shall be appointed, on the proposal of the Bureau, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the Standing Committee. The appointment shall be for five years and may be renewed by a majority of the votes in the Bureau and in the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will set his or her duties, remuneration and conditions of employment consistent with the annual budget.

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3. The Standing Committee shall confirm by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast the senior appointments made by the Secretary General to the two posts of Deputy Secretaries General, one of whom shall be designated as Finance Officer.)

Speakers: Ms GREGULE (Latvia), Sir Peter BOTTOMLEY (UK), Ms POZUELO (Spain), Ms BARNETT (Germany), Mr DE DONNEA (Belgium), Mr CORUZ (Netherlands)

DECISION: The Committee DID NOT AGREE to the rule change.

A change was proposed to Rule 45, paragraph 3, as follows:

When the Standing Committee has amended the Rules of Procedure, its decision shall be reported to the Assembly. National Delegations shall be informed about this decision as soon as possible by the Secretary General. The decision by the Standing Committee to amend the Rules of Procedure shall come into force 30 days after its approval by the Standing Committee.

Speaker: Mr JURI (Slovenia)

DECISION: The Committee AGREED to the rule change.

8. Other Reports

Election Observation

Azerbaijan, 7 November

Mr Wolfgang GROSSRUCK (Austria) reported on the elections in Azerbaijan.

Speakers: Mr KOZLOVSKIY (Russian Federation), Ms MURADOVA (Azerbaijan), Mr TOKAYEV (Kazakhstan), Mr JURI (Slovenia), Sir Peter BOTTOMLEY (UK)

Moldova, 28 November

Mr Tonino PICULA (Croatia) reported on the elections in Moldova.

Belarus, 19 December

Mr Tony LLOYD (United Kingdom) reported on the elections in Belarus.

Speakers: Mr TOKAYEV (Kazakhstan), Mr GUMINSKY (Belarus), Ms HABSBERG DOUGLAS (Sweden), Mr JURI (Slovenia), Ms ZAPF (Germany) Mr TSERETELI (Georgia)

Forthcoming Missions:

Ms Tina SCHOEN (Deputy Secretary General) reported on upcoming election observation work.

Speakers: Mr DI NINO (Canada) Mr TOKAYEV (Kazakhstan)

9. Close of Meeting

The PRESIDENT closed the meeting at 12.16 pm.