

News from Copenhagen

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U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer appointed Chair of Oversight Committee

President Severin has appointed U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer as Chair of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on oversight and accountability in the OSCE. Vice-Presidents Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), and Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom), were appointed to serve as Vice-Chairs of the oversight Committee. Other members include Vice-President Ahmet Tan, MP (Turkey), Vice-President Claude Estier, MP (France) and Urban Ahlin, MP (Sweden). The oversight Committee was established by the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations during the 10th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly last July in Paris, to monitor the implementation of the Resolution on oversight and accountability in the OSCE unanimously adopted during the Paris Session as well as a resolution directed toward eliminating the democratic deficit



in the OSCE, adopted during the Assembly Session in St. Petersburg in 1999. The work of the Committee will be supported by the Assembly's International Secretariat under direct supervision of Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Programme Officer Tina Schon, as well as by the Research Staff.

Next Chairman-in-Office: Close Co-operation with OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

On 9 October 2001, the Foreign Minister of Portugal and the next Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Jaime Gama addressed the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations gathered in Sintra, Portugal. In his address Mr. Gama said he would ensure "close co-operation and interaction next year between the Portuguese Chairmanship and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He emphasized that since its creation ten years ago at the Madrid Conference "the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been playing an irreplaceable role in the promotion of the common values, principles and commitments of this Organization". The Portuguese Foreign Minister continued by saying that the Parliamentary Assembly was "a valuable partner in the struggle against the new threats and challenges to security by contributing to

strengthen and consolidate democratic values and institutions." He outlined the four main principles of the forthcoming Portuguese Chairmanship: co-operation, comprehensive approach to security, transparency and visibility. He called for "increased collaboration and co-ordination among OSCE bodies and institutions, including

the Parliamentary Assembly". Regarding transparency, Mr. Gama assured the audience that the Portuguese Chairmanship will pay "due attention to this aspect and that we will do our best to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive consultations process in the OSCE." In this respect, he referred to the recently established ad hoc committee of the OSCE PA on oversight and accountability.



Assembly Declaration on the Fight against Terrorism

During its meeting in Sintra, Portugal on 9 October, the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA adopted a declaration entitled "Security through Solidarity", expressing outrage over the criminal and unjustifiable terrorist attacks that took place in the United States of America on 11 September. The declaration asserts that terrorism, in any of its forms and manifestations is today one of the greatest threats to security and co-operation in the OSCE area, and that the recent tragic events demonstrate the need for increased co-operation between the international organizations dealing with security matters.

OSCE PA President, Adrian Severin, stated that: "As an international organization dealing with security matters, the OSCE is ideally placed to develop common strategies addressing the political, economic, social and cultural root causes of terrorism. In this connection the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly strongly supports efforts undertaken by the OSCE Chairmanship to develop an OSCE-wide plan of action for the fight against terrorism." In Sintra, the Standing Committee also adopted a Resolution on further enhancing the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, calling upon all

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to initiate in their respective parliaments debates on further enhancing co-operation between the parliamentary and governmental branches of the OSCE.

Theme 11th Annual Session

During the Standing Committee Meeting in Portugal an initial discussion was held on the theme for the 11th Annual Session in Berlin, July 2002. It was agreed that the discussion will be continued at the Bureau Meeting in Bucharest (2 December 2001) and will focus on the role of the OSCE and the OSCE PA in the international fight against terrorism.