

REPORT

Nineteenth Annual Session

Oslo, Norway

*Rule of Law: Combating
Transnational Crime and Corruption*



REPORT ON THE 19TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary



The 19th Annual Session was held from 6 to 10 July in Oslo

Under the general theme of “Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption,” the OSCE PA’s 19th Annual Session took place from 6 to 10 July in Oslo. Hosted by the Parliament of Norway, the Storting, the Annual Session debated resolutions dealing with various dimensions of the theme, as well as 35 supplementary items covering a wide range of topics. Around 250 parliamentarians participated in the meeting.

At the closing plenary, the Assembly adopted the Oslo Declaration containing resolutions ranging from issues such as the situation in Kyrgyzstan to the Parliamentary Assembly’s involvement in the Corfu process, the peace process in the Middle East, nuclear security, cybercrime, the situation in the Arctic, the right of return of internally displaced persons, investigative journalism, and the death penalty.

The Session ended with the election of Petros Efthymiou (Greece) as the Assembly’s new President. Mr. Efthymiou, a former Vice-President of the Assembly, succeeds Joao Soares (Portugal) who had served as President for two one-year terms.

The Assembly also elected three new Vice-Presidents: Riccardo Migliori (Italy), Alex-

ander Kozlovskiy (Russia) and Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine), while Isabel Pozuelo (Spain) was re-elected.

The three General Committees of the Assembly also elected new officers for the coming year. In the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Karl-Georg Wellmann (Germany) was elected Chair, Canan Kalsin was elected Vice-Chair and Tonino Picula (Croatia), Rapporteur.

In the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, Roland Blum (France) Ivor Callely (Ireland) and Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) were all re-elected, and in the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), Robert Aderholt (United States), and Matteo Mecacci (Italy) were all re-elected.

At the Assembly’s Standing Committee meeting on 6 July, OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver was re-appointed for another five-year term with over 95 per cent of the vote. The Standing Committee, which consists of the Assembly’s 55 Heads of Delegation and Members of the Bureau, also froze and adopted the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget in a unanimous vote.

Oslo Declaration



At the close of each Annual Session, the Assembly adopts a Declaration consisting of the resolutions of the three General Committees as well as supplementary items that have been considered. The Declaration, with recommendations in the fields of political affairs, security, and economic, environmental and human rights issues, represents the collective voice of the OSCE parliamentarians.

The 19th Annual Session concluded with the adoption of the Oslo Declaration, outlining a set of policy recommendations to the OSCE and its participating States. The Declaration contains three resolutions and 35 supplementary items that had been debated and amended in the General Committees. The three Committee resolutions dealt with various aspects of the Session's theme, "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption."

A recurring call in these resolutions was for strengthening international mechanisms to combat transnational crime and promote the rule of law. Specifically, the Assembly called on participating States to ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption, and urged Parties to these conventions to "regularly exchange information on their programmes, plans and actions."

One of the major supplementary items, introduced in a plenary session by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, Johannes Koskinen (Finland), called for enhancing the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE Corfu Process.

The resolution highlighted the importance of a parliamentary dimension in the on-going dialogue on security issues and welcomed the expanded mandate of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE, which is tasked with strengthening parliamentary involvement in the Corfu Process.

Also debated in plenary session was a supplementary item on the situation in Kyrgyzstan, introduced by Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), the Assembly's Special Representative for Central Asia. The Kyrgyzstan resolution called on the international community to maintain its commitment to supporting the country.

The Declaration is available at the Assembly's website, www.oscepa.org.





Inaugural Plenary Session



Dag Terje Andersen welcomes participants to Oslo

Opening the 19th Annual Session in Oslo on 6 July, OSCE PA President Joao Soares (Portugal) asked for a moment of silence in memory of Felix Pons, former Speaker of the Spanish Parliament and a founder of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

President Soares underlined the timeliness and importance of the topics of discussion for the next several days, including a resolution on the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

He also expressed thanks to the Norwegian Parliament for hosting the event and welcomed the role played by the preceding president Goran Lennmarker (Sweden) as well as his predecessor Alcee L. Hastings (USA) in affirming Kazakhstan's right to hold the OSCE Chairmanship.

Mr. Soares praised Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), Special Representative for Central Asia, and Adil Akhmetov (Kazakhstan), Special Envoy to Kyrgyzstan, for their work in responding to the recent ethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan. The President stressed that "the OSCE needs to lend all its efforts, expertise and knowledge to try to help Kyrgyzstan overcome the present crisis and return to the path towards an improved democracy."

President Soares also highlighted the OSCE PA's first-ever election observation mission to the United Kingdom, where many MPs from countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States took part. Mr. Soares cited this mission as evidence of the consistent standards that the OSCE PA applies to countries east and west of Vienna.

Welcoming Address by the President of the Parliament of Norway, Dag Terje Andersen

In his remarks, the President of the Storting, Dag Terje Andersen, offered condolences to the victims of the recent violence in Kyrgyzstan and addressed the need for finding a way out of the crisis. Mr. Andersen commended the recent adoption of a new constitution as cause for optimism and called upon the OSCE PA to support the adoption of the supplementary item on Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Andersen also noted the relevance of the Annual Session's theme, "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption," emphasizing that "transnational crime and corruption are having negative effects on all OSCE countries and citizens – every day." He called on participating States to work together and involve all drug producing and transit countries in order to effectively combat drug smuggling.

Mr. Andersen addressed the problem of human trafficking as "one of the most serious in the OSCE area." Despite the measures undertaken to combat the fight against trafficking, "the relatively low number of court cases against the organizers indicates that our efforts are not sufficient," he said. He went on to note that in order to reduce international crime, parliamentarians should raise awareness about the problems in their constituencies, make and adopt proper legislation and co-ordinate efforts with police, tribunals and judicial systems to enforce them.

Inaugural Plenary Session



Address by Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Jonas Gahr Støre, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, opened his remarks by referring to the Kazakh Chairmanship and the OSCE's constructive role in managing the crisis in Kyrgyzstan. He also highlighted the unique ability of the OSCE to tackle these common problems.

"The Organization's broad membership, as well as its comprehensive approach to security, are two of its hallmarks and greatest strengths," he said. "New threats from terrorism, trafficking and climate change mean that a broad perspective is needed more than ever, and a strengthened political dialogue must be at its core."

In order to improve the OSCE's conflict prevention and crisis response, Mr. Støre emphasized the important role of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the need for negotiating a new framework for conventional arms control and the preservation of the achievements made in the human dimension.

Address by the OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

Representing the Kazakh Chairmanship, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut highlighted the important role played by the OSCE as "the first to react to the crisis situation in Kyrgyzstan." Ambassador de Brichambaut also noted the broad participation of OSCE participating States and of the OSCE



Parliamentary Assembly in the Corfu Process.

Following his remarks the OSCE Secretary General responded to questions from the assembled parliamentarians. Support was expressed for an OSCE Summit of Heads of State and Government and Ambassador de Brichambaut reiterated the Chairmanship's commitment to holding one in 2010. According to the Secretary General, the Summit is likely to be a launching point for drafting an OSCE Action Plan with selected key areas identified.

Address by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Tone Tingsgaard

Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden) presented the 2010 Gender Balance Report with a special focus on the Norwegian model for gender legislation, particularly the country's gender quota system. In her presentation, Ms. Tingsgaard noted that "the OSCE has a long way to go before it reaches the status of a gender equal Organization which properly mainstreams its work." Nevertheless, she welcomed the decision to appoint a woman as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and also as the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

Ms. Tingsgaard also noted that fighting for gender balance and gender mainstreaming goes hand-in hand with the fight against prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

The Special Representative remarked that despite a recent change of the OSCE PA's Rules of Procedure, which calls for representation of both genders in each national delegation, the Assembly continues to have too few women represented.

Plenary Debate



Plenary Debate on the Situation in Kyrgyzstan

The debate on the situation in Kyrgyzstan was introduced by the Assembly's Special Representative for Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen, who reported on his recent visit to the region. Mr. Kiljunen offered condolences and expressed concern over the tragic events that took place in Osh and Jalalabad in mid-June. He expressed support for the use of the early warning mechanism and to the calls for a multi-ethnic police force. Stressing the need for normalizing border relations between Kyrgyzstan and its neighbours, primarily Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Mr. Kiljunen requested that both neighbouring countries undertake additional efforts in this direction. He also informed the Assembly that President Roza Otunbaeva has invited him to co-ordinate the establishment of an international inquiry commission.

Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, informed the Assembly about his most recent visit to Bishkek where he spoke to the authorities about the need for inter-communal communication among the different ethnic groups and the need to re-establish law. The High Commissioner also welcomed the decision of the OSCE Permanent Council to offer police assistance to Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Vollebaek echoed Mr. Kiljunen's sentiments in noting the need to establish an independent international assessment commission in southern Kyrgyzstan.

Secretary General de Brichambaut commended the reaction of the various OSCE Institutions to the crisis, including the extraor-



dinary job being done by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, as well as the excellent co-ordination among international organizations on the issue. Mr. de Brichambaut called on the parliamentarians for support in reinforcing the OSCE field presence in the country. He described plans to elaborate the proposed OSCE police mission to monitor the situation in southern Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan's deputy head of the provisional government, Omurbek Tekebaev, provided relevant context for the recent unrest in his country and highlighted the urgency of supporting democratic processes, including the recent referendum and upcoming parliamentary elections, as well as fighting corruption and substantive reforms in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Tekebaev appreciated the call for an independent international inquiry into the violence.

Continuing the discussion later in the week, Kimmo Kiljunen acknowledged that the June violence in southern Kyrgyzstan was not reflected in the original drafting of his resolution and welcomed an amendment that called for an international investigation into the causes of the violence. Mr. Tekebaev noted that an international investigation would benefit not just Kyrgyzstan, but neighbouring countries as well.

The Kyrgyzstan resolution called for continued international support to the country, normalizing border relations, establishing an international investigation into the causes of the June violence, supporting frameworks for inter-ethnic dialogue, strengthening democratic institutions, and supporting a multi-party system in the country.

Following the adoption of five amendments, the resolution was agreed to unanimously.







Standing Committee



The Standing Committee consists of the 55 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year -- at the Winter Meeting, the Fall Meetings and the Annual Session -- the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

President Joao Soares (Portugal), addressing the Standing Committee on 6 July, providing a brief description of his recent activities including visits to the South Caucasus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and the Election Observation Mission to the United Kingdom.

Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported on the current financial situation and the Assembly's budget surplus. He answered questions mainly regarding financial accruals. The budget for 2010-11 was frozen and approved unanimously.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver informed the Assembly about the activities and efficient work of the International Secretariat during the past year. In particular, he pointed to the Assembly's increasing role as an important forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue, providing critical political input to the Organization's work in the field.

Mr. Oliver was re-appointed as Secretary General for another five-year term with 42 votes in favor and two votes against.

The Chair of the Rules Subcommittee, Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark), reported on discussion by the Committee regarding proposed rules changes for the election of the Secretary General and the requirements for being an Assembly member. The discussion, Ms. Christmas-Moeller reported, will continue during the Fall Meetings in Palermo followed by a proposal for the Winter Meeting in Vienna in 2011.

Kathleen Ferrier (Netherlands), Special Representative on Migration, noted that collaboration between the Permanent Council and the Parliamentary Assembly has the potential to "really make a difference" on the issue of migration.

The Special Representative for Afghanistan, Michel Voisin (France), commented on the

national reconciliation process taking place within the country, where a High Council of Peace is attempting to facilitate dialogue between combatants. He said that "although the path is long and full of obstacles, it remains of the utmost importance to help Afghanistan achieve political stability, and economic development."

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), Special Representative on South East Europe, reported on his activities over the past year, including a March 2010 visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina that he made with President Soares. The Special Representative also commented on the work of the Parliamentary Assembly in regards to the political situation in Albania, as well as participation in various regional seminars and events.

Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) reported on his June visit to Kyrgyzstan in his capacity as Special Representative for Central Asia.

Petur H. Blondal (Iceland), Special Representative on the OSCE Budget, shared several recommendations regarding the OSCE budget, including recommendations on the allocation of funds within the Organization; the importance of long-term budget planning; and the need to update existing financial guidelines and introduce new ones where appropriate.

Mr. Blondal also advocated that the PA be given a supervisory role over the OSCE budget and be integrated into the decision-making process regarding the budget.

Christopher Smith (United States), Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, shared comments regarding best practices for tackling the ongoing problem of human trafficking. He specifically mentioned new policies of Air France, which has been training its staff to identify potential victims of trafficking. Mr. Smith also mentioned his work in the U.S. Congress on this topic.







General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Under the Chairmanship of Consiglio Di Nino (Canada), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security discussed a wide range of topics including the Rapporteur's report and draft resolution on transnational crime and corruption in the OSCE area.

Report and Resolution

Vice-Chair Canan Kalsin (Turkey) presented the follow-up report to the 2009 Vilnius Declaration, highlighting, in particular, various national initiatives to help stabilize Afghanistan. In his report and draft resolution, the Committee Rapporteur, Riccardo Migliori (Italy), argued that without engaging in efforts to combat transnational crime and corruption, there can be no real security within the OSCE area. He noted that among other things, the battle against large-scale organized crime entails defending democracy against the "unjust conditioning of society, the economy, the media and politics."

Mr. Migliori stressed that due to their breadth and invasive nature, criminal organizations have the potential to create "dirty" economies and political structures that have the ability to promote corrupt interests rather than those concerned with the common good. He continued by stating that "if there is a field in which the indivisibility of security is not only a choice but also a duty that all OSCE countries share, it is the field of a renewed political and legislative fight against crime."

Mr. Migliori underlined the fact that the purpose of the work of the PA should be to co-ordinate national legislation and increase

parliamentary co-operation as much as possible in order to effectively combat these pervasive problems. The report also states that the most useful starting point for work in this field is perhaps the UN Convention against Organized Crime, which was approved in Palermo, Italy in December 2000. The Palermo Convention was accompanied by an additional three protocols designed to address various aspects of transnational crime and corruption.

The Rapporteur noted that if every participating State were to include the principles of the Palermo Convention, as well as the three additional protocols, in their national legal systems it would significantly lessen the existing differences, and, as a result, facilitate a more robust co-ordinated fight against transnational crime. Mr. Migliori concluded his presentation by expressing his hope that in the future the Assembly will recall the Oslo Declaration as an important tool in strengthening the fight against transnational crime and corruption throughout the OSCE area.

The draft resolution entitled "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption," was discussed, along with 24 proposed amendments. Ultimately, the amended version was adopted, and Mr. Migliori thanked the Committee members for their thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

Supplementary Items

Twelve supplementary items, covering a diverse set of topics, were debated, amended and adopted in the First Committee. The sup-

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



plementary items ranged from promoting trust in the OSCE PA to nuclear security to fighting terrorism and drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

The amended version of the supplementary item on supporting the peace in the Middle East, sponsored by Isabel Pozuelo (Spain), stressed the need for the resumption of substantive negotiations that will enable the continuation of the peace process towards a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The resolution considered it essential to achieve progress in terms of eliminating access and limitations on movement that impair trade, and to expand the scope and volume of goods that can enter and leave Gaza for trade and humanitarian purposes.

The supplementary item concerning Guantanamo, sponsored by Pierre Fauchon (France), called for the permanent closure of the U.S. detention facility and encouraged OSCE participating States to receive detainees who have been cleared for release and who are unable to return to their country due to political reasons.

Sponsored by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), the supplementary item on Moldova expressed concern for the lack of progress in the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict as well as the impact that the protracted conflict has had on Moldovan integration into European structures. The supplementary item reiterated the Parliamentary Assembly's readiness to support peace, stability and rule of law throughout the country, *inter alia*, by supporting political dialogue in the Transnistrian settlement process.

The supplementary item "Fighting Terrorism, the Production and Trafficking of Narcotics and Illegal Emigration in Afghanistan," sponsored

by Claudio D'Amico (Italy), recommended "that neighbouring OSCE participating States adopt all necessary measures to ensure an effective monitoring of their borders." It also recommended that countries producing chemicals used to refine opiates adopt laws to prevent the marketing of those substances.

Of particular significance to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the eve of next year's 20th Annual Session in Belgrade, was a supplementary item sponsored by Consiglio Di Nino (Canada) entitled "Future Priorities of the OSCE PA: The Next Decade." He maintained that not only has the Assembly had to stay true to its core principles over the years, but has also had to adapt to new challenges in order to remain a vital and relevant Institution.

Mr. Di Nino also touched on some of the challenges that the PA has had to confront, including the need for greater integration and interaction with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, the challenge of promoting peace and stability, and also the sometimes tenuous relations between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Organization's governmental side.

After being amended, all supplementary items were adopted by the Committee.

Election of Officers

Chair:	Karl-Georg Wellmann (Germany)
Vice-Chair:	Canan Kalsin (Turkey)
Rapporteur:	Tonino Picula (Croatia)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment



Second Committee Chair Roland Blum (France) opened the first session of the Committee on 7 July by outlining the agenda for the coming days. In addition to the resolution, a total of ten supplementary items were debated and adopted by the Second Committee, dealing with a wide range of topics including energy security, climate change, Mediterranean co-operation, the Arctic, the UN's Millenium Development Goals and cybercrime.

Report and Resolution

Vice-Chair Ivor Callely (Ireland) presented the follow-up report on recommendations in the Vilnius Declaration. He thanked the delegations that had responded to the questionnaire and encouraged the OSCE PA delegates to “examine this invaluable source of information in the interest of continuing the exchange of best practices.”

The Committee Rapporteur, Serhiy Shevchuk, then presented his report on the economic and environmental dimension of transnational crime and corruption, noting in particular that “the high level of crime, coupled with the ‘erosion’ of society as a result of corruption in low-income countries, is undermining global efforts to combat poverty.”

In his report, Mr. Shevchuk stated that “the political elites are unable to achieve either an economic, scientific, technological or social breakthrough for the reason that, if it continues to be what it is today, corruption will continue to consume the very resources that they might otherwise have invested in the future of their countries.” To combat this problem, Mr. Shevchuk urged countries to introduce amendments

to their national laws and strengthen their judicial systems to ensure compliance with the UN Palermo Convention.

The draft resolution specifically called upon OSCE participating States to engage in concerted measures, the exchange of best practices, and foster greater regional co-operation between law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of and fight against transnational crime and corruption.

Participants in the debate recognized that transnational crime and corruption represent a threat to the legitimacy of state authority as well as citizen confidence, by encouraging criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings, money laundering or drugs and weapons smuggling.

Seventeen amendments were debated, with three defeated and one withdrawn. The amended resolution was adopted with one abstention.

Supplementary Items

Morten Hoeglund (Norway) introduced a supplementary item concerning the Arctic, which called for a “peaceful resolution of current and future border disputes,” as well as the “development of effective regulations to reduce all forms of pollution from ships sailing in the Arctic Ocean.” The resolution also urged participating States to give consideration to “the climate change threats to the Arctic region” at the upcoming COP 16 summit in Cancun. The resolution was adopted with two amendments.

A supplementary item focused on energy security was introduced by Artak Davtyan (Armenia) and was adopted without amend-

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment



ments. A resolution on climate change, sponsored by Jordi Guillot (Spain), was also agreed to overwhelmingly.

A resolution on Mediterranean co-operation submitted by Alcee L. Hastings (United States) called on participating States “to engage in dialogue with the Union for the Mediterranean and other international organizations in order to facilitate synergistic co-operation with the activities of the OSCE Mediterranean dimension.” It also “encourages OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners to send robust delegations to participate in OSCE election observation missions” and “to invite the OSCE and other international observation missions to their elections.” The resolution was adopted unanimously.

A supplementary item proposed by Goran Lennmarker (Sweden) called on the OSCE participating States to “facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons in dignity and safety.” The resolution, adopted by a large majority, urged “the parties to the conflict in Georgia to fully implement the agreements made on 12 August and 8 September 2008” and “to continue dialogue.”

Eric Smaling (The Netherlands) introduced a supplementary item on “the matching of agricultural production with protection of natural ecosystems.” He noted that “as we move to nine billion people in 2050, the need for agricultural land tends to grow at the expense of land under natural vegetation.” His resolution was adopted following a lively debate.

In his introduction of a supplementary item concerning cybercrime, Daniel Petit (Canada) noted that through stolen identities and access to bank accounts, criminals are abusing advances in information and communications technology.

The resolution “calls on the international community to increase co-operation and information in the field of cyber security, cyber crime” and “to agree on specific countermeasures against cyber threats.” The resolution was adopted unanimously and un-amended.

A supplementary item on migration was adopted by a large majority after an animated discussion. Its principal sponsor, Kathleen Ferrer (The Netherlands), called upon participating States to move away from the term “illegal immigrants” and instead use the phrase “undocumented migrants” as “no human being arrives in this world illegally.”

A resolution clarifying the status of experts in decision-making processes was adopted un-amended. Its principal sponsor, Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), highlighted the importance of reinforcing the “impartiality and objectivity of experts recruited by international organizations.”

The last resolution taken up by the Committee referred to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Introduced by Jordi Guillot (Spain), it called on participating States to renew their support of the MDGs on the eve of a UN Summit, which is expected to provide a plan to accelerate action on the MDGs. An amended version of the resolution was adopted.

Election of Officers

Chair:	<i>Roland Blum</i> <i>(France)</i>
Vice-Chair:	<i>Ivor Callely</i> <i>(Ireland)</i>
Rapporteur:	<i>Serhiy Shevchuk</i> <i>(Ukraine)</i>

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), Chair of the Third General Committee, presided over the four Committee meetings on 7-9 July 2010. During the meetings the assembled parliamentarians discussed the report and draft resolution presented by Rapporteur Matteo Mecacci (Italy) as well as 11 supplementary items.

Report and Resolution

Vice-Chair Robert Aderholt (United States) presented the follow-up report on the Vilnius Declaration in which he noted specific initiatives made by participating States in implementing the resolutions passed in Vilnius the previous year. Mr. Aderholt highlighted in particular such issues as fighting trafficking in human beings, decreasing levels of maternal mortality, increasing tolerance and freedom of the media.

Rapporteur Matteo Mecacci (Italy) then presented his draft resolution to the Committee. He drew specific attention to research by Transparency International and the World Bank Institute on the interdependence between the rates of crime and corruption and rule of law implementation. Only seven out of the OSCE's 56 participating States, he pointed out, have a low level of crime and corruption and a robust rule of law. Mr. Mecacci also touched on the issue of human trafficking. According to the UN 2008 Report on Trafficking in Human Beings, he said, 78 per cent of trafficking victims are sexually exploited, and 20 per cent of all trafficking victims are children and minors.

In the debate that followed Mr. Mecacci's presentation, speakers thanked the Rapporteur for touching upon such important issues. Par-

ticipants expressed concern about transnational crime and corruption and shared national best practices in the fight against it. Calls were made by several delegations for increased levels of co-operation among the participating States and strengthened efforts to combat corruption. The discussion also touched upon the need to raise awareness concerning the protection of trafficking victims as well as on the complex relationship between freedom of information on the internet and combating cybercrime. It was mentioned that legislation intended to combat crime sometimes has the effect of restricting free access to information on the internet.

Out of 20 submitted amendments to the draft resolution six amendments were withdrawn by the sponsors, four were defeated and ten were adopted. The draft resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Supplementary Items

The Third Committee discussed 11 supplementary items, including "The OSCE's Commitment in Favour of Religious Freedom and the Separation between Religious Communities and the State," sponsored by Jose Antonio Perez Tapias (Spain). Ten amendments were offered to Mr. Tapias's resolution, with four adopted, five defeated and one withdrawn. The supplementary item was adopted.

The supplementary item "The Protection of Investigative Journalists," sponsored by Benjamin Cardin (United States), called upon participating States to promote the free flow of information. It also requested support for the vital work of investigative journalists and called on participating States to take actions to support

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



and defend journalists. One amendment was adopted, four failed and one was withdrawn.

Christine Egerszegi-Obrist (Switzerland) sponsored the supplementary item on “National Minorities in Interstate Relations” which passed with one amendment adopted. This supplementary item called for countries to ensure that a conferral of citizenship to individuals abroad respects good neighbourly relations between States.

The supplementary item on “Prohibition of Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity,” presented by Jordi Guillot (Spain), called for tolerance regarding sexual and gender orientation. The issue was debated at length, with some delegates expressed their concerns about the difficulty of implementing legal action in this field.

Cecilia Wigstrom (Sweden) sponsored the supplementary item on “Women’s Rights and Reproductive Health.” The item advocated health care support in order to reduce maternal mortality and promote reproductive and sexual health. In the debate that followed parliamentarians touched on various aspects related to reproductive health. The resolution was adopted with seven amendments.

The discussion then moved on to the supplementary item “The Death Penalty” sponsored by Rapporteur Matteo Mecacci (Italy), with ten amendments offered and defeated. The item was overwhelmingly adopted.

The supplementary item “Partnership in Assisting Refugees,” presented by Claudio D’Amico (Italy), urged participating States to strive for a more equitable sharing of the flow of refugees, bearing in mind criteria such as geographical proximity to the country of origin.

“The Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel,” another supplementary item sponsored by Mr. Mecacci, called on participating States to circulate information concerning the human rights of armed forces personnel and commit themselves to amending their national statutes to afford a broader range of protections.

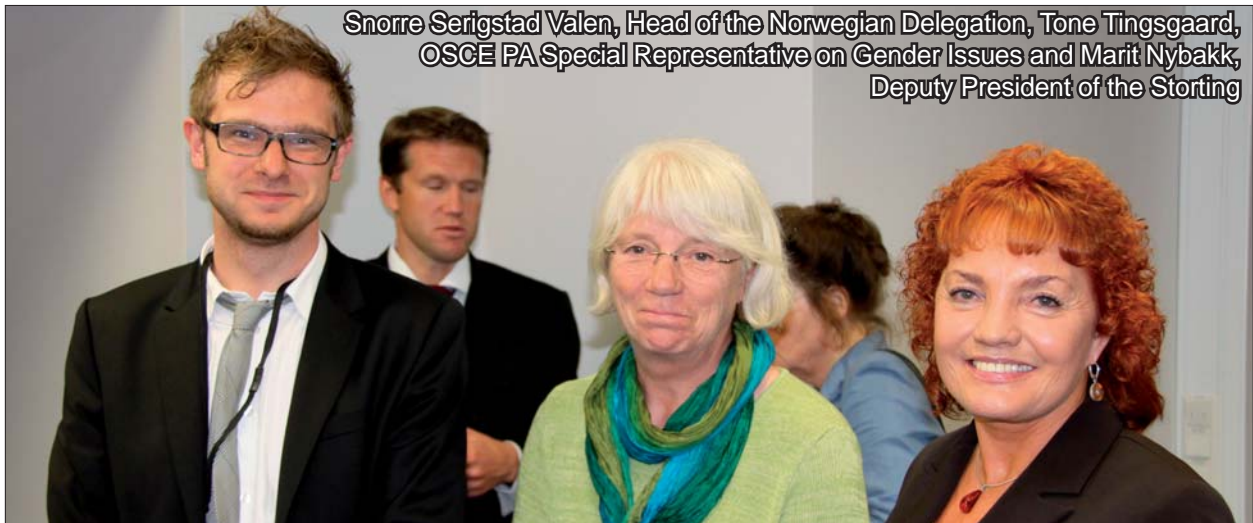
The supplementary item “Stepping up the Struggle against Human Trafficking with Purposes of Sexual Exploitation in the OSCE Countries,” sponsored by Maria Escudero Sanchez (Spain), called on participating States to increase their efforts in fighting human trafficking especially through measures such as international conventions, the development of national action plans, protecting victims, improving co-ordination of actions, and including the trafficking perspective in other fields.

“Combating Demand for Human Trafficking and Electronic Forms of Exploitation,” sponsored by Christopher Smith (United States), urged participating States to take action to promote the aggressive prosecution of purchasers of trafficking victims. Mr. Smith also stressed that innovative practices in the fight against trafficking such as training airline staff to recognize victims should be promoted. The supplementary item was adopted unanimously.

Election of Officers

Chair:	Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden)
Vice-Chair:	Robert Aderholt (United States)
Rapporteur:	Matteo Mecacci (Italy)

Working Lunch on Gender Issues



Snorre Serigstad Valen, Head of the Norwegian Delegation, Tone Tingsgaard, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues and Marit Nybakk, Deputy President of the Storting

At a well-attended working lunch on gender issues on 8 July, Marit Nybakk, Deputy President of the Storting, gave a presentation of the Norwegian model for gender equality, highlighting, in particular, the country's gender quota laws.

Ms. Nybakk underlined the importance of social infrastructure in making both the high rate of women in the labour force and a high birth rate possible in Norway. She pointed out that "equality in the home sphere is necessary in order to obtain equality in the work sphere and politics."

In Norway, Ms. Nybakk explained, the law requires that women be represented on the boards of directors of Norwegian companies. Norway was the first country in the world to introduce a 40 per cent gender quota on public-limited company boards.

This quota system is working in Norway, said Ms. Nybakk, not just to increase the numbers of women represented at high levels in politics and in business but also to reshape the Norwegian attitude towards gender issues in general. "Laws," she said, "cannot only be a security or a regulation. Laws can also be normative by changing the attitude and behaviour of people."

Ms. Nybakk noted positively the changes brought about by the introduction of a quota system in political parties during the 1970s

and 1980s and, more recently, the introduction of quotas for state-owned companies and for public-limited companies. Noting that "women are an untapped pool of talent," she stressed the importance of social infrastructure in making possible the high rate of women in Norway's labour force.

"Laws cannot only be a security or a regulation. Laws can also be normative by changing the attitude and behaviour of people."

Marit Nybakk, Deputy of the Storting

With regards to the field of security, Ms. Nybakk pointed to the importance of increasing the participation of women in all phases of conflict prevention, as

called for by UN Resolution 1325.

The discussion at the working lunch was led by the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden), who will be stepping down as a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly this year.

Ms. Tingsgaard acknowledged the positive changes she has seen in the increased attention the Assembly gives to gender issues during her seven years as Special Representative, but she noted that women are still under-represented in the OSCE PA.

"Before I leave I am going to ask for another change: a change in the podium," she said, referring to the gender composition of Assembly meetings.

It was noted during the discussion that despite progress in this regard, there were still 17 delegations at the Annual Session that had no female representation.

Central Asia & Transparency Side Meetings



A side event was held on 8 July for OSCE PA delegations from Central Asia, hosted by Morten Hoeglund on behalf of the Norwegian Delegation, together with the OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland). More than 20 Members of Parliament participated in the event. In addition to representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, participants included parliamentarians from Azerbaijan, Norway, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden.

During the discussion, the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship was commended for increasing the OSCE's focus on the region. Support was expressed for the OSCE PA's role in facilitating dialogue among legislators in the region, as well as the OSCE area more broadly. The Tajik delegation noted the potential for developing regional co-operation, and called for greater focus on Afghanistan.

It was also noted, regrettably, that participation from Turkmenistan has been declining, and that Uzbekistan has not participated in OSCE PA activities for several years.

Mr. Kiljunen provided an overview of the role of the Special Representative for Central Asia and reported on his recent activities. He described his plans regarding co-ordinating an international investigation commission for the recent events in southern Kyrgyzstan, as well as plans for parliamentary roundtables in Bishkek and Osh ahead of the October elections.

Regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan, participants expressed condolences to the guests from Kyrgyzstan for the recent tragic events

in the country. Several Members commended the Kyrgyz provisional government for the conduct of the 27 June referendum on a new constitution. Omurbek Tekebaev, on behalf of the Kyrgyz provisional government, updated the participants on recent developments and noted plans for national and international investigations into the events in southern Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Tekebaev also highlighted that Kyrgyzstan is the only country in the region with a female president.

The newly re-comprised Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability met on 9 July to discuss priorities and their proposed work plan. The Committee's chair, Johannes Koskinen (Finland), outlined his ideas which were included in the resolution passed later in the day, "Strengthening the Involvement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the Corfu Process on Security in Europe."

He particularly emphasized the need to re-focus the work of the OSCE at the political level and on political issues, and he raised the idea of developing a toolkit for Members of Parliament to increase their interaction with their national governments on OSCE-related issues. Mr. Koskinen also stressed the need to continue to push for better working relations between the OSCE governmental side and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Other members of the Committee agreed with the suggestions put forward and emphasized that the Corfu Process can be seen as a chance to re-start the OSCE, pointing out that reforms should change the working relations without questioning the basic values of the purpose of the Organization.

Closing Plenary Sessions



Johannes Koskinen introduces his resolution on the Corfu Process

Strengthening the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE Corfu Process was the focus of a plenary session on the afternoon of 9 July. Parliamentarians debated a supplementary item, introduced by Johannes Koskinen (Finland), that welcomed the Corfu Process and the revival of the political dialogue on challenges to security in the OSCE area.

Noting however that there is an “an urgent need for improvement and reform with regard to the observed democratic deficit” in the OSCE, the resolution proposed “extending the role of the Parliamentary Assembly and strengthening co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE and its executive structures.”

The resolution highlighted the importance of a parliamentary dimension in the on-going dialogue on security issues and welcomed the expanded mandate of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, which is tasked with strengthening parliamentary involvement in the Corfu Process.

In his introduction of the resolution, Mr. Koskinen, who serves as Chair of the Transparency Committee, emphasized the need for improving the relationship between the PA and the OSCE governmental side. This is one of the key tasks of his committee, he said, and is vital for the overall effectiveness of the OSCE.

During the debate, parliamentarians stressed the important link between the Assembly and the governmental side of the Organization. It was mentioned, however, that a lack of political will prevents action on Assembly resolutions. The parliamentarians considered seven amendments to the resolution, agreeing to three. Following adoption of the amendments, the resolution passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Battelli (Slovenia) informed the Assembly on 10 July that the Standing Committee unanimously approved the Assembly’s annual budget for the next financial year. The budget for 2010/2011, he noted, complies with and reflects the efforts of the national legislatures to minimize expenses, considering the ongoing economic crisis. Therefore, he said, the proposed budget contains no increases for the next year and freezes the budget at the same level as this year’s budget, meaning that national contributions to the Assembly will remain the same.

The Treasurer also reminded the Assembly that there has been no increase since 2008, and that the Assembly’s finances have consistently received a positive assessment from external auditors.

Mr. Battelli said he found it remarkable that the Assembly continues to operate in such an efficient way on such a low budget. With by far the smallest staff and budget of all similar parliamentary organizations in Europe, the OSCE PA continues to expand its activities, and remain within the budget, he said. Mr. Battelli thanked all of the delegations that had made their contributions for fiscal year 2009/2010, comprising nearly 100 per cent.

Secretary General’s Report

OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver delivered a report on the activities of the Assembly since the Vilnius Annual Session. Mr. Oliver highlighted the activities of the past year, such as OSCE PA observation missions of presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan and

Closing Plenary Sessions



Spencer Oliver delivers his report

Ukraine, as well as parliamentary elections in Moldova and the United Kingdom.

The Secretary General also noted that participation in the Winter Meeting has consistently increased and is approaching the same level of participation as the Annual Session. He also reported on the Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, held in May, in which over 100 parliamentarians from 35 participating States and Mediterranean partner countries participated. Immediately following this meeting, Mr. Oliver reported, President Soares led a delegation to Kyrgyzstan to meet with acting President Roza Otunbaeva.

Mr. Oliver ended by thanking the Storting for its tremendous work in preparation of the Oslo Session.

Adoption of Oslo Declaration and Announcement of Election Results

The Oslo Declaration, consisting of the three Resolutions and 35 supplementary items that had been debated over the previous three days in the General Committees, was then adopted.

At the end of the Plenary, election results



Roberto Battelli thanks Joao Soares for his two years of service as OSCE PA President

were announced. Petros Efthymiou (Greece), who was a Vice-President in the Assembly, was elected President, defeating Senator Consiglio Di Nino (Canada). The new President succeeds Joao Soares (Portugal) who had served as President for two one-year terms.

In his first address to the Assembly as President, Mr. Efthymiou outlined two key priorities of his Presidency: one, increasing the effectiveness of the PA's work, "with a balanced approach to our agenda," and two, ensuring "a stronger role for the PA itself, with the enhancement of its position, both within the OSCE and in relation to our governments and other international organizations."

"The background of my aims," Mr. Efthymiou said, "is the strong will to promote the OSCE's principles, commitments and goals, which are what unites all of us, what brings us all here and inspires us to work towards a shared vision."

The Assembly also elected three new Vice-Presidents: Riccardo Migliori (Italy), Alexander Kozlovskiy (Russian Federation), and Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine). Isabel Pozuelo (Spain) was re-elected.



Petros Efthymiou upon being elected President of the Assembly





Officers of the Assembly

The Officers of the Assembly, also known as the Bureau, include the President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, General Committee Officers and the President Emeritus. The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out, as well as for the efficient operation of the Assembly between meetings of the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes decisions by majority vote.



Petros Efthymiou is congratulated after being elected President of the Assembly

Petros Efthymiou (Greece)

was elected President of the Assembly at the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo. He had previously served as Assembly Vice-President, and as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Second General Committee. A former Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Mr. Efthymiou has also had a long and distinguished career in both print and broadcast journalism. He is a founding member of the Greek Socialist Party (PASOK), and has been a member of the Greek Parliament since 2004. Mr. Efthymiou has also served as a Member of the European Parliament.



European Parliament, including as a Member of the EP Bureau. From 1995 to 2002, Mr. Soares was Mayor of Lisbon, during which time he also served as a Member of the State Council.

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia)

was elected Treasurer of the Parliamentary Assembly in Vilnius in 2009. A member of the Assembly since 1992, he has been particularly active in election observation. He has observed 19 elections across the OSCE area, and has



served as head of the OSCE PA delegation and as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers twice, in Serbia and in Montenegro. Mr. Battelli has been active in the Democracy Team for Moldova, the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure, and the Sub-committee on Transparency and Accountability. Since 2006, he has also served as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe. He has been a member of the Parliament of Slovenia since 1990.

Joao Soares (Portugal)



serves as President Emeritus, after having served as President since the 2008 Annual Session in Astana. He had previously served for two years as Vice-President. Mr. Soares has been particularly active in OSCE PA

election observation missions. Mr. Soares was first elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1987 and has also served as a Member of the

Benjamin Cardin (United States)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Brussels in July 2006, and re-elected in Vilnius in 2009. Prior to that,

Officers of the Assembly



he had served as Chair of the Second Committee. Senator Cardin was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006, and is currently the Chairman of the U.S. (Helsinki) Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe. As a Senator, he serves on the

Foreign Relations Committee, Judiciary Committee, Environment and Public Works Committee, Budget Committee and Small Business Committee. Before his election to the Senate, Mr. Cardin served for 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark)

was elected Vice-President during the Annual Session in Washington in July 2005 and re-elected during the 2008 Annual Session. She has been a Member of the Danish Parliament since 1987, and was from 2001-2007 the Political Affairs spokesperson for the Conservative People's Party, with particular expertise in foreign affairs and human rights issues. Ms. Christmas-Moeller is now an independent Member of Parliament. She has a background in public policy, with extensive experience working with unemployment insurance.



Riccardo Migliori (Italy)

was elected Vice-President during the Annual Session in Oslo. Mr. Migliori previously served as Rapporteur of the First Committee and has been Head of Italy's Delegation

since June 2008. A member of the Chamber of Deputies, he has served on the Constitutional Affairs Committee and as Deputy Chair of the Bicameral Regional Affairs Committee. A member of the PDL (Popolo della Libertà) Parliamentary Group, he is also a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. With a degree in law from Florence University, Mr. Migliori has served on the Florence City Council as well as on the Tuscany Regional Council.

Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly in Vilnius, after having served as Chair of the First Committee since 2006 and as Vice-Chair before that. Mr. Gardetto has been a Member of the National Council of Monaco since 2003, and is Head of Monaco's Delegation to the OSCE PA. Mr. Gardetto has served as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and a Member of the Legislative, Finance, Education & Youth and Women's Rights Committees. He is also active in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he serves as Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights. As an attorney he is active in international legal organizations and associations.



Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine)

was elected Vice-President during the 2008 Annual Session in Astana, and was elected again in Oslo. Mr. Bilorus is Chairman of the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of the Parliament Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. An economist, manager, and diplomat, Mr. Bilorus has a PhD in Econom-



Officers of the Assembly

ics and is a Full Professor and member of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences. He is also the Vice-Chairman of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Motherland Party.

Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria)



was re-elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2008 Annual Session in Astana. It is a post he has held since July 2006. He has also served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee. Mr. Grossruck was first elected to the Austrian Parliament in 1995 and has been a Member of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 1996. He is a frequent participant in election observation missions. With a background in insurance, Mr. Grossruck is also active in municipal politics and is the Mayor of Grieskirchen.

Alexander Kozlovskiy (Russia)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the Oslo Annual Session in July 2010. From 2004-2007, he served as Deputy Head of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and since 2008 as its Head of Delegation.



Mr. Kozlovskiy has served as assistant of Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and currently serves as Deputy Chairman of the Committee for International Relations and Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Relations with the USA in the Russian State Duma. Mr. Kozlovskiy also has the post of Deputy Co-Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Co-operation Committee between the Federal Assembly and Milli Mijlis of Azerbaijan.

Isabel Pozuelo (Spain)

was elected Vice-President at the 2009 Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected in Oslo. She has been a Member of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2004 and is presently the Head of its Delegation.



She has been particularly active in election observation activities, having participated in election observation missions to, among others, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, Georgia, and Armenia. Ms. Pozuelo has been a member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies since 1996, having served as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the Finance Committee and the Healthcare and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (Kazakhstan)

was elected Vice-President in July 2008, at the 17th Annual Session in Astana. Head of the Kazakh Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, he has been Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan's Parliament since January 2007.



Mr. Tokayev came to the Kazakh Parliament after a long career in diplomacy and politics. He has been Deputy Minister as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is presently also a member of the CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly Council and Head of the Kazakh Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. A Doctor of Political Science, Mr. Tokayev is the author of a number of books and articles on international affairs.

General Committee Officers



The First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

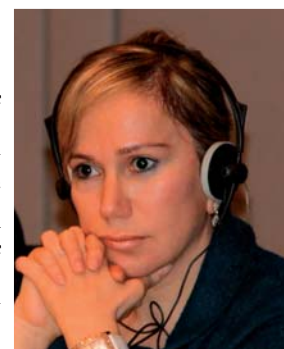
One of the most important aspects of the work of the Annual Session is the deliberation that takes place in the three General Committees.

Following the 1991 Madrid Declaration, three committees were established along the lines of the three main “baskets” or sections of the Helsinki Final Act: The First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security; the Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and the Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Following debate and discussion, a draft resolution is adopted by each Committee for presentation to the Annual Plenary Session of the Assembly, which is then included in the Final Declaration.

mentary Assembly. He also serves as Deputy Head of the German Delegation.

Canan Kalsin (Turkey)

was re-elected Vice-Chair of the First Committee in Oslo. She has served as a member of the Turkish delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007. In the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, she serves on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and is also



the founding president of the Woman Branch of the Justice and Development Party. Ms. Kalsin holds an M.A. in Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Global Politics and International Relations.

First General Committee

Karl-Georg Wellmann (Germany)



was elected Chair of the First Committee at the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo. A Member of the German Bundestag since 2005, he has served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, specifically focusing on Poland, Central

Asia, the Baltic States, Ukraine and Russia. He is a substitute member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and since 2005 has been a Member of the OSCE Parlia-

Tonino Picula (Croatia)



was elected Rapporteur of the First General Committee at the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo. A Member of the Croatian Parliament since 2003, he has served as Head of Delegation of Croatia since 2004. From 2000-2003, he served as

Croatia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and from 2004-2008 he was Chairperson of the Social-Democratic Party Croatia Governing Board. He also serves on the Foreign Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament.

General Committee Officers

Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Second General Committee

Roland Blum (France)



was re-elected Chair of the Second General Committee in Oslo, after having served as Vice-Chair and as Rapporteur of the Committee. He is Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the French National Assembly, where he has served since 1986.

From 1984 to 1988 Mr. Blum was a Member of the European Parliament. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he has been Rapporteur of several missions, including on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Ivor Callely (Ireland)



was re-elected Vice-Chair of the Second General Committee in Oslo, after having served as Rapporteur of the Committee. Mr. Callely is a member of the 23rd Seanad of Ireland where he has served as Chairman of the All Party Oireachtas

Human Rights Committee and as Head of the Irish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. His experience also includes serving as Government Spokesman on Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine)



was re-elected Rapporteur of the Second Committee at the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo. A member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Shevchuk has served as a delegate to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since

1998. Since 2006, he has served as Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. In 2008, he was elected Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science and Environment of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and Senate of the Republic of Poland.

Third General Committee

Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden)

was re-elected Chair of the Third General Committee during the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo, having previously served as Committee Vice-Chair, and before that, as Rapporteur. Ms. Habsburg Douglas is also the Head of the



Swedish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary. With a background in law and journalism, Ms. Habsburg Douglas served as Secretary General

General Committee Officers



Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

of the International Pan-European Movement prior to being elected to parliament in 2006.

Robert Aderholt (United States)



was elected Vice-Chair of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected in Oslo. He has served seven terms in the United States House of Representatives, where he is active on the House Appropriations Committee,

the House Budget Committee, the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, and the Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee. Since 2001, Mr. Aderholt has also served on the Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Matteo Mecacci (Italy)

was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected in Oslo. Mr. Mecacci has been member of the Italian Parliament since 2008, where he serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of the Deputies. From 2001 to 2008 he was based in New York where he co-ordinated campaigns related to the promotion of democracy, particularly in regards to the International Criminal Court and the UN Commission on Human Rights.







Parliamentary Assembly Overview

The main elements of the Parliamentary Assembly are the Assembly Plenary, the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation, the Bureau and the three General Committees.



The Plenary

At the Annual Session, the Assembly meets in Plenary to adopt a Final Declaration and Resolutions and elect Assembly Officers. Decisions at the Annual Session are taken by majority vote.

General Committees

The work of the Assembly is divided into three General Committees, which correspond to the three main sections of the Helsinki Final Act:

- The First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security;
- The Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment;
- The Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

A Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur are elected for a one-year term by the members of each Committee. The General Committees meet during the Annual Session and the Winter Meeting. At meetings during the Annual Session, decisions are taken by majority vote.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee consists of the 55 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. The Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its

budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

Bureau

The Assembly's Bureau consists of the President, the nine Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and the Officers of the three General Committees. The President Emeritus (immediately preceding former President) is also an ex officio non-voting Member. The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out. Decisions are taken by majority vote.

Budget

The Assembly's budget covers most of the organizational expenses related to the Annual Session, Winter Meeting, Fall Meetings, Standing Committee and Bureau Meetings, official visits, the election observation programme, as well as the costs of the International Secretariat. Host Parliaments of the Annual Sessions have all contributed significantly by providing considerable support to these regular events, ensuring their success and contributing substantive cost savings. The Danish Folketing has very generously provided excellent office facilities free of charge for the Assembly's International Secretariat.

Annual Session

The Annual Session, held in early July every year, is the most important event in the OSCE

Annual Meeting Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winter Meeting Standing Committee		Bureau		Annual Session Standing Committee Bureau		Fall Meetings Standing Committee Mediterranean Forum		Bureau			

Conferences

Parliamentary Assembly calendar. At the end of each Annual Session, the Assembly Plenary adopts a Final Declaration addressing contemporary issues within the fields of political affairs, economic development and human rights. The Final Declarations contain specific calls on participating States to adhere to their OSCE commitments as well as recommendations on strengthening OSCE institutional structures.

Winter Meeting

The Winter Meeting is the second largest event in the OSCE PA calendar, and has now been held each February since 2002. It provides an opportunity for the three General Committees to have additional discussions and debates among themselves as well as to be briefed by senior OSCE officials who have responsibilities related to the work of each of the Committees. The Winter Meeting also allows parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three General Committee Rapporteurs and to discuss their ideas on their draft resolutions for the Annual Session.

Fall Meetings

Each year the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly organizes a set of Fall Meetings to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on important topics related to OSCE commitments and values. The Meetings include a Conference on a topical issue, a session of the Assembly's Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations and typically also a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum. The first set of Fall Meetings took place in 2002 in Madrid, followed each year by meetings in Rome, Rhodes, Sveti-Stefan, Malta, Portoroz, Toronto and Athens.

Parliamentarians also review OSCE commitments by participating in topical Seminars and Conferences, organized on a regular basis by the Assembly. These inter-parliamentary fora focus on specific OSCE themes, such as minorities and freedom of religion, as well as on regional issues. The OSCE PA also organizes an Economic Conference every two years. All these fora provide the parliamentarians with occasions to exchange views with colleagues and international experts and to deepen their understanding of OSCE issues within the wider context of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

Membership	Seats per Country	Total
United States of America	17	17
Russian Federation	15	15
France, Germany, Italy, and United Kingdom	13	52
Canada and Spain	10	20
Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, and Ukraine	8	48
Romania	7	7
Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan	6	78
Bulgaria and Luxembourg	5	10
Serbia and Slovak Republic	4	8
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovenia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan	3	57
Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, and San Marino	2	8
Total seats		320

*The Holy See may send two representatives to the Assembly's meetings as guests of honour.

Annual Sessions and Declarations

Since the first Annual Session in Budapest in 1992, the Parliamentary Assembly has debated some of the most pressing issues of the day, with certain themes, such as small arms and light weapons, human trafficking, election observation and reforming the OSCE revisited frequently.



In the 1990s, one of the recurring themes was regarding the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. In the Budapest Declaration of 1992, for example, the Assembly recommended that the CSCE send observers to Kosovo and Vojvodina to monitor the protection of minorities. In 1993, the Helsinki Declaration included a full chapter on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, illustrating the importance attached to the issue by the PA. Also that year, the Assembly for the first time urged the CSCE to establish a decision-making procedure which would no longer require consensus or “consensus-minus-one.”

Reforming the CSCE/OSCE was revisited the following year, in Vienna, with a resolution adopted calling again for a change in the consensus rule. The Vienna Declaration also called for strengthened co-operation between the CSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly through a formal procedure for considering PA resolutions. The 1995 Ottawa Declaration again called for the OSCE to explore decision-making procedures based on approximate consensus. It also contained a series of resolutions and recommendations relating to OSCE activities regarding the former Yugoslavia, the Baltic region, Nagorno Karabakh, Chechnya and Moldova. The 1996 Stockholm Declaration reiterated the Parliamentary Assembly’s support for the adoption of a broad concept of security, stressing, *inter alia*, the importance of economic stabilization and environmentally sustainable development in the security dimension.

Meeting in Warsaw in 1997, the PA focused on enhancing the implementation of commitments undertaken in the context of the CSCE and OSCE, including the Helsinki Final Act, the

Charter of Paris and the Budapest and Lisbon Summit documents. The Warsaw Declaration also included recommendations on implementing the principles of territorial integrity and the inviolability of State frontiers.

The Copenhagen Declaration of 1998 stated that in order to meet the challenge of implementing OSCE principles and commitments with greater effectiveness, a refinement of existing OSCE tools and resources should be pursued, calling again for a revision of OSCE decision-making procedures.

The 8th Annual Session, held in St. Petersburg in 1999, dealt with topics such as the situation in Kosovo, the democratic deficit within the OSCE, the role of the OSCE in crisis prevention



and conflict settlement, the problem of human trafficking, and with specific issues in Belarus, Russia and South-Eastern Europe. The St. Petersburg Declaration called for the Parliamentary Assembly to be consulted more widely on issues of major importance, such as the appointment of the Secretary General and the budgetary activities of the main OSCE Institutions.

In 2000, the Assembly met in Bucharest and discussed, *inter alia*, issues related to Belarus, calling on all sides to pave the way for free, fair and internationally recognizable parliamentary elections. The Bucharest Declaration also reiterated the importance of reforming the OSCE, calling for reduced reliance on secondment in the long-term field missions to ensure the continuity of the missions’ work.

The Paris Declaration of 2001 included a resolution on strengthening transparency and accountability in the OSCE and proposed that before making major decisions the Ministerial Council should take into account the opinion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.



Annual Sessions and Declarations

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the 2002 Berlin Declaration condemned all acts of terrorism, underlining the solidarity of the PA in the struggle against terrorism while reminding all OSCE participating States that any measures taken to address terrorism must fully respect international law and relevant OSCE commitments. The 2003 Rotterdam Declaration emphasized that with Europe's ongoing development in security structures, the OSCE's real strength lies in its capacity to respond to security threats and in its strong field presence. To uphold the credibility of the OSCE, it added, it is imperative to provide the OSCE field activities with adequate funding and high-quality staff.

Meeting in Edinburgh in 2004, the Assembly revisited the issue of terrorism, calling on the international community to target the profound political, social, economic and environmental causes of terrorism and to ensure that the fight against terrorism be carried out in compliance with the principles of international law. The Assembly also adopted a resolution on torture calling upon all participating States to abide by the obligation that no exceptional circumstances may be invoked as a justification of torture.



OSCE States on trafficking and upgrading the status of the OSCE's Forum for Security Cooperation. The importance of respecting human rights commitments was also emphasized, including full voting rights for the residents of Washington, D.C.

The Assembly's position on increasing support of OSCE Field Missions was reiterated in the Brussels Declaration of 2006, which

also emphasized the importance of energy security and of the Assembly's leadership in election observation.

Reaffirming the crucial importance of democratic values, the 2007 Kyiv Declaration called on all OSCE participating States to pursue their international commitments in this regard. It also called for greater action on migration and against human trafficking, especially children, and for the dismantling of criminal networks which facilitate illegal migration. In addition, it contained provisions on women, peace and security; cluster bombs; environmental security; human rights and intolerance.

At the 17th Annual Session, held in Astana in 2008, the Assembly focused on the theme of "Transparency in the OSCE" and adopted a Resolution calling on the governments of the 56 participating States to "fully commit themselves, at the highest political levels, to the full implementation of all of their OSCE commitments and to future strengthening of the Organization." To do so, governments should make use of the Assembly as "a key element in the Organization's efforts to be credible in promoting democracy."

Strengthening the OSCE was also a major theme of the 18th Annual Session, held last year in Vilnius. The Vilnius Declaration calls for more transparency in the OSCE in order to enhance its legitimacy and relevance. The importance of the Assembly's leadership in election monitoring was also reiterated in a resolution dealing with OSCE election observation. The issue of human trafficking was also revisited. On food security, the Vilnius Declaration emphasizes that this is a new and major challenge to security in the OSCE area and that it must become a top priority on the OSCE agenda.

The 19th Annual Session was held in Oslo from 6 to 10 July 2010, under the general theme of "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption."



Programme of the 2010 Annual Session



Monday, 5 July

- 12.00 – 20.00 Registration on the premises of the Oslo Congress Centre
- 18.00 – 19.00 Briefing for Secretaries of Delegation
- 19.00 – 19.30 Reception for the Secretaries of Delegation hosted by the Storting

Tuesday, 6 July

- 07.00 – 9.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
- 09.00 – 12.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee
- 14.30 – 16.00 Inaugural Plenary Session
- 16.30 – 18.00 Plenary Session continued
- Evening Reception in the National Opera hosted by the President of the Storting (HM the Queen of Norway will be present)

Wednesday, 7 July

- 07.00 – 09.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
- 09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- 09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- 11.30 – 13.30 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- 13.45 – 15.15 Side Event on Integrating Multi-Ethnic Societies hosted by the Storting and the OSCE HCNM
- 16.30 – 20.30 Guided Tour of the Vigeland Park followed by a reception

Thursday, 8 July

- 07.00 – 09.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
- 09.30 – 11.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- 09.30 – 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- 11.30 – 13.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- 13.00 – 14.30 Working Lunch on Gender Issues
- 14.30 – 16.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- 14.30 – 16.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- 16.30 – 18.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- 19.00 – 22.30 Cultural evening at the Bygdøyenes museums hosted by the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Friday, 9 July

- 07.00 – 09.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
- 09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- 09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- 11.10 – 11.30 Meeting of the Bureau
- 11.30 – 13.30 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- 15.00 – 18.00 Plenary Session
General Debate
- Evening Reserved for Diplomatic missions

Saturday, 10 July

- 07.00 – 09.00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups
- 09.30 – 12.30 Plenary Session
- 12.30 Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President





Philippe Nobile



*Secretary General
Spencer Oliver*

The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly, and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and has a permanent staff of 17, including three staff members at the liaison office in Vienna.



*Deputy Secretary
General
Tina Schøn*



*Deputy Secretary
General
Gustavo Pallares*



*Special
Representative
Andreas Nothelle*



*Presidential
Advisor
Andreas Baker*



*Director of
Communications
Klas Bergman*



*Assistant to the
Secretary General
Dana Bjerregaard*



*Liaison Officer
Marc Carillet*



*Programme
Officer
Anna Chernova*



*Senior Counsellor
Semyon Dzakhayev*



*Logistics Officer
Petra Jezkova*



*Conference
Co-ordinator
Odile LeLarge*



*Administrative
Director
Kurt Lerras*



*Senior Secretary
Connie Mathiesen*



*Programme Officer
Roberto Montella*



*Research / Publi-
cations Officer
Nat Parry*



*IT-Supporter
Stephen Paul*



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is the parliamentary dimension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The primary task of the 320 member Assembly is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, has grown into a very active and esteemed member of the OSCE family.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and Seminars designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions to areas of latent or active crisis.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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