

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S 25TH ANNUAL SESSION TBILISI, GEORGIA



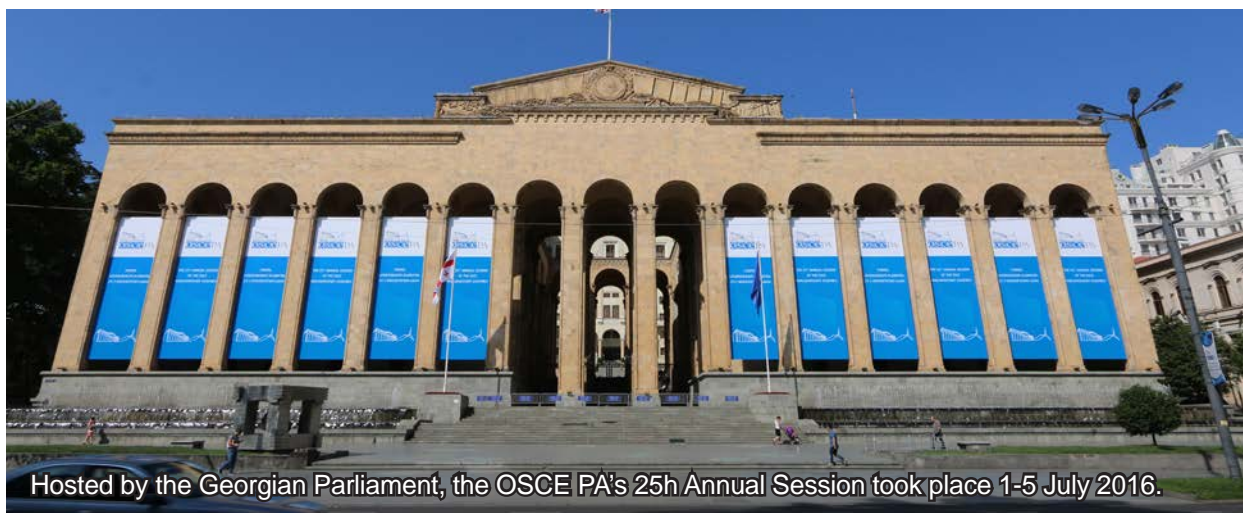


REPORT ON THE 25TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary



Hosted by the Georgian Parliament, the OSCE PA's 25th Annual Session took place 1-5 July 2016.

Bringing together some 250 members of parliament from 53 OSCE participating States and two Partners for Co-operation, the 25th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place 1-5 July 2016 in Tbilisi. The Session was held under the theme “25 Years of Parliamentary Co-operation: Building Trust Through Dialogue,” commemorating the quarter-century anniversary of the Assembly’s work.

Featuring several days of parliamentary debate in committee and plenary meetings, the Session culminated in the adoption by majority vote of the 2016 Tbilisi Declaration, which contains the Assembly’s wide-ranging pronouncements and policy recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States in the fields of political affairs, economics, the environment and human rights.

The Session featured speeches by Georgian officials including Speaker of Parliament David Usupashvili, President Giorgi Margvelashvili, and Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, as well as OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (Finland) and OSCE Chairman-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

In addition to adopting the Tbilisi Declaration, the Assembly elected its new leadership, with Austrian parliamentarian Christine Muttonen elected President, and Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania), Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), Isabel Santos (Portugal) and Victor Dobre (Romania) elected Vice-Presidents.

The General Committee on Political Affairs and Security elected Roger Wicker (United States) as Chair, Guglielmo Picchi (Italy) as Vice-Chair, and Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) as Rapporteur.

The General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment elected Nilza Sena (Portugal) as Chair, Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) as Vice-Chair, and Marietta Tidei (Italy) as Rapporteur.

The General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions elected Ignacio Sanchez Amor (Spain) as Chair, Ivana Dobesova (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chair, and Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyanni (Cyprus) as Rapporteur.

The Standing Committee met on 1 July to allocate supplementary items to the general committees, and heard reports from the Treasurer, German parliamentarian Doris Barnett, who focused on the OSCE PA’s present financial situation, and Secretary General Roberto Montella, who described his priorities of strengthening the International Secretariat and enhancing co-operation with partners. Special Representatives, leaders of election observation missions, and chairs of ad hoc committees also reported to the Standing Committee on their ongoing work and upcoming activities.

Several meetings were held on the margins of the Annual Session, including events focused on the progress of reforms in Georgia, gender equality, nuclear disarmament, human trafficking, mediation, and migration.

Tbilisi Declaration



Voting on the Tbilisi Declaration.

At the close of each Annual Session, the Assembly adopts a Declaration with recommendations in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment and human rights. Representing the collective voice of the OSCE parliamentarians, the Declaration helps shape OSCE and national policy. It is complemented by a number of supplementary items relating to OSCE commitments and values.

The Assembly adopted the 2016 Tbilisi Declaration on 5 July, addressing key issues in the fields of political affairs and security, economics, the environment, human rights, and humanitarian concerns. Following its adoption, the Declaration was sent to parliaments and to the foreign ministers of OSCE countries, serving as policy guidance to governments and the international community.

Among the issues covered in the Declaration are terrorism, the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts in Georgia, countering corruption, energy, climate change, migration, and the rights of refugees.

Stressing the theme of trust-building, the Declaration “reaffirms the undiminished validity and historic role of the guiding principles and common values of the Helsinki Final Act signed in 1975, including the commitments on politico-military, economic, environmental, human rights, and humanitarian issues.” It regrets however the trend of gridlock in the OSCE and urges OSCE countries to enhance the level of co-operation in addressing common challenges.

On terrorism, the Declaration calls upon governments to strengthen co-operation and develop measures aimed at blocking the funding of terrorist organizations. It further urges the OSCE to help governments counter violent extremism through pragmatic assistance and promotion of best practices.

On the crisis in and around Ukraine, the

“The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms the undiminished validity and historic role of the guiding principles and common values of the Helsinki Final Act signed in 1975.”

2016 OSCE PA Tbilisi Declaration

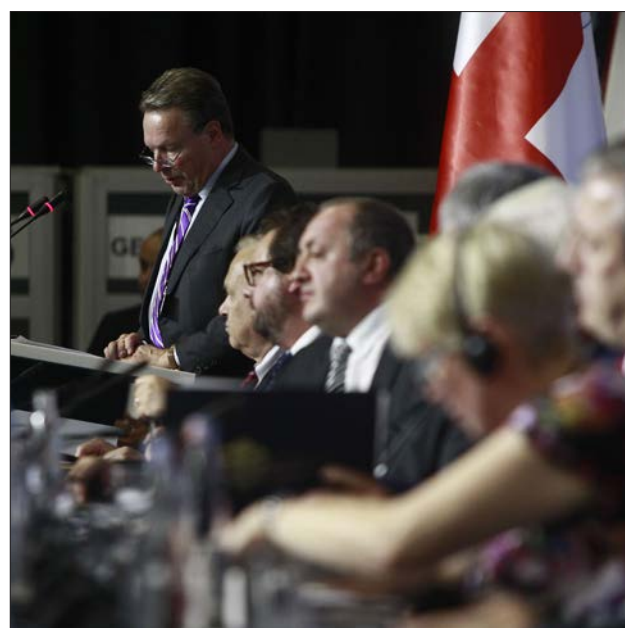
Declaration urges all parties to fully implement the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and “underlines respect for the principles of the inviolability of frontiers and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, equal rights, and self-determination of peoples as stated in the Helsinki Final Act.”

Regarding climate change, the Declaration calls upon parliamentarians to promote political dialogue in order to achieve the goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement adopted in 2015, and to ensure that the Agreement’s targets are met “with the greatest sense of urgency by implementing robust policies and regulations

on greenhouse gas emissions and facilitating the transition to a low-carbon economy.”

On migration, the Declaration stresses the importance of prioritizing the rights of those displaced by conflicts, and urges governments to stop imposing legal and physical barriers to the movement of people fleeing violence, as well as to actively work toward an inclusive approach to migrants and refugees.

The Assembly also approved 15 resolutions to supplement the Declaration, addressing issues such as fundamental freedoms in the Crimean peninsula, prevention of child sexual exploitation, confidence-building measures in the Baltic Sea region, and ensuring that members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly affected by international travel bans are able to attend OSCE events.



Inaugural Plenary Session



Georgian officials including President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, and Speaker of Parliament David Usupashvili addressed the opening plenary of the Annual Session on 1 July. Also speaking during the plenary were OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva, and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Parliamentarians in the opening plenary session considered a supplementary item, “Strengthening Relations Between the OSCE PA and the OSCE,” which was agreed to unanimously.

David Usupashvili, President of the Parliament of Georgia

President of the Parliament of Georgia David Usupashvili opened the Session by noting that 2016 is a landmark year for both the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the nation of Georgia, as it marks the 25th anniversary of the PA’s establishment and the 25th anniversary of Georgia’s independence. Emphasizing that recent problems in the OSCE area have largely been due to a lack of trust and co-operation, he insisted on the need to promote dialogue to restore confidence and resolve conflicts.

He also called for transformation of the OSCE to “effectively handle the growing deficit of security and co-operation of the modern world.” He further stressed the need to consolidate efforts and “deal with all types of threats together; all other paths will lead us to defeat.”

Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia

The President of Georgia highlighted security as the biggest challenge for Georgia, as

well as for the wider region.

“Sovereignty of certain countries are violated,” he said. The lack of respect for territorial integrity, he said, further complicates various problems that require international co-operation, including terrorism and drug trafficking.

He also expressed his country’s readiness for negotiations in resolving conflicts, for contributing to the enhancement of global peace and security, and for acting as a facilitator of co-operation across Eurasia, especially through opening new co-operative relationships between European and Asian regions.

President Margvelashvili concluded by noting the key role of the OSCE in consolidating the country’s democratic progress.

Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia

Prime Minister Kvirikashvili discussed the challenges the OSCE is facing, especially in regards to the situation in the Caucasus region. “Today,” he said, “as we are witnessing the worst security crisis on our continent, the role that the OSCE has to play in addressing stability and security issues is ever more important.” In this regard, he called for the establishment of a new perspective for the OSCE in order to implement peaceful resolution of conflicts, and to restore collaborative relationships.

He further emphasized the importance of European and Euro-Atlantic integration for Georgia, and highlighted reforms that Georgia has implemented, while also noting the challenges the country continues to face.

Finally he called for the restoration of a full-fledged and comprehensive OSCE Mission in Georgia.

Inaugural Plenary Session

Ilkka Kanerva, President of the OSCE PA

President Kanerva, recalling that the previous year's Annual Session had been held at the birthplace of the Helsinki Final Act in Finlandia Hall, insisted on the undiminished validity of the Helsinki Principles, despite recent setbacks in promoting security and stability.

"The security environment has largely deteriorated across the OSCE area due to ongoing crises and unresolved conflicts, as well as environmental and humanitarian concerns that are undermining human security in many of our countries," he said. Nevertheless, he expressed a firm belief in the importance of dialogue and co-operation, and reaffirmed the need to respect fundamental principles such as territorial integrity. He also emphasized the role the PA can play as a unique forum that engages in open and direct dialogue to build trust.

"As we see the interrelated effects that various crises are having on our mutual security, we cannot afford to retreat into an isolationist mindset. Instead we should utilize the OSCE's comprehensive security framework and work together towards building bridges, not walls," said President Kanerva.

"We should utilize the OSCE's comprehensive security framework and work together towards building bridges, not walls."

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Chairperson in office of the OSCE, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

The German Foreign Minister and OSCE CiO recalled the priority of the German Chairmanship to find ways to resolve intractable conflicts in the OSCE area, as "managing the status quo is not acceptable," and to strengthen dialogue and co-operation.



He described the steps taken by the German Chairmanship to address these conflicts "with a two-pronged approach: On the one hand, with a policy of small steps in order to create a minimum of trust between the parties and to improve the everyday lives of people in the region. ... On the other hand, we intend to revive and intensify negotiation formats and channels of communication."

Steinmeier concluded by evoking the key role MPs could play in strengthening societies' capacity for peace, and welcoming "the manifold efforts by the members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to ... support the process of mediation."

Supplementary Items

Following the opening addresses, parliamentarians took up the supplementary item "Strengthening Relations Between the OSCE PA and the OSCE," principally sponsored by Gudmundur Steingrímsson (Iceland). The item was adopted by unanimous vote with no amendments.

Georgia in focus on Session's opening day

A working lunch on 1 July organized by the OSCE PA's Georgian Delegation featured discussions on the rule of law, democracy and transparency in Georgia. Featuring keynote speeches by Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili and Professor S. Neil MacFarlane, the event was moderated by Tedo Japaridze, Acting Head of the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE PA and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.

Speakers focused in particular on the state of reform efforts in the country.





Standing Committee



The Standing Committee consists of the 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, the Autumn Meeting and the Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and elects the OSCE PA Secretary General.

President Ilkka Kanerva opened the OSCE PA's Standing Committee meeting on 1 July with a report on his activities since the previous Annual Session in Helsinki, noting a number of high-level meetings he has held, as well as discussing political issues in the OSCE region and highlighting the Assembly's achievements of the past 25 years.

"Earlier this year our Assembly celebrated our 25th anniversary, and 25 years of leading open and inclusive inter-parliamentary dialogue on the most challenging issues and trying to find solutions that truly deliver for our people in the OSCE area," Kanerva said. He highlighted the special report he had prepared and distributed ahead of the Annual Session, "Our common vision for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Supporting OSCE principles and facilitating parliamentary dialogue," which outlines the Assembly's strengths and areas that could be further developed.

The Standing Committee also heard a report of the Treasurer, German parliamentarian Doris Barnett, focused on the OSCE PA's present financial situation. She warmly thanked the Parliament of Georgia for hosting the 25th Annual Session, noting that the Assembly needs the constant support of national delegations, including by hosting meetings. Barnett reported that despite an increase in activities, the Assembly remains within its approved budget. Following a brief debate, the budget for the 2016/2017 financial year was unanimously approved.

The Standing Committee approved 15 sup-

plementary items for general debate, allocating five to the First Committee, two to the Second Committee and six to the Third Committee. Two supplementary items, "Strengthening Relations Between the OSCE PA and the OSCE" and the Compromise Supplementary Item on "Unrestricted Access of Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Attending Official OSCE Events and Other Activities," were allocated to the plenary.

Thanking the Georgian hosts for their excellent organization of the Annual Session, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella presented his report, which focused largely on his priorities of strengthening the International Secretariat and enhancing co-operation with

"Maintaining the flexibility to engage in the most relevant political issues has been a hallmark of the Assembly's first 25 years; we should continue to capitalize on this strength and use it to full effect."

President Kanerva's report, "Our common vision for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly"

partners, as well as a summary of ongoing and upcoming activities. He said that his guiding principles for managing the Secretariat over the past six months are what he referred to as the "triple A's" – assess, adapt, advance.

Leaders of recent election observation missions also reported their findings to the Standing Committee, followed by a number of reports from Special Representatives and chairs of ad hoc committees.

Information was further provided by Heads of Delegations on upcoming meetings of the OSCE PA, including the Autumn Meeting to be held in Skopje from 29 September to 2 October 2016, the Winter Meeting in Vienna on 23-24 February 2017, and the 26th Annual Session, which will be held in Minsk on 5-9 July 2017. Kyrgyzstan also announced its intentions to host the 2018 Autumn Meeting.







General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Roger Wicker (center) chairs the First Committee meeting on 2 July.

Beginning its work on 2 July, the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security held a total of four sessions, with Chair Roger Wicker (United States), Vice-Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) and Rapporteur Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) serving as officers. The committee debated and approved five supplementary items, covering issues including protracted conflicts, the possible contributions of the OSCE PA to developing effective responses to crises and conflicts, reconsolidating European security as a common project, and enhanced co-operation and confidence building measures in the Baltic Sea region.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Margareta Cederfelt presented her report with a focus on rebuilding trust and stability in the OSCE region, with other key points including the fight against transnational terrorism, the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, women in armed conflict and the link between security and democracy.

Cederfelt's resolution urges participating States to strengthen co-operation on anti-terrorism and develop measures aimed at blocking the funding of terrorist organizations. The resolution further calls on the OSCE to help

Side events on mediation, nuclear disarmament



PA Vice-President Christine Muttonen (right) speaks at the nuclear disarmament side event on 4 July.

A side event was held during the Annual Session on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Co-sponsored by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Austrian, Canadian and Swiss delega-

tions to the OSCE PA, the working lunch was chaired by Hedy Fry (Canada) and featured remarks by OSCE PA Vice-President Christine Muttonen (Austria). Also speaking were Co-President of PNND Paul Dewar, Deputy Head of the Swiss OSCE PA Delegation Margaret Kiener Nellen, and PNND French Director Jean-Marie Collin. The event focused on prospects for global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament within the context of an increasingly fragile security environment in the OSCE area.

In an event on 3 July focused on mediation, OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) and Finnish Ambassador to the OSCE Katja Pehrman spoke about parliamentary contributions to conflict resolution and prevention.

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

governments counter terrorism through pragmatic assistance and promotion of best practices, and urges a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the Minsk Group. Regarding the crisis in and around Ukraine, the resolution urges all parties to fully implement the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

The committee debated a number of issues related to the security situation in the OSCE area, with a particular focus on resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine and protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus. Parliamentarians stressed that constructive dialogue will help rebuild trust among participating States and thereby facilitate the full implementation of key documents and agreements aimed at stabilizing the situation on the ground and exerting more pressure for achieving peace.

There were 87 proposed amendments to the resolution, with 47 adopted.

Supplementary Items

The First Committee discussed five supplementary items. The resolution “The Possible Contributions of the OSCE PA to Developing Effective Response to Crisis and Conflicts,” principally sponsored by Doris Barnett (Germany), was adopted by a large margin with four amendments. The resolution recommends the development of a rapid reaction capability for deployment in times of crisis to support the work of OSCE field operations and to make policy recommendations on future action to the OSCE executive bodies.

Principally sponsored by David Usupashvili (Georgia), the resolution “The Conflict in Georgia,” was approved with three amendments. The resolution reiterates the PA’s support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The committee also debated and adopted the resolution “Reconsolidating European Security as a Common Project,” principally sponsored by Filippo Lombardi



Rapporteur Margaret Cederfelt confers with Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Palleares on 2 July.

(Switzerland), with four amendments. The resolution calls upon the current and upcoming OSCE Chairmanships, in close co-operation with the OSCE Troika and the OSCE Secretariat, to prepare concrete proposals on how political discussions on European security can be further developed within the OSCE, with a view to restoring co-operative security in the OSCE area.

Authored by Arta Dade (Albania), the resolution “The Republic of Moldova” passed with five amendments. The resolution proposes to facilitate parliamentary dialogue between members of the Moldovan Parliament and representatives of the Transnistrian legislative body under the auspices of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova and with the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Jürgen Klimke (Germany)’s resolution “Enhanced Co-operation and Confidence Building Measures in the Baltic Sea Region” was approved with two amendments. The resolution calls, inter alia, for a discussion within the OSCE PA with the aim of forming a Baltic Sea working group in order to foster and strengthen security, co-operation and dialogue in the region.

The Committee wrapped up its work on 4 July with the election of committee officers.

Election of Officers

Chair: Roger Wicker (United States)

Vice-Chair: Guglielmo Picchi (Italy)

Rapporteur: Margaret Cederfelt (Sweden)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



The three sessions of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment on 2-3 July were chaired by Committee Vice-Chair Nilza Sena, Head of Portugal's OSCE PA Delegation. Members considered the draft resolution proposed by Rapporteur Marietta Tidei (Italy) and two supplementary items which dealt with combatting corruption and commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Report and Resolution

Tidei presented her report and draft resolution, calling for tackling the underlying causes of common security challenges, which today, she said, clearly have a component rooted in the economic and environmental dimension.

The Rapporteur paid particular attention to the cascading and interrelated effects of corruption, energy, climate change, food security, and migration as contributing to destabilization in many parts of the OSCE area. Tidei stressed that food security should not be viewed from a purely humanitarian standpoint, but also as central to a comprehensive approach to security. Tidei also emphasized the role migrants play in economic growth, and called for more focus on improving the management of migration flows, as well as to "increase economic opportunities for migrants in destination countries and countries of origin."

Tidei called for creating a platform of dialogue to better address cross-sectoral issues in the economy and environment, and to build upon dialogue in the OSCE area. "In the Hel-

Ad Hoc Committee on Migration outlines work plan



visits to learn about the situation of migrants, interaction with stakeholders dealing with migration, and developing ideas and policy recommendations.

During the meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee heard from Swiss Ambassador Claude Wild, Chair of the OSCE's Informal Working Group (IWG) on Migration, who presented the OSCE's complementary role to UNHCR and IOM in tackling the issue of migration and refugees flow, as well as the challenges and opportunities this issue encompasses for the OSCE.

To best complement the work of the OSCE's governmental side, the Ad Hoc Committee agreed to focus on the same five dimensions that the IWG is working on, namely protection, combatting crimes, responsible border management, successful integration, solidarity and partnership. In addition, the Committee will focus on prevention.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland), met on the margins of the Annual Session to discuss its plan of action for the coming year. The Chair recalled the three main activities the committee is focusing on, including field

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Voting in the Second Committee on 3 July.

sinki Final Act of 1975, participating States recognized that ‘efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole’,” she said. “More than four decades later, in the midst of crises and challenges on multiple fronts, we are reminded of how prescient these words were.”

In this regard, Tidei’s resolution calls for participating States to “further develop their early warning capacity in an effort to counteract potential threats from climate change,” and for the OSCE to co-ordinate its work in the second dimension with that of other international organizations.

Seventeen parliamentarians took the floor, presenting their views on a range of issues related to the report. These included the risk of water as a possible source of conflict, the need to develop economic infrastructure and transportation, instability of financial markets, energy security, combatting corruption, and strengthening the OSCE’s economic-environmental dimension and the potential of economic co-operation to reinforce peace and security.

The committee considered 35 amendments to the draft resolution, with 19 ultimately adopted. Following the debate and consideration of amendments, the document was adopted unanimously.

Supplementary Items

Sponsored by Margareta Cederfeldt (Sweden), the supplementary item “Acting Against Corruption in the OSCE Region to Strengthen the Rule of Law” calls upon participating States to update their legislative frameworks to prior-

itize the fight against corruption, pointing out that national legislation should ensure a maximum degree of transparency in political, administrative, and economic life.

The item also encourages OSCE participating States to bear in mind the gender dimension of corruption and to mainstream gender equality into anti-corruption monitoring activities. It also encourages the strengthening of the parliamentary dimension of the fight

against corruption among national parliaments by taking stock of national anti-corruption initiatives and sharing good practices on working methods and approaches to tackling corruption effectively. Two amendments were discussed, one of which was adopted, and the item was adopted unanimously.

The supplementary item “The 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster,” sponsored by Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), commemorates the anniversary of the disaster, pays tribute to the victims, and underlines that current as well as past efforts to minimize the negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster have fallen short. It also calls for additional assistance by the international community to maintain and operate structures built within the closed “exclusion zone” and unconditional resettlement zone.

The item welcomes the OSCE’s work to contribute within its mandate to the international efforts aimed at alleviating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular through an assessment of environmental risks in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and strengthening capacities in the sphere of environmental control, also reaffirming the critical importance of observing International Atomic Energy Agency nuclear safety standards and the requirements of the 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. With 13 amendments discussed and 12 agreed to, the item was adopted unanimously.

Election of Officers

Chair: Nilza Sena (Portugal)

Vice-Chair: Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)

Rapporteur: Marietta Tidei (Italy)

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal) presided over four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions on 2-4 July, with Vice-Chair Ivana Dobesova (Czech Republic) filling in as Chair while Santos presented the report and draft resolution in the absence of Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia). Six supplementary items were also considered by the committee.

Report and Resolution

Raising concerns over the deprioritizing of human rights across the OSCE region, the report and resolution urges a revitalization of the OSCE's commitment to the human dimension of security at a time when a "crisis of

leadership and ideas" is coinciding with a humanitarian emergency related to Europe's refugee and migrant crisis. The report argues that respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law is fundamental to lasting security.

The resolution further provides guidance on ways to improve the comprehensive and multidimensional approach to security, including by refraining from the imposition of legal and physical barriers to the movement of people fleeing violence. It advocates an inclusive approach to migrants and refugees, including by opening up labour markets at the earliest possible stage.

Santos noted that the report and draft resolution do not present a "magic solution" to the challenges of human rights in the OSCE area,

Parliamentarians consider gender issues at working lunch



Opened by Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), 2 July's Gender Lunch featured keynote addresses by Manana Kobakhidze, the First Vice-Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, and OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (Finland). The working lunch, held under the theme "Transforming

Gender Equality Goals into Concrete Action," was also addressed by Elene Rusetskaia, Director of the Women's Information Center, and Sophia Japaridze, Assistant to the Prime Minister of Georgia on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues. Key themes discussed by the speakers included how to increase opportunities for women and how to improve social, political and economic conditions for women through the improvement of national legislation.

Following the keynote addresses, participants discussed how to move from commitment to action, proposing a number of concrete actions for success in achieving gender equality on the local, national, and international levels.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

but provide a basis for further co-operation. “Together, we can achieve more, and one day we will achieve the solutions,” she said.

Twenty-three parliamentarians took the floor to debate the report and draft resolution, with views expressed on the ongoing challenges of the refugee and migrant crisis, the crisis in and around Ukraine, and protracted conflicts in Georgia. Other issues highlighted were the vulnerabilities of women and girls in the context of the migration crisis and the state of LGBT rights.

Following the discussion, the committee debated the proposed amendments to Com-ic’s resolution. The committee considered 40 amendments to the draft resolution, as well as several oral amendments proposed during the meeting, with 27 adopted in total. After the consideration of amendments, the document was adopted overwhelmingly.

Supplementary Items

The Third Committee discussed six supplementary items. The item “Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol”, sponsored by Natalia Ahafonova of Ukraine, reaffirms the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and condemns human rights abuses on the Crimean peninsula, including those directed against the Crimean Tatar minority. Following a vigorous debate, the item was ultimately approved overwhelmingly with three amendments.

The item “Law Enforcement Co-ordination to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking by Known Sex Offenders”, sponsored by Christopher Smith (United States), passed overwhelmingly with one amendment. The resolution expresses alarm at the scale of the problem of the victimization of children by commercial sexual exploitation, and calls on OSCE participating States to improve their law enforcement co-ordination on matters relating to child sexual exploitation.

The supplementary item “A Call for OSCE Action to Address Violence and Discrimination” was proposed by Randy Hultgren on behalf of sponsor Ben Cardin, both members of

the U.S. Delegation. The resolution expresses alarm over heightened incidents of violence and discrimination and increased prejudice in the OSCE region, and calls on participating States to develop an anti-discrimination action plan. There were six proposed amendments with one agreed to, and the resolution was subsequently adopted.

The resolution “The Rights of Refugees”, sponsored and presented by Michel Voisin (France), enjoyed overwhelming support and was adopted with one oral amendment. The item calls on governments to protect the families of refugees and ensure that their status as refugees is protected. The debate included an exchange of views on how best to deal with the refugee and migrant crisis.

The item “The Security Challenges of Migration”, sponsored by Third Committee Vice-Chair Ivana Dobesova (Czech Republic) urges greater consideration of the security issues raised by the refugee and migrant crisis, and invites OSCE participating States to co-operate more closely with countries of origin and transit in order to address potential security issues arising from irregular migration. Ten amendments were proposed to the resolution, with five adopted. Following the discussion of amendments the resolution was adopted by a large margin.

The final supplementary item, “Integrating Gender-Based Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming in the Response to the Migrant and Refugee Crisis”, authored by Hedy Fry (Canada), was adopted unanimously with one amendment. The resolution calls on the OSCE and its participating States to, inter alia, collect sex-disaggregated data and conduct gender-based analysis of all plans and programmes in response to the migrant and refugee crisis, and to ensure that female migrants and refugees are protected from exploitation and discrimination.

Election of Officers

Chair: *Ignacio Sanchez-Amor (Spain)*

Vice-Chair: *Ivana Dobesova (Czech Republic)*

Rapporteur: *Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyanni (Cyprus)*

Second Plenary Session



President Ilkka Kanerva chairs the plenary session.

President Ilkka Kanerva chaired two plenary sessions on 4-5 July, in which the Tbilisi Declaration was adopted and election results announced. Hedy Fry (Canada) and Doris Barnett (Germany) presented reports on gender issues and the OSCE PA's finances, respectively, and Members also heard addresses by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and President Kanerva.

Hedy Fry, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

Presenting her report, "A Gender Sensitive Response to the Migrant and Refugee Influx in Europe is Needed," Hedy Fry declared that no country is moving fast enough when it comes to gender issues. Despite the fact that the structures are in place for making progress, implementation is lacking, she said, highlighting in particular a need for gender mainstreaming in the response to the refugee and migrant crisis.

Fry pointed out that women and children make up a disproportionate number of refugees, and when migrating they are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation or forced labour. She urged the development of gender-sensitive strategies in dealing with the migration crisis, noting that there is a pressing need to improve gender data collection and analysis in order to determine how migration policies impact women and girls.

Supplementary Items

The supplementary items "Unrestricted Access of Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Attending Official OSCE

Events and Other Activities," principally sponsored by Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland), and "The Need to Equip Passenger Aircraft with Additional Technical Means for Monitoring Conditions on Board in Real Time," principally sponsored by Nikolay Kovalev (Russian Federation), were adopted in plenary session on 4 July.

Lombardi's resolution states that travel restrictions resulting from sanctions regimes have a negative impact on parliamentary diplomacy and calls on OSCE participating States to refrain from applying these restrictive measures on members of parliament. In the debate, Members stressed that the freedom to attend parliamentary events is essential for promoting dialogue, and is at the core of parliamentary diplomacy. The supplementary item was adopted by a vote of 94-44, with four abstentions.

Members also adopted Kovalev's resolution, which emphasizes the vulnerability of passenger aircraft to terrorist attack and urges the adoption of on-board photographic and audio-visual monitoring equipment to prevent such attacks.

Open Debate

The floor was then opened up for general debate, with Members addressing a number of issues including terrorism, radical religious movements, the role of the OSCE in conflict resolution, the migration crisis, new technologies, and the need for improving dialogue in the OSCE PA.

Ola Elvestuen (Norway), OSCE PA Special Representative for Arctic Issues, also gave a brief presentation of challenges for the Arctic area, including rising temperatures, melting glaciers, and ongoing security concerns. He reminded the Assembly that Arctic issues cross the three dimensions of security and require co-operation to reduce greenhouse emissions and implement climate change adaptation.

Closing Plenary Session



The Assembly meeting in plenary session.

Open Debate (continued)

A total of 17 Members took the floor during the open debate on 5 July, with migration featuring prominently in discussions. Filippo Lombardi, Head of the Swiss Delegation and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, noted that the OSCE should play an important role in migration crisis resolution, stressing that parliamentarians can help promote the exchange of best practices on this issue. He pointed out that as the world's largest regional security organization, the OSCE is well-suited to meet the challenges of migration due to its geographic and thematic focuses.

Doris Barnett, OSCE PA Treasurer

Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) started her report thanking her predecessor, Roberto Battelli, for his work in ensuring that the Assembly's finances were in good order, as recently confirmed by the OSCE PA's external auditors. Noting that Members of the Assembly are ultimately accountable to their constituents, she welcomed the fact that the budget had remained at a relatively constant level for a number of years.

The OSCE PA's fiscal year 2016/2017 would see a small rise, she said, to ensure that the Secretariat was sufficiently supported to organize its statutory meetings and the increasing level of PA activities. Barnett concluded by thanking the Georgian Delegation for hosting the 2016 Annual Session, as well as her colleagues for their contributions, and the International Secretariat for its work.

Roberto Montella, Secretary General of the OSCE PA

Secretary General Roberto Montella began by expressing his thanks to the Georgian hosts for an exceptional event, and to all Members for their contributions to the discussions. Montella stressed that since taking up his post as Secretary General in January, his two main priorities had been internal reform of the Secretariat and external relations with partners. He noted that it was important to focus on the values that the OSCE PA defends and the important assets that Assembly Members represent.

Montella expressed gratitude to President Kanerva for his two years of service leading the Assembly, noting that this period had been a challenging one due to the crisis in and around Ukraine, the migration crisis and terrorist attacks across the region. He urged continued diligence in addressing these challenges, and noted that the International Secretariat is as committed as ever to working with OSCE PA Members – including the incoming President – in addressing common concerns together.

Ilkka Kanerva, President of the OSCE PA

President Kanerva addressed the Assembly, noting that in times of increased tension in the OSCE area, it is all the more important to enhance constructive parliamentary dialogue and promote mutual understanding. "We must find solutions to our challenges through political not military means," he said, pointing to the

Closing Plenary Session



paper that he had distributed in Tbilisi entitled “Our common vision for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,” which promotes a common approach to comprehensive security.

“Our Assembly has a distinct identity based on its values that unite us,” he said. “Each and every one of us should promote our common values.” He pointed to the various ways that Assembly Members can help ensure that OSCE commitments are implemented in all OSCE countries, including through the valuable work of the OSCE PA’s Special Representatives and the political weight of its Declarations.

Adoption of the Tbilisi Declaration and Election Results

The Session ended with the adoption of the Tbilisi Declaration and the announcement of election results for new Assembly officers. Acting Deputy Head of the PA’s Austrian Delegation Christine Muttonen, an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, was elected Assembly President, along with three Vice-Presidents: Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania), Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), Isabel Santos (Portugal), and Victor Paul Dobre (Romania).

“Parliamentarians can play a very important role in securing peace and stability. It will be my duty to make sure they have the possibility to do so.”

Newly elected OSCE PA President
Christine Muttonen

The newly elected President started her speech by thanking all colleagues, noting that she would not take her responsibilities lightly. She expressed her belief that the dialogue and debate of the Assembly can further the interests of all citizens. “Parliamentarians can play a very important role in securing peace and stability,” she said. “It will be my duty to make sure they have the possibility to do so.”

She thanked her competing candidates for a well-fought campaign, and looked forward to continuing discussions with them and all other Members of the Assembly. Muttonen expressed special thanks to President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva for his leadership, emphasizing that she would continue his work.





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 a two-thirds majority vote.



OSCE PA Bureau meeting on 8 July 2015.

Christine Muttonen (Austria)



was elected President at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi. Muttonen has previously served as OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, and is Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation

to the PA. She has been a Member of the Austrian Parliament since 1999 and also serves as area spokesperson for the Austrian Social Democratic Parliamentary Group for Foreign Politics. She is also a member of her national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Muttonen was a teacher before her career in politics.

Ilkka Kanerva (Finland)

is the Assembly's President Emeritus. Elected President at the 2014 Annual Session and re-elected in 2015, Kanerva is a former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and has been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1975. He



has held a variety of posts in his government and national legislature, including service as Foreign Minister, Minister of Transport,

Deputy Prime Minister, and Deputy Speaker of Parliament. In the PA, he has served as Vice-President and as Co-Chair of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project. He is currently the PA's Special Representative on Mediation.

Doris Barnett (Germany)

was elected Treasurer in 2015, after serving since 2013 as Vice-President. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1994, where she currently serves on the Committee on Economics and Technology and the Committee on



European Union Affairs. She is the Head of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA and is also a member of the Council of Europe and the European Security and Defence Assembly.

Robert Aderholt (United States)

was elected OSCE PA Vice-President at the Monaco Annual Session in 2012 and re-elected in 2015. In the U.S. Congress, he is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, which has jurisdiction over funding the operation of the federal government. As Chairman of the



Officers of the Assembly

Subcommittee on Agriculture and a member of the Commerce, Justice and Science as well as the Defense Subcommittees, he supports greater transparency, accountability and oversight of the appropriations process. Aderholt is also an active member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the Helsinki Commission).

Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania)



was first elected Vice-President at the 2013 OSCE PA Annual Session in Istanbul after serving two terms as Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, and re-elected in Tbilisi. She also served as

Head of Delegation of Lithuania to the OSCE PA from 2008 to 2012 and is a member the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. Aleknaite Abramikiene has been a member of the *Seimas* (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania since 1992 and is a member of the Committees on European Affairs and Legal Affairs.

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia)

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki after serving for three terms as the Assembly's Treasurer. He is also the OSCE PA's Special Representative on



South East Europe, a position he has held since 2006. Since becoming a member of the OSCE PA in 1992, Battelli has been particularly active in election observation, observing some two dozen elections across the OSCE area. Battelli has been a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia since 1990, where he

is a member of the parliamentary expert group that was responsible for drafting the country's constitution.

Peter Bowness (United Kingdom)

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE PA at the Helsinki Annual Session in 2015. As a member of the House of Lords, he serves on the European Union Energy and Environment Sub-Committee and has been a member of the European Union



Select Committee, among other assignments. He has been a member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007 and serves as Chair of the OSCE PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

Victor Paul Dobre (Romania)



was elected to a one-year term as Vice-President at the OSCE PA's 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 5 July 2016. A member of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies since 2000, Dobre has served on the Romanian Delegation to the

OSCE PA since 2009. In his national parliament, Dobre serves as Chairman of the Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning.

Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)

was elected Vice-President in Tbilisi. He previously served for three years as Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. A member



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of his national parliament since 2005, Guliyev currently serves on the Permanent Committee on State Building and is a member of several working groups promoting Azerbaijan's bilateral relations with various countries. Since 2008, he has also served as Chair of the Council on State Support to NGOs. Guliyev has been a member of Azerbaijan's OSCE PA Delegation since 2005.

Kent Harstedt (Sweden)



was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. A member of the Swedish Parliament since 1998, he has served on the Committee on Defence, the Committee on Health and Welfare, the Joint Committee on Foreign

Affairs and Defence and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the OSCE PA, Harstedt is a member of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security and has been particularly active in election observation activities, having participated in missions to Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United States and Ukraine. He is also active in the Swedish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Isabel Santos (Portugal)



was elected Vice-President in Tbilisi, after having previously served three terms as Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Santos has been a member of Portuguese Parliament from 2005 to 2009 and

resumed her service in the Parliament in 2011. She serves on the Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and the Commit-

tee on Agriculture and the Sea. As Chair of the Third Committee she was particularly active, leading delegations and fact-finding missions to Kazakhstan and Guantanamo Bay, as well as to refugee camps in Rome, Lampedusa, Catania, Czech Republic, and Serbia.

George Tsereteli (Georgia)

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco and re-elected at the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki. Following a career in business and as a practicing neurologist, Tsereteli came to



politics in 1995, serving in the Tbilisi municipality and as Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1999, and has served as Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Vice Prime Minister, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy, Chairman of the Committee on Healthcare and Social Issues and as Acting Chairman of Parliament.



The Bureau meets every spring in the Danish Parliament (*Folketing*).

General Committee Officers



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.

First General Committee

Roger Wicker (United States)



has served as the Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Committee on Political Affairs and Security since November 2014. He has been re-elected at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Sessions. Wicker currently

serves as the Co-Chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission). Within the U.S. Senate he is a member of the Armed Services Committee; the Budget Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Rules Committee.

Guglielmo Picchi (Italy)



was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security at the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi. He has served in the Italian Parliament since 2006 and has been on the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2008. He previously has worked in investment banking and served on the City Council of Florence from 1995 to 1999. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden)

has served as the Rapporteur for the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security since 2015. First entering the Swedish parliament (*Riksdag*) in 1999, Cederfelt served as an Alternate Member of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA from



2010 to 2014 and since 2014 as Deputy Head of the Delegation. In her national parliament, Cederfelt has served as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs since 2014. She has also served as Chair of the National Board of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and Treasurer of the PGA Executive Board since 2011.

General Committee Officers



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Second General Committee

Nilza Sena (Portugal)



was elected Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2016 Annual Session, after serving three terms as Vice-Chair. A Member of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2011, Sena is also

a founder and member of the Board of the Portuguese Platform for Sustainable Development and Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Science and Culture. She is Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party and a Professor at the Technical University of Lisbon. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and a PhD in Social Sciences in the specialty of sociology and has published numerous academic articles.

Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)

was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi. Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Gerasymov has a background in the private sector, serving as Deputy Direc-



tor, Director and General Director of Ukrainian Marketing Group. In 2014, he was elected to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament), where he serves as a member of the Committee on National Security and Defence, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Military-Industrial and Military-Technical Co-operation of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Security and Defence Affairs.

Marietta Tidei (Italy)



was elected Rapporteur of the Second Committee at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku and re-elected at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Sessions in Helsinki and Tbilisi. Elected to her national parliament in 2013, Tidei is active in the Parliamentary Committee for the Procedures of Charge and the Committee on Economic Activities, Trade and Tourism. She is from Rome and is a member of the Democratic Party.



Marietta Tidei and Nilza Sena

General Committee Officers



Third General Committee

Ignacio Sanchez Amor (Spain)



was elected Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi in July 2016. Sanchez Amor is a member of the Spanish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and

serves as Head of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA. Since 2012, he has also been the OSCE PA's Special Representative on OSCE Border Issues. Sanchez Amor was previously vice president of the Association of European Border Regions. He also held a seat in the regional Assembly of Extremadura and served as Deputy President of the government of the region, which is on the Spain-Portugal border.

Ivana Dobesova (Czech Republic)

was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki and re-elected in Tbilisi. Dobesova serves as Head of the Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OSCE PA and has been a member of



her national parliament since 2013. Within the Czech Chamber of Deputies she is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sports and a member of the Committee on Petitions and the Sub-Committee on Migration. Dobesova also serves as a substitute member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She has been an active participant in OSCE PA election observation activities since joining the Assembly, participating in missions to Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjjiyanni (Cyprus)



was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi. He has been a Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus since 2006, where he serves as Chairman of the Parliamentary Com-

mittee on Educational Affairs and Culture. He is also a Member of the Committee on Refugees-Enclaved-Missing-Adversely Affected Persons. He has previously served on his parliament's Committee on the Environment; the Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry, and Tourism; the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs; the Committee on Internal Affairs, and the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was also a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union from 2003 to 2004.











Secretary General
Roberto Montella

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 Roberto Montella, and has a permanent staff of 16, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



Deputy Secretary
General
Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary
General
Semyon Dzakhayev



Special
Representative
Andreas Nothelle



Chief of the
Executive Office
Andreas Baker



Head of Document
Services
Dana Bjerregaard



Deputy Director of the
Vienna Liaison Office
Marc Carillet



Presidential Advisor
Maria Chepurina



Programme Officer
Farimah Daftary



Head of Confer-
ence Services
Odile LeLarge



Director of Adminis-
tration, Finance and
Human Resources
Kurt Lerras



General Services
Manager
Bo Hjorth Nielsen



Chief Political
Advisor
Francesco Pagani



Head of Communi-
cations and Press
Nat Parry



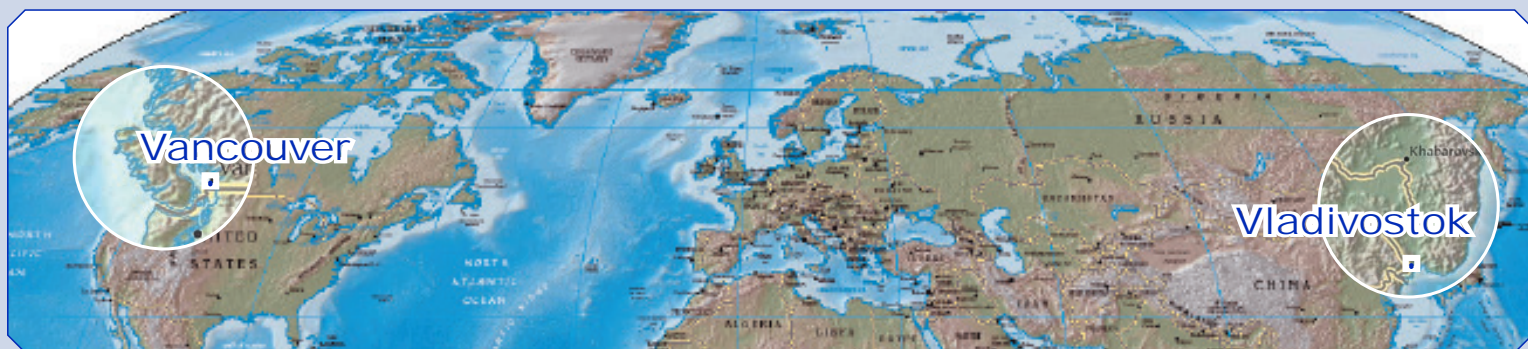
Chief ICT
Stephen Paul



Programme Officer
Loic Poulain



Head of Administration
for Election Observation
Iryna Sabashuk



Bringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, including Europe, Asia and North America, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

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, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

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.



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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