

# News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

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## OSCE PA President Alcee Hastings Congratulated by CiO

The OSCE's Chairman-in-Office, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy, congratulated U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings on Friday on his election as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr Hastings was elected President for a one-year term at the close of the Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session in Edinburgh, Scotland

on 9 July 2004.

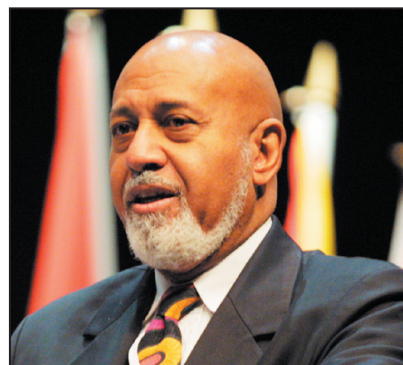
"As an experienced member of both the Parliamentary Assembly and the U.S. Helsinki Commission, my colleague and friend Alcee Hastings is extremely knowledgeable about the entire OSCE region and about the work of our Organization," the Chairman-in-Office said.

"I am delighted to learn of his election and wish him

every success in his new post."

Minister Passy said the Parliamentary Assembly had a vital role to play in helping the OSCE to tackle contemporary challenges. "As Chairman-in-Office, I look forward to co-operating with President Hastings," he added.

More than 300 Parliamentarians participated in the Edinburgh Session.



OSCE PA President Alcee Hastings

## PA Calls for reform and more transparency in OSCE

The 13th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, held from 5-9 July 2004 in Edinburgh, closed with the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration, focusing on "Co-operation and Partnership: Coping With New Security Threats". Several additional documents were also adopted. The parliamentarians overwhelmingly approved resolutions in which they urge the OSCE to carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its consensus decision-making procedures which often obstruct the work of

the Organization. OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy, who addressed the parliamentarians, expressed his strong feeling that the OSCE is embedded in a sort of bureaucratic status quo which should be addressed with vision and political leadership. Outgoing PA President Bruce George said: "I begin to sense a greater mood amongst the Permanent Council of the OSCE to consider some necessary and substantial changes. Time will see if I am being excessively optimistic".



### Elections

**Vice-Presidents** of the Assembly were also elected on the final day of the Edinburgh Session: Giovanni Kessler (Italy), Panos Kammenos (Greece) and Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands).

#### Other Officers elected at the Edinburgh Session:

##### *First Committee*

**Chair:** Göran Lennmarker (Sweden)

**Vice-Chair:** Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)

**Rapporteur:** Pieter De Crem (Belgium)

##### *Second Committee*

**Chair:** Benjamin Cardin (USA)

**Vice-Chair:** Maria Santos (Portugal)

**Rapporteur:** Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia)

##### *Third Committee*

**Chair:** Claudia Nolte (Germany)

**Vice-Chair:** Cecilia Wigström (Sweden)

**Rapporteur:** Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)



## 13th OSCE PA Annual Session in Edinburgh

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