

OSCE PA

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Report on the 16th Annual Session in Kyiv



5-9 July 2007

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
STANDING COMMITTEE	2
INAUGURAL PLENARY SESSION	4
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	9
First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security	9
Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment	12
Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions	14
SIDE MEETINGS	16
Mediterranean Side Meetings	16
Gender Breakfast	17
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION	18
PROGRAMME	24

Introduction



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its 16th Annual Session in Kyiv from 5-9 July 2007. Hosted by the Ukrainian Parliament, the Session focused attention on the theme: *‘Implementation of OSCE Commitments’*. The meetings brought together 250 parliamentarians in the Ukrainian capital, coming from 54 countries across the OSCE and beyond. The Assembly met in two separate plenary sessions, which were addressed by senior officials, including Ukrainian President **Victor Yushchenko**, OSCE PA President **Goran Lenmarker**, and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister **Miguel Angel Moratinos**.

From 6 to 8 July, the Assembly’s three General Committees met to discuss current issues within their fields of work and to consider and amend draft resolutions. The Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations also met to consider and approve a budget for the coming fiscal year and to hear reports on recent work of the Assembly.

On the final day of the Session, the Assembly met to consider all of the resolutions. This document, the Kyiv Declaration, represents the collective voice of OSCE parliamentarians and is distributed to the governments of all OSCE countries for consideration. The Declaration emphasizes that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is the OSCE’s most valuable asset in enhancing the credibility of the OSCE’s efforts to promote democracy and the establishment and improvement of parliamentary institutions. It reiterates the relevance of OSCE Electoral Observation Missions and states that parliamentarians contribute a wide range of professional political experience and visibility to these missions.

The Declaration expresses support for all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the ‘frozen conflicts’ in Moldova and Georgia based on the principles of territorial integrity. Reaffirming the crucial importance of all democratic values, the Declaration calls on governments of OSCE participating States to pursue their international commitments and principles linked to the notion of each being a free and democratic country. The Declaration urges all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty and the Kyoto Protocol. It also calls 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 contains provisions on women, peace and security; cluster bombs; environmental security; human rights and intolerance.

The Assembly re-elected Goran Lenmarker as President of the Assembly and elected other Officers of the Assembly.

Standing Committee



OSCE PA President **Goran Lennmarker** welcomed the Heads of Delegations to the Standing Committee. He provided an overview of some of the work of the Assembly during the past year, including his own visits to Central Asia, the Caucasus and Moldova. Senator **Jerry Grafstein**, in his final report as Assembly Treasurer, reported that the Assembly's finances continue to be in excellent order. Several delegates took the floor to praise the excellent work he has done in overseeing the finances of the Assembly, and the Standing Committee unanimously approved the budget for the coming year. Secretary General **Spencer Oliver** presented his report on the activities of the Assembly and the Secretariat, in what had been an extremely busy and successful year.

The Standing Committee decided upon the inclusion of ten supplementary items on the Annual Session agenda, allocating them to the relevant committees for consideration. The possibility of removing elements of a draft report and resolution from the Session's agenda was raised; however, this was found to be inconsistent with the Rules of Procedure.

Josep Dallares, Head of the Andorran Delegation, provided an overview of the recent and very successful Conference that had taken place in Andorra. **Oleh Bilorus**, Head of the Ukrainian Delegation, welcomed participants to Kyiv and provided an overview of the arrangements for the current Session.

Vice-President **Tone Tingsgaard**, who had been appointed as OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the Armenian Elections, noted the improvement of these elections and highlighted the successful co-operation within the Election Observation Mission.

The Standing Committee was also briefed on the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives. **Roberto Battelli** (Slovenia), Special Representative on South Eastern Europe, presented a report on his recent activities, as well as outlining the activities of the Assembly's Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact, of which one of the events will take place during the Fall Meetings in Slovenia. **Petur Blondal** (Iceland) presented his first report as Special Representative on the OSCE Budget, providing an overview of the current discussions on the budget as well as of his own activities. President Emeritus **Alcee Hastings** (USA), Special Representative on the Mediterranean, stressed the importance of the region and the necessity of encouraging co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners. Special Representative on Central Asia, **Kimmo Kiljunen** (Finland), likewise stressed the importance of this region. He recalled the President's visit to the region in April and outlined his own planned activities. He welcomed the participation in the Annual Session of Turkmenistan, as well as, for the first time, that of Partner State Afghanistan.

The Standing Committee was given information on upcoming meetings of the Assembly, including on the 2007 Fall Meetings in Slovenia and the 2008 Annual Session in Kazakhstan. The Committee then accepted invitations presented by Senator **Consiglio Di Nino**, Head of the Canadian Delegation, to hold the 2008 Fall Meetings in Toronto, and **Arminas Lydeka**, Acting Head of the Lithuanian Delegation, to hold the 2009 Annual Session in Lithuania.



Inaugural Plenary Session



OSCE PA President Goran Lenmarker opened the Session by thanking the Ukrainian authorities for hosting the 16th Annual Session. He underlined the importance of the Session attended by nearly 250 parliamentarians. The President welcomed the speakers: Ukrainian President Yushchenko, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Moroz and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Moratinos, and wished all participants a fruitful meeting and constructive debates.

Address by the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko

President Yushchenko warmly welcomed the OSCE PA as supporters of democratic progress. He underlined that Ukraine is not moving away from democracy and emphasized Ukraine's role as an integral part of European parliamentarianism.

In his speech, the President demanded that the immunity of parliamentarians should be eliminated in order to fight corruption. President Yushchenko said Ukraine needs transparent constitutional reforms and early parliamentary elections to renew political life, promote responsibility and develop stronger ties between the people and their government.

The President added that the upcoming elections on 30 September would open new prospects for Ukraine. President Yushchenko invited the members of the OSCE PA to come back in September to observe the elections, saying that their objective and impartial evaluation of Ukraine's elections was needed. He further pledged to ensure that the poll will be held in a fair and democratic manner. Furthermore, Yushchenko assured participants that all political changes

in Ukraine will be legal, honest and democratic. He stressed that Ukraine was conscious of being responsible not only for its own stability and democracy but also for that of the whole region.

President Yushchenko called upon the OSCE participating States to express solidarity with the Ukrainian people by recognizing the great famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. He said that this step would demonstrate the civilized unity and true democratic nature of the area dominated by the ideas of the OSCE, particularly the idea of respect for human life and national freedom.

Praising Ukraine's contribution to OSCE activities, Yushchenko said his country would continue to be active, and would continue to value the OSCE's support and follow its principles. He called upon the OSCE to be an example of equal co-operation and mutually beneficial partnerships to promote common values and resolve common challenges. The President urged the Organization to resolve the region's frozen conflicts.

Finally, Victor Yushchenko remarked that together with its partners from the OSCE and other regional organizations, Ukraine intended to spare no effort to unite Europe in the crusade to resolve security challenges, develop mutually beneficial energy co-operation and build close economic ties.

Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Goran Lenmarker

President Lenmarker reminded participants that



Ukraine was in the heart of Europe and that the country was symbolic of recent European history. From the wars, famine and oppression of the 20th century, Ukraine has become an independent and democratic country, building freedom and prosperity. President Lennmarker informed Members that the Assembly had been invited by the Ukrainian authorities to observe the legislative elections on 30 September, and reiterated that election observation is a very important activity for the OSCE PA in helping to build democracy. The President of the OSCE PA stressed the importance of parliamentary observers' leadership and presence at elections during transitional periods. Since parliamentarians are themselves directly elected public officials, their observations are of great value to the public and to the voters, as well as to local and international media.

Highlighting the importance of the OSCE area and the crucial role played by the OSCE field missions, President Lennmarker pointed out the existing threats to European security. Terrorism, climate and environmental changes, and the debate over the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty are part of the list of current challenges that the OSCE seeks to overcome. Additionally, President Lennmarker recalled that he has been actively involved in supporting the OSCE Minsk Group's attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that resolution of the frozen conflicts in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transdniestria are also a major concern for the OSCE.

Increased engagement with Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as other members east of Vienna has been a key feature of Mr. Lennmarker's presidency. In this regard, President Lennmarker reiterated his personal support for Kazakhstan's candidacy for Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2009.

President Lennmarker concluded his address by thanking all participants for their support this past year, and particularly the Members of the Bureau and the Standing Committee. He also took this opportunity to encourage those parliaments that have not yet hosted OSCE PA events to put forward such proposals.

Address by the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksandr Moroz

On behalf of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksandr Moroz welcomed the



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to Kyiv. He expressed his gratitude for the high level of representation of Members of the OSCE PA and their respect for Ukraine. Mr. Moroz stressed the important role of the OSCE for peace in Europe and underlined the major work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the last Ukrainian elections. The speaker assured that Ukraine fully supports the OSCE principles as declared in the Helsinki Final Act, and commits itself to democracy and transparency.

Chairman Moroz stressed that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is an effective tool for ensuring transparency and democracy and that it should also hold its ground against those institutions that would try to interfere with the democratic process in Ukraine. Once again he expressed that Ukraine very much appreciates the OSCE's assistance in building democracy. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada also noted that the OSCE could provide further mechanisms to solve problems on basic issues such as energy supply within and between countries.

Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Miguel Angel Moratinos

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos, expressed his satisfaction at addressing the OSCE PA's 16th Annual Session. Mr. Moratinos commended the OSCE PA for putting forward innovative ideas and for contributing to the political and democratic work of the OSCE. He also stressed the decisive input of President Lennmarker in the Chairman-in-Office's recent successful visit to the South Caucasus.

The Chairman-in-Office pointed out that electoral observation is the cornerstone of every confidence-building and assistance instrument. Therefore, following up on the example of the Armenian elections,



the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE PA should work in close co-operation, he said. The Minister took this opportunity to ensure the Ukrainian authorities and the members of the Assembly that every OSCE institution would provide all necessary assistance for the smooth functioning of the Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary election in September.

Mr. Moratinos also stressed the importance of preventing conflicts from escalating. Work must be carried on to renew confidence between opposing parties in South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdnistria. Likewise, he stated that Kosovo is a major preoccupation for the Spanish Chairmanship. The Chairman-in-Office indicated his support for the OSCE Permanent Council's Working Group on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE and expressed his wish that the Working Group would come up with a draft agreement in time for the Ministerial Council in Madrid later in 2007.

Mr. Moratinos ended his address by emphasizing that the OSCE PA Annual Session is a key moment of the OSCE agenda and thanked all participants for their support in enhancing the work of the OSCE.

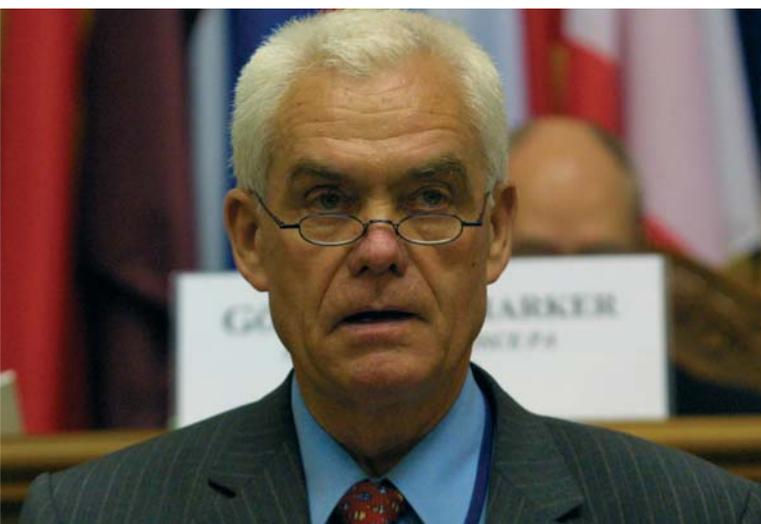
Following his address, the Chairman-in-Office answered a series of questions from the gathered parliamentarians regarding the situation in Afghanistan, election observation activities, the status of Kosovo and the need to co-ordinate work between the different OSCE institutions.

Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgaard

The Special Representative on Gender Issues reported on recent Assembly work aimed at improving gender equality. The situation within the OSCE is almost unchanged, she said. Women remain under-represented in major positions in the Organization. Ms. Tingsgaard expressed concern that the issue of women's representation seems to have largely disappeared from the OSCE agenda. She regretted the lack of will within the OSCE to deal with this issue and she strongly emphasized that its implementation was crucial. Regarding the OSCE PA, the Special Representative noted that there is no rule requiring that both genders be represented in all PA delegations, and questioned who would oppose such a proposal. Ms. Tingsgaard stressed that women's representation is not only a women's issue but a fundamental issue of democracy.

Ms. Tingsgaard urged all OSCE participating States to report back on the strategy of their own countries on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Finally, Tone Tingsgaard, recounted her participation in a seminar on gender equality recently held in Tajikistan which had been organized by the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe and the Tajik parliament and where men and women openly discussed this issue.





Supplementary Item

One supplementary item was considered and adopted during the Assembly's Inaugural Plenary Session. The supplementary item on The Role and Status of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE, sponsored by *Hans Raidel* (Germany), recommends solidifying the status and role of the OSCE PA and stresses the importance of the parliamentary dimension in enhancing the credibility of the OSCE's efforts to promote democracy.

Special Addresses

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, *Nino Burjanadze* (Georgia) welcomed the opportunity to address

the PA. She stressed the important role of international organizations in multilateral and bilateral co-operation as well as the decisiveness of parliamentary components for fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and friendly relations among states and nations. Ms. Burjanadze pointed out the geo-strategic importance of the Black Sea region in terms of bilateral and multilateral links, energy resources, transport infrastructure and shipment routes. She stressed that the Black Sea region is an inseparable part of Europe and the Mediterranean and therefore should become an inseparable component of the European security system. Ms. Burjanadze emphasized the important role of parliamentarians in international organizations, providing them with a legislative foundation for successful work and expressed her wish that more effective links between the OSCE PA and the PABSEC would be established. Finally Ms. Burjanadze underlined the necessity of increasing co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE PA, as well as parliamentary follow-up of OSCE activities at the national level and strengthening transparency and accountability in the Organization.

Prior to closing the Inaugural Plenary Session, a parliamentarian from Partner State Afghanistan addressed the Assembly for the first time. *Ghulam Abbas* stressed the importance of security and referred to the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan which remains a major threat in the country. The Head of the Afghan Delegation also particularly expressed his condolences for the six Canadian soldiers that became victims of a terrorist attack in Afghanistan the day before.





First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Under the Chairmanship of *Jean-Charles Gardetto* (Monaco), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security discussed a wide range of topics included in the Rapporteur's draft resolution, which focused on the issues of energy security and the situation in Belarus. In addition, the First General Committee debated supplementary items on Conflict Settlement in the OSCE Area; Women in Peace and Security; and the Ban on Cluster Bombs.

Address by the Secretary General of the OSCE, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

In a special address OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut addressed the First Committee, stressing the role of the OSCE PA in a broad range of OSCE issues and highlighting the

importance of the OSCE for security debates in Europe. As an example, he reported on an extraordinary conference held in Vienna on the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty in June 2007, stressing the importance of the treaty. He noted that the OSCE's 2007 Annual Security Review Conference in Vienna proved that the Organization works successfully in such important areas as combating terrorism and trafficking. However, Ambassador de Brichambaut stressed, the OSCE needs to make better use of its budget in order to fulfill its mandate. Regarding the situation in Kosovo, he praised the substantial work of the OSCE in this region which has provided a good framework for smoothly functioning institutions and reminded participants of the need for a long-term effort.

Furthermore, the Secretary General expressed his concern about increasing violence in Transdnistria and Moldova and reported on progress being made in discussions regarding Nagorno-Karabakh. He called for continuing the OSCE's commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and stressed the important role of parliamentarians in assisting with this work. Finally, he pointed out the important efforts and work being conducted by the OSCE Minsk Group, but stressed that the responsibility remains with the OSCE participating States.

In the ensuing question and answer period, President Lennmarker thanked Ambassador de Brichambaut for his presentation and also highlighted the important work of the OSCE Minsk Group. He emphasized that the field missions should be



strengthened and reiterated the importance of gender issues. Furthermore, he stressed the need for the PA to find common ground with the OSCE/ODIHR. Ambassador de Brichambaut stated that progress had already been made regarding the renewal of OSCE staff and that there have been improvements for families in the field missions. He also stressed the importance of the gender perspective. Finally, he called upon the PA and other OSCE institutions to work together as a team. In addition, the debate covered issues such as the budgetary process in the OSCE, the situation in Belarus, the engagement of the OSCE in Central Asia and the role of the OSCE PA in the OSCE.

Report and Resolution

Introducing his Report and draft Resolution, the Committee Rapporteur, **Kristian Pihl Lorentzen** (Denmark) highlighted the challenges facing the OSCE, particularly regarding energy security and the situation in Belarus. He stated that energy security was a top issue of high politics given that energy is essential for economic development. The insecurity of energy is a global challenge and Mr. Lorentzen stressed that national policies are not sufficient on their own. Therefore, he suggested developing the OSCE as a platform for dialogue on energy security. Regarding Belarus, Mr. Lorentzen assured the Assembly that his intention was to have a constructive impact. He reminded participants of the Berlin and Rotterdam Declarations, both of which included resolutions on Belarus. The Rapporteur stressed that the OSCE is assisting Belarus in its democratic development, but that this still needs to be strengthened further and he argued for a constructive dialogue. After having debated and



voted on the amendments, the Committee adopted the Resolution.

The resolution urges OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty and commit themselves to successful completion of its Transit Protocol. It rejects any attempts to use energy issues as a tool of political pressure and urges OSCE participating States to observe market economy principles in the energy sector. Furthermore it urges OSCE States to do more to develop measures aimed at increasing energy saving and efficiency as well as to further the use of renewable energy. The second part of the resolution welcomes co-operation between the OSCE and Belarus and calls upon the Belarusian Government to respect fundamental rights. It also urges the Belarusian Government to reform the Electoral Code to meet OSCE standards, to invite the OSCE to observe all future elections, and to continue to develop co-operation with the European Union.

Supplementary Items

Three supplementary items were debated and voted



upon in the First General Committee.

The supplementary item on Conflict Settlement in the OSCE Area, sponsored by **Oleh Bilorus** (Ukraine), was adopted following debate on the proposed amendments. The resolution expresses its deep regret at the lack of substantial progress toward a political settlement of the existing conflicts in various regions of the OSCE area and expresses its support for all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the “frozen” conflicts in Georgia and Moldova.

The second supplementary item on Women in Peace and Security, sponsored by **Barbara Haering** (Switzerland), was amended and subsequently adopted by the Committee. The resolution underlines the fact that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflicts and encourages OSCE participating States to develop, adopt and implement national action plans on women in peace and security.

The supplementary item on The Ban on Cluster Bombs, sponsored by **Anne-Marie Lizin** (Belgium), underlines the serious humanitarian consequences and the highly destructive impact on civilians of the use of such weapons and calls upon participating States to adopt legislation prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions.



Election of Officers:

The following Members were elected to serve in the First General Committee:

Chair: *Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)*

Vice-Chair: *Consiglio Di Nino (Canada)*

Rapporteur: *Arminas Lydeka (Lithuania)*



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

The Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, **Leonid Ivanchenko** (Russian Federation) welcomed all participants to the Committee. He recalled the rules concerning the voting on the resolution, supplementary items and amendments and commended the Rapporteur for the quality of his report. In addition to the Rapporteur's report and draft resolution, focused on migration, the Committee discussed supplementary items on the Illicit Air Transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunitions; on Environmental Security Strategy; and on the Liberalization of Transatlantic Trade.

Report and Resolution

The Committee's Rapporteur, **Roland Blum**, from France, presented his report and draft resolution. The report describes the situation of migration within the OSCE area. The Rapporteur adopted a comprehensive approach by looking at all factors of international migration (economic, historical and political) as well as its consequences for countries of origin, transit and destination. Mr. Blum highlighted that migration has both positive and negative effects on countries and his report and draft resolution aimed to highlight ways of maximizing the positive effects while minimizing the negative ones. The Rapporteur identified certain key

priorities, including: the fight against illegal immigration and illegal work and the promotion of migration of skilled and qualified workers. Parallel to that, he stated that a stronger effort should be given to the co-development of policies and to bilateral, multilateral and international agreements between countries of origin and countries of destination. Mr. Blum underlined that this partnership would enable migrants to take more of an active role in the development of their countries of origin. Following up on this idea, he stated that he favoured increased competition between companies that perform transfers of remittances so as to lower the costs for migrant workers.

Lastly, the report presents the OSCE actions in the field of international migration. The Rapporteur drew attention to the publication of a practical guide on policies dealing with labour-related migration jointly produced by the OSCE, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization. He also welcomed the information centres for migrants that have been established by the OSCE centres in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. After having debated and voted on 32 amendments, the Committee adopted the resolution which addresses these key areas. In particular, it also recommends that OSCE participating States further engage in bilateral, multilateral and international agreements dealing with migration issues and encourages the development of partner-based immigration.



Supplementary Items

The Second Committee debated, amended and adopted three supplementary items.

The supplementary item on the Illicit Air Transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunitions, sponsored by *Francois-Xavier de Donnea* (Belgium), calls upon participating States to strengthen their fight against this type of traffic. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Committee.

The supplementary item on Environmental Security Strategy, put forward by *Barbara Haering* (Switzerland) was also considered and adopted by the Second Committee. The resolution encourages the development of an environmental approach to security strategies at national, international and OSCE levels.

The Liberalization of Transatlantic Trade was the topic of the last supplementary item considered by the Second Committee. Senator *Consiglio Di Nino* (Canada) sponsored the text. The resolution aims at favouring trade exchange among members of existing free trade zones by supporting initiatives resulting in the elimination of regulatory barriers and by raising awareness among OSCE participating States of the benefits of liberalization of trade.

Election of Officers:

The following Members were elected to serve in the Second General Committee:

Chair: *Leonid Ivanchenko*
(Russian Federation)
Vice-Chair: *Petros Efthymiou* (Greece)
Rapporteur: *Roland Blum* (France)



Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



The Chair of the Third General Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Humanitarian Questions, *Anne-Marie Lizin* (Belgium) presided over the four meetings of the Committee. Over the course of the meetings, Members discussed issues raised by the Rapporteur in his report and draft resolution on the basic values and principles of democracy, freedom of expression and religion, development co-operation and corruption, as well as elections and election observation. The Committee also considered three supplementary items on Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions; on Strengthening of Counteraction of Trafficking in Persons in OSCE participating States; and on Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Intolerance, including against Muslims and Roma.

Report and Resolution

The Rapporteur of the Committee, *Jesus Lopez-Medel* from Spain, introduced his report and draft resolution. The report covers aspects of all three areas dealt with by the Committee – Human Rights, Democracy, and Humanitarian Questions. Mr. Lopez-Medel underlined the necessity of remembering the basic ethical component of democracy and the principles that democratic institutions are built on. The report stresses the importance of elections for genuine democracy in the OSCE region and the importance of

the political perspective that parliamentarians bring to election observation. In regards to humanitarian questions, the Rapporteur notes that humanitarian aid for refugees and displaced persons must continue to be considered a priority, and that the return of refugees to their home countries should continue to be pursued when possible. He also underlined the insufficient commitment of developed countries towards easing the poverty faced by much of the world's population. In his report and draft resolution, he also touched on the issues of migration, corruption, and religious freedom and the protection of minorities.

The general debate on the report addressed issues related to: maintaining respect for human rights in the face of efforts to ensure security, particularly against terrorist attacks; election observation; combating intolerance; and work on stopping environmental degradation and poverty. The resolution covered all of the points that are laid out in the Rapporteur's report, and following consideration of a number of amendments, the Committee adopted the resolution.

Supplementary Items

The Third Committee considered, amended, and approved, three supplementary items.

The supplementary item on Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions was presented by *Tony Lloyd* (United Kingdom). The resolution urges

participating States to reaffirm the important work of human rights defenders and human rights institutions, and recommends that participating States as well as the delegations to the PA make efforts to engage with and support these defenders and institutions.

The supplementary item on Strengthening of Counteraction of Trafficking in Persons in OSCE participating States was presented by **Kateryna Levchenko** (Ukraine). This resolution recognizes human trafficking as a modern form of slavery and appeals to participating States to do more to prevent and combat human trafficking, particularly the trafficking of children. The resolution particularly calls for implementing comprehensive anti-trafficking laws, policies, and practices that include support for victims and countering demand.

The supplementary item on Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Intolerance, including against Muslims and Roma was presented by **Benjamin Cardin** (United States of America). The resolution recalls the PA's leading role in addressing issues of tolerance and non-discrimination in the past. It calls on participating States to implement practices that counter discrimination and instead provide equal opportunities to persons belonging to minorities. It also particularly encourages the recognition of historical injustices and calls upon parliamentarians to speak out and work against violence and intolerance towards members of minorities.

Election of Officers:

The following Members were elected to serve in the Third General Committee:

- Chair:** *Jesus Lopez-Medel (Spain)*
Vice-Chair: *Hilda Solis (USA)*
Rapporteur: *Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden)*



Mediterranean Side Meeting

Opening Remarks by the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Alcee L. Hastings

The Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Alcee Hastings, who is also the President Emeritus of the Assembly, opened the side meeting on the Mediterranean and particularly thanked delegates from Algeria, Egypt, Israel and Jordan for their presence.

Congressman Hastings informed the participants of his activities since the last meeting on Mediterranean issues in Vienna in February 2007. While in the Austrian capital, he had hosted a meeting to encourage dialogue to find ways to enhance security in the Mediterranean region. In March, Mr. Hastings met with senior officials from the Ministries of Justice of Egypt and Kuwait and a representative from the Arab League and discussed a wide range of topics including reform of Egyptian electoral and media laws, presidential powers, economics and judicial reform.

The Special Representative informed the participants that he has introduced in the U.S. Congress a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks that occurred in Casablanca, Morocco, on 10 and 14 April 2007 and in Algiers, Algeria on 11 April 2007. He ensured the delegates from Morocco and Algeria of the OSCE PA's support in their struggle against extremism and violence. Finally, Mr. Hastings informed Members about his recent visit to the Middle East, which included meetings in Israel with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, with the Head of delegation to the OSCE PA, Colette Avital, and with the Deputy Defense Minister.

The Special Representative concluded his presentation by expressing his hope that Israel will be able to host the OSCE Mediterranean Partners Seminar in 2008.

Address by the Head of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Aleksii Harkonen

Ambassador Harkonen reminded that, in its capacity as incoming Chair-in-Office of the OSCE for 2008, Finland is chairing the Contact Group meetings with

the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in 2007. Ambassador Harkonen informed participants about the Mediterranean Contact Group meetings that had taken place in recent months and discussed prospects for the rest of the year. He noted that the meetings of the Contact Group concentrate mostly on topics of tolerance and non-discrimination, economic and environmental issues, as well as security.

Ambassador Harkonen expressed his gratitude to the ambassadors of Morocco and Israel for responding positively to Finland's invitation to present their countries' activities before the Contact Group in Vienna. He informed participants that an upcoming joint meeting of the Mediterranean and the Asian Partners would concentrate on the present state of affairs of the OSCE Partnership and enable discussion of ways forward. Additionally, Ambassador Harkonen stated that the Mediterranean Seminar continued to be the most important annual event within this field, and noted that consultations regarding the 2007 Seminar are still ongoing. Ambassador Harkonen concluded his address by outlining a list of OSCE events in which the Mediterranean Partners have had or will have a special role.

Discussion

A number of delegates took the opportunity to discuss ongoing issues in the region. Questions and comments were raised by delegates on the situation in the Middle East, particularly regarding how to achieve stability in the Mediterranean region through greater economic co-operation. Members also discussed the need to fight terrorism and the importance of food security.

Roberto Battelli, Head of the Slovenian Delegation to the OSCE PA recalled that the next OSCE PA Fall Meetings would be held in Portoroz, Slovenia from 29 September to 2 October 2007. He informed Members that the third day of the Portoroz meetings would be dedicated to a Forum on the Mediterranean, but noted that the topics for discussion still had to be decided. He proposed to lead reflections on tolerance and minorities issues in the Mediterranean region and on economic co-operation between Mediterranean countries.

Gender Breakfast

In keeping with a tradition developed in previous Annual Sessions, a Gender Breakfast took place on the morning of 6 July. The informal working breakfast was hosted by **Oleh Bilorus**, Head of the Ukrainian delegation to the PA. **Tone Tingsgaard**, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, led the discussions. The purpose of the breakfast was to provide an opportunity for the discussion of gender issues and to encourage women to run for positions within the Assembly.

Almost fifty participants attended the breakfast, including President **Goran Lennmarker**, Secretary General **Spencer Oliver**, and Deputy Secretary General **Tina Schoen**. In her introduction, Vice-President Tingsgaard underlined the slow pace of progress and the need for renewed action in improving the gender balance of the OSCE. She stated that more needed to be done to implement the 2004 Action Plan. She also noted the disturbing matter of the apparent disappearance of gender from the agenda of the OSCE, which can be discerned from looking at the agendas of the Permanent Council. In regard to the PA, she pointed out that the low percentage of women members (18%) meant that even fewer women were available to participate in PA activities such as election observation, creating an even more negative image of the gender balance of the Assembly.

Linda Kartawich from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna presented a summary of the findings of the Secretary General's Evaluation Report on progress in implementing the Gender Action Plan. Although she noted some suc-

cesses, such as the creation of a network of gender Focal Points and the development of gender mainstreaming training, she also pointed to the slow progress in increasing the proportion of women in management positions in the organization.

Several participants took the floor at the breakfast to express their views on some of the points raised. Many expressed frustration at the lack of serious treatment of gender issues. There was discussion of a conference to be held in Azerbaijan to review the processes of change underway for women in the country, and it was suggested that this could become an annual event. Other items that were discussed were the double burden of work (formal employment and domestic responsibilities) that many women face, the role of women in post-conflict reconstruction, and structural obstacles to societal change. Vice-President **Barbara Haering** also outlined the resolution on Women, Peace and Security to be discussed in the First Committee, which encourages all participating States to develop National Action Plans for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on this theme.

President Lennmarker stated that his work as President of the Assembly continued to demonstrate the deep structural problem of inequality between the genders, but he urged women members of the Assembly to be active and participate in upcoming election observation missions. Ms. Tingsgaard accepted the invitation by **Rabiyat Aslanova** to the conference in Azerbaijan and closed the working breakfast by encouraging the women members to run for leadership positions within the PA.



Closing Plenary Session

President **Goran Lennmarker** welcomed Members to the Plenary Session, and thanked participants for the work conducted in the Three General Committees. Prior to opening general debate, he welcomed addresses by two Special Representatives.

Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), the President's Special Representative on Guantanamo presented her report following another recent visit to the United States' Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Ms. Lizin concluded that the detention facility is in need of reform and eventual closure.

Ms. Lizin suggested that the prisoners detained there have to be transferred to other prisons either in their own country or in a third country. Only extremely dangerous prisoners need to be sent to Guantanamo. She noted that over the past year the number of prisoners in Guantanamo has decreased due to the transfer of detainees to other prisons. OSCE participating States, as well as other states that have their nationals in the Guantanamo Bay facility, have agreed to co-operate to spread Guantanamo Bay prisoners among other prisons around the world. Senator Lizin also stated that the detention facility is damaging the image of the United States on the world arena and that the legal nature of this facility needs to be thoroughly reformed.

Panos Kammenos (Greece), who was appointed by the President of the OSCE PA as Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism in April 2007, presented his planned activities. After recalling that terrorism is one of the most serious challenges to international security, the Special Representative listed the international legal instruments that can be used as tools to fight terrorism.

Mr. Kammenos outlined OSCE action in the area of fighting against terrorism. He stressed the importance of sharing good practices and co-ordinating initiatives with other international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Bank. The Special Representative expressed his desire to work closely with the OSCE Action Against Terrorism Unit in Vienna, and to follow international developments linked to terrorism and to promote discussion on anti-terrorism issues within the OSCE PA. The



Special Representative told the Assembly he looked forward to reporting to the President of the Assembly on the international situation regarding the fight against terrorism and that he would employ a comprehensive approach to tackle these issues.

General debate

Members of the Assembly presented interventions on a range of issues. The recent international developments in Belarus, Kosovo, Ukraine and Afghanistan were discussed in depth as well as differences over the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe treaty. Several participants reiterated their desire to see the issue of gender equality more visible both in debates and in the composition of the Assembly. Members emphasized the importance of election observation activities for the relevance of the OSCE. Participants also encouraged greater co-ordination between the various OSCE Institutions.

Senator **Jerry Grafstein** presented his final report as Treasurer to the Plenary, noting that the Assembly's finances were in excellent order and





that almost all contributions had been received. He commended the work of the International Secretariat, which continues to run efficiently within the annual budget approved by the Standing Committee. He thanked all Members, and particularly President Lennmarker for his work on behalf of the OSCE PA and passed on his congratulations to the newly elected Treasurer **Hans Raidel** (Germany).

Secretary General **Spencer Oliver** delivered his report, noting that it had been an extraordinarily busy year. He underlined the importance of the work of the Assembly's Special Representatives, Ad Hoc Committees, and various missions. The Secretary General in particular applauded parliamentarians for their strong contribution to OSCE election observation missions. He also remarked on the excellent work by the host Ukrainian Parliament in organizing the Annual session.

The Assembly then considered the three Committee Resolutions and nine Supplementary

Items. The Chairs of the three General Committees, **Jean-Charles Gardetto**, **Leonid Ivanchenko**, and **Anne-Marie Lizin** presented the work of each Committee to the Plenary. Following their presentations, the Kyiv Declaration, consisting of the Committee Resolutions and each of the Supplementary Items that had been approved, was adopted by the Assembly.

Prior to the closing of the Session, Vice-President **Joao Soares** announced the results of the elections of the Assembly Officers.



Election of Officers:

Prior to closing the 16th Annual Session, the Assembly elected the following parliamentarians as officers:

President:	Göran Lennmarker (Sweden)
Treasurer:	Hans Raidel (Germany)
Vice-President:	Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)
Vice-President:	Jerry Grafstein (Canada)
Vice-President:	Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland)
Vice-President:	Panos Kammenos (Greece)







**PROGRAMME OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Kyiv, 5-9 July 2007**

The Inaugural Plenary Session and all other official meetings of the Assembly's bodies will take place on the premises of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) in Kyiv.

Thursday, 5 July

09.00 – 12.00	Meeting of the Standing Committee	09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment - Debate (cont'd); - Consideration of amendments
14.00 – 15.30	Inaugural Plenary Session - Call to order and opening remarks by Goran Lenmarker, President of the OSCE PA; - Addresses by the Host Officials - Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, followed by a question/answer session	11.30 – 13.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security - Debate (cont'd); - Consideration of amendments
16.00 – 18.00	Plenary Session (cont'd) - Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies; - Report by Mrs. Tone Tingsgard, OSCE PA Special Representative on the gender issues followed by a debate; - Consideration of Supplementary items	14.30 – 16.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment - Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; - Supplementary items
		14.30 – 16.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions - Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; - Supplementary items

Friday, 6 July

07.30 – 08.45	Working Breakfast on Gender Issues	16.30 – 18.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security - Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; - Supplementary items
09.00 – 11.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security - Opening remarks by Mr. Jean-Charles Gardetto, Chair of the Committee; - Address by Mr. Marc Perrin De Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General; - Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mr. Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, Rapporteur; - Debate		

Sunday, 8 July

09.00 – 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment - Opening remarks by Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko, Chair of the Committee; - Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mr. Roland Blum, Rapporteur; - Debate	09.00 – 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions - Supplementary items; - Election of the Committee Officers
11.30 – 13.30	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions - Opening remarks by Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, Chair of the Committee; - Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mr. Jesus Lopez-Medel, Rapporteur; - Debate	11.10 – 11.30	Meeting of the Bureau
12.30 – 13.30	Mediterranean Side Meeting	11.30 – 13.30	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security - Supplementary items; - Election of the Committee Officers
		15.00 – 18.00	Plenary Session - General debate

Monday, 9 July

09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions - Debate (cont'd); - Consideration of amendments	09.30 – 12.30	Plenary Session - Report by Mr. Jerry Grafstein, Treasurer - Report by Mr. R. Spencer Oliver, Secretary General - Consideration of Committee Resolutions - Adoption of the Final Document - Election of the Assembly Officers
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Saturday, 7 July

09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions - Debate (cont'd); - Consideration of amendments
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The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Photo: Philippe Nobile

The OSCE PA 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.



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