

MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Istanbul

Friday 29 June 2013
9.00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was opened at 9.07 am with Mr. Wolfgang GROSSRUCK (Austria), President of OSCE PA, in the Chair.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. Welcoming Remarks by the Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Emin ONEN (Turkey) welcomed the Parliamentary Assembly to Istanbul.

4. Report of the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The PRESIDENT addressed the Standing Committee.

5. Report by the Treasurer

Mr. BATTELLI (Slovenia) presented the Treasurer's Report to the Standing Committee.

DECISION: The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Budget for the financial year 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

The Budget would be made available to the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure.

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

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

During his report, Heads of Delegations reported on future OSCE PA Meetings, as follows:

Fall Meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 13–15 October 2013)

Speaker: Mr. Ranko KRIVOKAPIC (Montenegro), Head of Delegation and President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Winter Meeting, (Vienna, Austria, 13–14 February 2014)

23rd Annual Session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 28 June – 02 July 2014)

Speaker: Ms. Bahar MURADOVA (Azerbaijan), Head of Delegation.

24th Annual Session

Mr. Ilkka KANERVA (Finland) invited the Assembly to hold the 24th Annual Session, July 2015, in Helsinki.

Ms. Christine EGERZEGI-OBRIST (Switzerland) invited the Assembly to hold its Fall Meeting in Geneva (2–5 October 2014).

Mr OLIVER completed his report.

7. Practical and Procedural Matters for the Twenty-second Annual Session

The PRESIDENT outlined the practical and procedural arrangements, in particular that the deadline for the nomination of Assembly officers would be at 10 am on Tuesday 2nd July, and that the elections would be held on the morning of Wednesday 3rd July between 9 am and 11 am, and nominations for committee officers should be handed in before the beginning of the last meeting of the committee in question.

Mr Spencer OLIVER reminded the Standing Committee that a Member who has an unavoidable obligation to leave the Annual Session before the day of elections for President, Vice-President and Treasurer could vote early on application to the Table Office, once all candidates had been duly nominated.

8. General Committees

The Standing Committee ratified the membership of General Committees in accordance with Rule 36(2).

9. Supplementary Items

The PRESIDENT informed the Standing Committee that 28 Supplementary Items had been submitted in accordance with Rule 21, and 235 valid amendments had been received. The proposed distribution between Committees had been circulated. The PRESIDENT reminded the Standing Committee that under the Rules of Procedure, a majority of two-thirds was required to add an item to the agenda, and a simple majority was required on questions of allocation.

DECISIONS:

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following items to the agenda:

1.	STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN THE OSCE REGION (Mr. Guliyev, Azerbaijan)
2.	ENHANCING TRUST, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE OSCE INSTITUTIONS (Mr. De Donnea, Belgium)
3.	STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION (Mr. Bostanci, Turkey)
4.	THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION SCENARIOS (Mr. Sanchez-Amor, Spain)
5.	PROMOTING ENERGY SAVING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE OSCE REGION (Mr. Zarubinskyi, Ukraine)
6.	TRAFFICKING VICTIM WATCHFULNESS: PLANES, TRAINS, BUSES, AND HOTELS (Mr. Smith, USA)

Item 7: THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA (Mr. Onen, Turkey)

Speakers: Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation), Mr. Artashes GEGHAMYAN (Armenia), Mr. Emin ONEN (Turkey).

The Standing Committee proceeded to vote on whether to add this supplementary item to the Agenda.

Noes: 4

The PRESIDENT declared that the Supplementary Item was added to the Agenda.

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following items to the agenda:

8.	INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS (Mr. Wicker, USA)
9.	FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA (Ms. Arena, Belgium)
10.	PROMOTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN THE OSCE REGION (Mr. Allison, Canada)
11.	ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF ENERGY SECURITY (Mr. Acikgoz, Turkey)

Item 12: ENLARGING THE PARTNERSHIP WITH NON-MEMBER MEDITERRANEAN STATES TO INCLUDE THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY (Ms Arena, Belgium)

Speakers: Mr. Roger F. Wicker (USA), Mr. Morten HOGLUND (Norway), Mr. Luigi COMPAGNA (Italy).

Noes: 7
Ayes: 24

The Supplementary Item was added to the Agenda.

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following items to the agenda:

13.	THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS (Mr. Zarubinskyi, Ukraine)
14.	CYBER SECURITY (Ms. Pakosta, Estonia)
15.	THE ARCTIC (Mr. Harstedt, Sweden)
16.	WATER MANAGEMENT AS A PRIORITY FOR THE OSCE CIO IN 2014 (Ms. Berckmoes-Duindam, Netherlands)

Item 17: CITIZENSHIP ISSUES (Mr. Kovalev, Russian Federation)

Speakers: Ms. Vineta PORINA (Latvia), Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation).

Noes: 4
Ayes: 21

The Supplementary Item was added to the Agenda.

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following items to the agenda:

18.	<u>STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE BORDER AREAS OF THE OSCE REGION (Ms. Aknazarova, Kyrgyzstan)</u>
19.	<u>GUANTANAMO (Lord Dubs, United Kingdom)</u>

Item 20: BELARUS (Mr. Holm, Sweden)

Speaker: Mr. Viktor GUMINSKY (Belarus).

Noes: 7

Ayes: 21

The Supplementary Item was added to the Agenda.

Item 21: THE SITUATION IN KAZAKHSTAN (Ms. von Cramon, Germany)

Speakers: Mr. Ikram ADYRBEBKOV (Kazakhstan), Mr. Andrej KOLESIK (Slovak Republic), Ms. Isabel POZUELO (Spain), Mr. Alain NERI (France), Ms. Doris BARNETT (Germany), Mr. Luigi COMPAGNA (Italy), Ms. Bahar A. MURADOVA (Azerbaijan), Mr. Emin ONEN (Turkey).

Noes: 25

Ayes: 7

Since there was not a two-thirds majority, the Supplementary Item was NOT added to the Agenda.

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following items to the agenda:

22.	THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS EFFECT ON THE OSCE AREA (Ms. Pozuelo, Spain)
23.	GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION (Ms. Bychkova, Kazakhstan)
24.	ENSURING THAT CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION (Ms. Bychkova, Kazakhstan)

Item 26: RECOGNITION OF THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW IN RELATION TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (Ms. Arena, Belgium)

Speakers: Mr. Christopher H. SMITH (USA), Mr. Artashes GEGHAMYAN (Armenia), Ms. Barbara BARTUS (Poland), Mr. Luigi COMPAGNA (Italy), Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation).

Noes: 23

Ayes: 5

Since there was not a two-thirds majority, the Supplementary Item was NOT added to the Agenda.

Item 27: KURDS IN TURKEY (Mr. Chaudhry, Norway)

Speakers: Mr. Emin ONEN (Turkey), Mr. Viktor GUMINSKY (Belarus), Mr. Luigi COMPAGNA (Italy), Ms. Doris BARNETT (Germany), Ms. Bahar MURADOVA (Azerbaijan), Lord BOWNESS (United Kingdom), Ms. Isabel POZUELO (Spain), Mr. Morten HOGLUND (Norway).

Noes: 25
Ayes: 4

Since there was not a two-thirds majority, the Supplementary Item was NOT added to the Agenda.

[Mr. Robert B. ADERHOLT, a Vice-President of the OSCE PA, took the Chair.]

Item 28: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Ms. de Caluwe, Netherlands)

Speakers: Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation), Mr. Artashes GEGHAMYAN (Armenia), Mr. Eric SMALING (Netherlands), Mr. Jose I. SANCHEZ AMOR (Spain).

Noes: 11
Ayes: 19

Since there was not a two-thirds majority, the Supplementary Item was NOT added to the Agenda.

The Standing Committee approved the addition of the following item to the agenda:

29.	CO-OPERATION ON THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Mr. Guminsky, Belarus)
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The Standing Committee approved the allocation of supplementary items as follows:

1. STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN THE OSCE REGION	3rd
2. ENHANCING TRUST, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE OSCE INSTITUTIONS	Plenary
3. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION	3rd
4. THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL	1st

AUTHORITIES IN POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION SCENARIOS	
5. PROMOTING ENERGY SAVING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE OSCE REGION	2nd
6. TRAFFICKING VICTIM WATCHFULNESS: PLANES, TRAINS, BUSES, AND HOTELS	Plenary
7. THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA	Plenary
8. INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS	Plenary
9. FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA	Plenary
10. PROMOTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN THE OSCE REGION	3rd
11. ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF ENERGY SECURITY	2nd
12. ENLARGING THE PARTNERSHIP WITH NON-MEMBER MEDITERRANEAN STATES TO INCLUDE THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY	1st
13. THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS	1st
14. CYBER SECURITY	1st
15. THE ARCTIC	1st
16. WATER MANAGEMENT AS A PRIORITY FOR THE OSCE CIO IN 2014	2nd
17. CITIZENSHIP ISSUES	3rd
18. STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE BORDER AREAS OF THE OSCE REGION	2nd
19. GUANTANAMO	1st
20. BELARUS	3rd
22. THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS EFFECT ON THE OSCE AREA	1st
23. GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION	2nd
24. ENSURING THAT CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION	2nd
29. CO-OPERATION ON THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	2nd

The PRESIDENT informed the Standing Committee that, in view of the large amount of business which it had to transact, on Tuesday 2 July the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security (First Committee) would hold two meetings, from 09:00 to 11:00 and from 11:30 to 13:30. On 2 July there would be no meeting of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee).

10. Report of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and consideration of the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Mr. João SOARES (Portugal) reported the results of the work of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure. The Sub-Committee proposed the following amendments to the Rules of Procedure:

Rule 4
Officers of the Assembly

Amend paragraph 3 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

3. The retiring President shall, ex officio, hold office as President Emeritus until the election of a President subsequent to his or her successor. ***If a President ceases to be a member of the Assembly or resigns during his or her term of office, the current President Emeritus shall remain in his or her position until a subsequent President completes his or her mandate and consequently takes office as President Emeritus.***

The Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Assembly immediately following the election of the President.

Rule 5
Election of Officers

Amend paragraph 2 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

2. The Vice-Presidents shall also be elected by secret ballot. Each Member entitled to vote may cast as many votes as there are positions to be filled. The three candidates who obtain the most votes shall be elected for three years. If there are unexpired terms to be filled the candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected. In event of a tie the matter shall be decided by lot. ***If a Vice President ceases to be a member of the Assembly or resigns the resulting vacancy shall be filled at the next Annual Session.***

Rule 13
Autumn Meetings

Amend Rule 13 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics)

1. The Assembly shall hold its ***Autumn Meetings*** once a year for no more than three days.
2. The ***Autumn Meetings*** shall consist of meetings of the Standing Committee and Special Conferences.
3. The ***Autumn Meetings*** shall take place in one of the OSCE participating or Partner States, as decided by the Standing Committee.

4. The *Autumn* Meetings shall be open to the public, unless a meeting decides otherwise.

Rule 15 *Extraordinary Sessions*

Amend Rule 15 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

The Assembly may be convened in Extraordinary Session by the President at the request of ***two-thirds of the Members of the Standing Committee***.

Rule 16 *Agenda*

Amend paragraph 1 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. There shall be an Agenda of the Annual Session, proposed by the President, after consultation with the Bureau, for approval by the Standing Committee. The Assembly may amend the Agenda. ***National delegations may submit proposals for the general theme of the Annual Session for consideration by the Bureau.*** The final Agenda shall be adopted by the Assembly. The President shall also propose an Agenda for the Winter Meeting and the *Autumn* Meetings. The Standing Committee at the Winter Meeting and the *Autumn* Meetings will approve its agenda on the proposal of the President ***by a two thirds majority of the votes cast.*** The General Committees during the Winter Meeting will approve their agendas on the proposal of their Chairs. The Bureau may also propose issues to be included in the agendas of the General Committees. The draft agendas, proposed by the Bureau and the Chairs, will be communicated to the National Delegations normally six weeks before the opening of the Annual Session or the Winter and *Autumn* Meetings.

Rule 21 *Supplementary Items*

Amend paragraph 1 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. 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. ***In addition, a Member of the Assembly cannot be a co-sponsor of more than four supplementary items.*** 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 may place only fifteen supplementary***

items on the agenda of the Annual 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 majority of votes cast whether to refer a supplementary item to the competent Committee or to submit it to the plenary.

Insert new paragraph 3:

3. Supplementary Items which obtain the level of support required by Rule 21.1 and have no amendments meeting the requirements of Rule 22.1, but which are not placed on the agenda of the Annual Session by the Standing Committee under rule 21.1, shall be referred directly to the plenary or competent Committee. The principal sponsor of such an item may speak for one minute in support, another member may speak for one minute against, and immediately thereafter it shall be put to the vote without further debate. If carried the item shall be included in the final document as an annex. Such items shall not be amendable.

Insert new paragraph 4:

4. Supplementary items which have been debated at the previous Annual Session shall not be considered eligible for debate. In special circumstances, where an item is deemed urgent and topical the President in consultation with the Vice Presidents may place it on the agenda of the Annual Session for debate. The President's decision shall be binding upon the Assembly and not debatable.

Rule 22 *Amendments*

Insert new paragraph 10:

10. Manuscript or oral amendments may only be considered if there is unanimous agreement by the members of the Committee or plenary present.

Rule 24 *Validation of Signatures*

Amend paragraph 1 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. The signatures of Members of the Assembly who signed a supplementary item ~~*or an amendment*~~ are valid provided they register for **and attend** the Annual Session **and provided they signed no more than four supplementary items in accordance with Rule 21.1.**

2. *The signatures of Members of the Assembly who signed an amendment are valid provided they register for and attend the Annual Session.*

3. In the event that a Member of the Assembly who registered for but cannot attend the Annual Session due to unavoidable obligations, his or her signatures shall remain valid provided that the President of the Assembly is notified accordingly by the Head of a Delegation.

Rule 27
Right to Speak

Amend paragraph 2 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

2. Except for the Chair and General Rapporteur of the General Committee, Members wishing to speak in a general debate shall enter their names in a register provided for the purpose ***not later than one hour before the announced time for the opening of the sitting.*** In all cases, the Chair shall determine the order in which Members shall be called to speak. The Chair may close the list when the number of speakers multiplied by five minutes exceeds the time available for the session. Alternatively, the Chair may reduce the time limit for each speaker to less than five minutes in order to allow more Members to participate in the debate.

Insert new paragraph 8:

8. Points of order shall only be raised by Members of the Assembly.

Rule 30
Organization of Debates

Delete paragraph 2:

1. The President may, at his or her discretion, propose to the Assembly a programme and timetable for a specific debate or time-limits on speeches.

~~***2. The Assembly shall vote on such proposals without debate.***~~

Rule 32
Methods of Voting

Insert new paragraph 5:

5. The Chair may with the consent of the Assembly put paragraphs or resolutions, or a number of paragraphs thereof to the vote en bloc, but any member may request a separate vote on each or a particular paragraph.

Rule 33
Majorities

Amend sub-paragraph (a) as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

(a) a majority of the votes cast, *meaning more than half of the votes cast*;

Rule 36
General Committees

Amend paragraph 5 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

5. General Committees shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a General Rapporteur, who are the Officers of General Committees, at the close of the sitting at each Annual Session for the following year. Candidates shall be sponsored in writing. Unless the General Committee decides otherwise, they shall be nominated before the opening of the last scheduled meeting of the General Committee during the Annual Session. The General Committee Officers shall be elected by a majority of votes cast in a secret ballot. If no candidate has obtained a majority, a second ballot shall be held between the two candidates having obtained the highest number of votes in the first ballot. In the event of a tie, the issue shall be decided by lot. If there is only one candidate nominated for an office the candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation. In the event of a vacancy arising during the course of the year, the ***President*** may appoint a substitute.

Rule 37
Powers and Duties of Committees

Delete paragraph 4:

1. Committees may examine OSCE issues relevant to their area of competence.
2. Committees shall examine all matters referred to them in accordance with Rule 16 above and all proposals and questions submitted to them in pursuance of a decision taken by the Assembly, the Standing Committee, the Bureau or the President.
3. General Committees shall examine the reports submitted by the General Rapporteurs and shall act upon the draft resolutions.

~~***4. 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.***~~

Rule 40
Secretariat

Insert new sub-paragraph (a):

1. (a) The Bureau shall take steps to ensure that in the interests of transparency before the election or re-election of the Secretary General and the senior appointments referred to in Rule 40.3 the posts shall be advertised outside and within the organisation, and that all applications received are considered by the Bureau before a recommendation to or election by the Standing Committee.

Amend paragraph 1 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. The Secretary General shall be ***elected***, on the proposal of the Bureau, by the Standing Committee ***by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by secret ballot***. The ***election*** shall be for five years ***and may be renewable twice by a majority of the votes cast by secret ballot*** in the Standing Committee. ***The Standing Committee may in exceptional circumstances, on the proposal of the Bureau, consider further renewal of the term in office of the Secretary General by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by secret ballot.*** The Standing Committee will set his or her duties, remuneration and conditions of employment consistent with the annual budget.

Amend paragraph 3 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

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.

Rule 44
Observers

Amend paragraph 1 as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. Provided notification has been given to the Secretariat, representatives of the following organizations may be admitted as observers: the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; ~~*the Assembly of WEU*~~; the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the European Parliament and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS;

Rule 45
Amendment of Rules of Procedure

Reverse paragraphs 1 and 2 and amend them as follows (substantive amendment in bold italics):

1. The President may appoint a sub-committee to examine *the Rules of Procedure* and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.
2. *When a Member of the Assembly submits amendments to the Rules of Procedure these amendments shall be submitted in writing and signed* by at least eleven Members from at least three countries.
3. 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.

[Mr Wolfgang GROSSRUCK, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, resumed the Chair.]

Speakers: Mr. Alain NERI (France), Ms. Roza AKNAZAROVA (Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation).

Mr SOARES replied.

Speakers: Ms. Doris BARNETT (Germany), Mr. Christopher H. SMITH (USA), Mr. Sofoclis FITTIS (Cyprus), Mr. Nikolay KOVALEV (Russian Federation).

Mr SOARES replied.

Speaker: Mr. Ghislain MALTAIS (Canada).

DECISION: The amendments to the Rules of Procedure proposed by the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure were adopted, except that in Rule 21, the words “a two-thirds” would not be left out.

The amendments would take effect 30 days from the date of their agreement by the Standing Committee, in accordance with Rule 45.3 of the Rules of Procedure.

10. Report of the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE

Mr. François-Xavier DE DONNEA (Belgium) reported as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE and invited the Standing Committee to fully reactivate the 1997 Co-operation Agreement.

Mr. Roberto BATTELLI (Slovenia) reported on the election observation missions in Albania and Bulgaria. He underlined that the early drafting procedure, which implies the co-operation of everybody present, was one of the positive aspects of the EOM in Albania and suggested formalizing it in writing.

Mr. DE DONNEA replied, stressing that the last delicate issue remaining concerned the time at which the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly intervene in the drafting of the statement. He suggested taking time to see how the reactivated co-operation works in practice before deciding whether there is a need for a written agreement with the ODIHR on this subject.

Speakers: Ms. Christine EGRSZEGI-OBRIST (Switzerland), Mr. Kent HARSTEDT (Sweden), Mr. Alain NERI (France), Mr. George TSERETELI (Georgia), Mr. Eric SMALING (Netherlands).

Mr. BATTELLI emphasized that it is important to ensure that all the institutions involved in the drafting are included at an early stage, for example 4-5 days before the election. He regretted that initially in Albania neither the OSCE PA nor the PACE contributions were taken into account by the ODIHR. He believed that the experts should put together a draft based on all the input received. He suggested holding a vote on the reactivation of the Copenhagen Agreement provided that it is agreed that the issue of early drafting should be included.

Speakers: Mr. Jose I. SANCHEZ AMOR (Spain), Mr. Peter Juel JENSEN (Denmark),

Mr. Spencer OLIVER specified that the proposal made implies that the early drafting procedure should take place from the beginning and include all partners: the OSCE PA, ODIHR, PACE, NATO PA and the European Parliament. Bringing all parliamentarians together with the ODIHR will help reach a consensus on the evaluation of the elections.

Mr. BATTELLI specified that this practice will enforce the agreement and prevent future conflicts.

The PRESIDENT expressed his full support for Mr. de Donnea's proposal provided Mr. Battelli's suggestions were integrated and put the decision to a vote.

DECISION: The Standing Committee agreed unanimously that the work of the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of election observation should be fully renewed within the framework of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement with ODIHR, provided that joint drafting of the preliminary statement started four or five days before election day.

10. Close of meeting

The PRESIDENT closed the meeting at 12.10 pm.