

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S 22ND ANNUAL SESSION ISTANBUL



Helsinki +40



REPORT ON THE 22ND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary

Hosted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the 22nd Annual Session took place at the Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center in Istanbul.



The 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place 29 June to 3 July 2013 at the Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center in Istanbul. The Turkish Grand National Assembly hosted the annual gathering under the theme “Helsinki +40,” which underlined the Assembly’s support for the OSCE Ministerial Council decision in Dublin to launch a set of objectives aimed at strengthening the OSCE towards 2015, the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

The debates and votes during the session culminated in the passage of the Istanbul Declaration to help shape OSCE and national policy. Members from 57 OSCE participating States elected Montenegrin Speaker of Parliament Ranko Krivokapic as their new Assembly president, as well as six new vice-presidents, nine committee officers and re-elected Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) as treasurer.

The Committee on Political Affairs and Security elected Greek parliamentarian Makis Voridis to chair the committee. Azay Guliyev of Azerbaijan and Pia Kauma of Finland won elections as vice-chair and rapporteur respectively. The General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment elected Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

as chair. Nilza Sena (Portugal) was elected vice-chair of the committee. Roger Williams (United Kingdom) was elected rapporteur.

Isabel Santos, former vice-chair of the OSCE PA Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, was elected to chair the committee. Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey) was elected vice-chair and Gordana Comic (Serbia) rapporteur.

The Assembly elected Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania), Isabel Pozuelo (Spain), Alain Neri (France) to three-year

terms as vice-presidents. Doris Barnett (Germany) won a vacant two-year term as vice-president. Emin Onen (Turkey) and Ilkka Kanerva (Finland) were elected to one-year vice-presidential terms. Treasurer Roberto Battelli

“We are the biggest parliamentary stage in the world; we have to show we are capable of producing the biggest results.”

PA President Ranko Krivokapic

(Slovenia) was re-elected to a third two-year term.

The 14-page Istanbul Declaration was joined by 23 supplementary items covering issues ranging from the crisis in Syria and media freedom to human trafficking and cybersecurity. Other adopted resolutions call for the OSCE to grant the Palestinian National Authority Mediterranean Partner status; countries to resolve differences related to inter-country adoption in the interest of children; and the Assembly to approve the OSCE’s budget.

Istanbul 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 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Istanbul Declaration outlines plans of action for governments, parliaments and the executive structures of the OSCE to address human rights, security and the environment. It calls on the OSCE Chairmanship, in particular, to clarify the goals of the Helsinki +40 process.

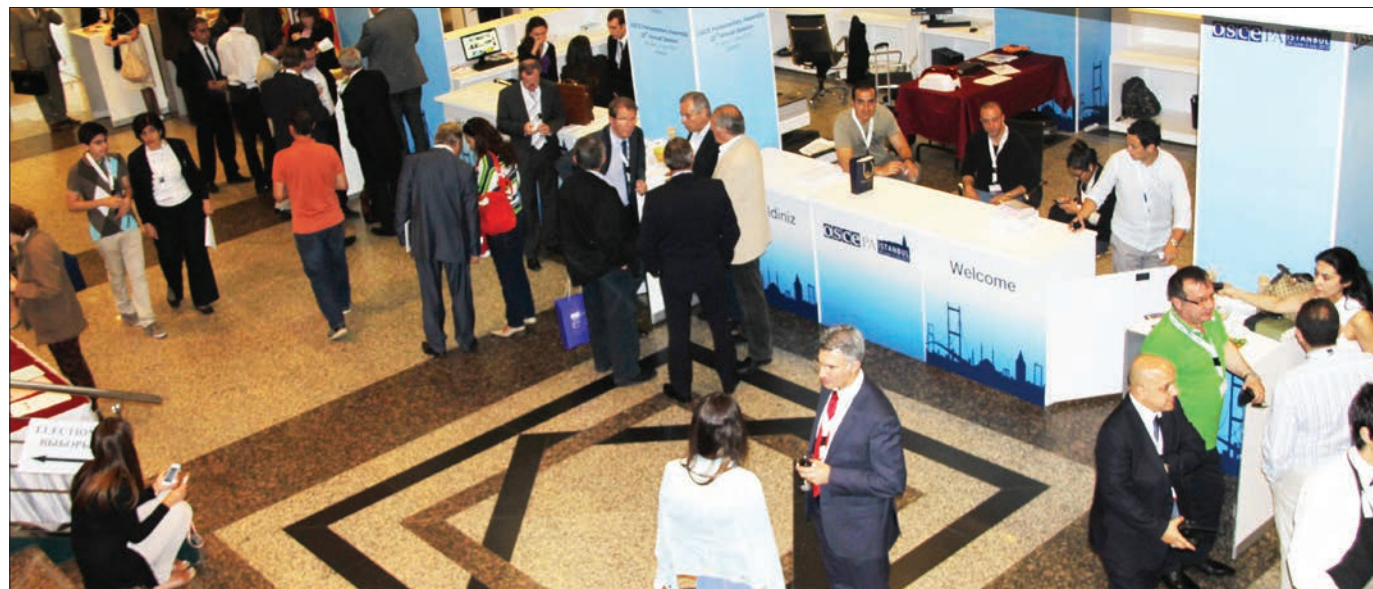
Adopted in plenary session on 3 July, the Declaration recommends, *inter alia*, increasing military transparency and strengthening international agreements on arms control, specifically by countries ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty, renewing negotiations on the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, and updating the Vienna Document to lower the threshold at which states are to inform each other of military exercises.

In the economic and environmental dimension, the Istanbul Declaration calls for binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions and new fees to make short-term stock speculation more expensive. It further recommends that participating States utilize green growth initiatives as alternatives to economic austerity, as well as addresses new security concerns in the second dimension, such as climate change.

In the human dimension, the PA calls for government action to uphold freedom of expression, whether on the streets or on the Internet. The Third Committee resolution "strongly urges" governments to respect the rule of law and judicial independence, and to release and exonerate all political prisoners and to allow these prisoners to receive visits from international institutions like the OSCE.

In addition to the Declaration, the Assembly passed 23 additional resolutions that were extensively debated and amended in the three general committees.





Inaugural Plenary Session



President Wolfgang Grossruck opened the 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by noting the role that parliamentarians play in democratic decisions and the friendly co-operation that is needed on an equal level between OSCE participating States.

“As members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, we must commit ourselves to greater involvement in the activities of the OSCE throughout the year,” he said. “The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can only play a strong role in the international community if the parliamentarians actively participate in our work.”

President Grossruck referred to the situation in Turkey, explaining that freedom of expression is fundamental and that the OSCE supports peaceful expression within reasonable bounds for state order. He also underlined Turkey’s role in supporting refugees from Syria and called for a rapid end to the Syrian conflict.

He said the OSCE shares commitments and values and that we should look beyond national capitals, stressing that the Eurasian and Mediterranean regions are valued partners that contribute to the debate. He also raised concerns regarding the 2014 withdrawal from Afghanistan.

“The spirit of Istanbul brings us to make effort to build additional bridges,” said Presi-

dent Grossruck, wishing parliamentarians a successful Annual Session.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office noted the importance of the work of parliamentarians and thanked them for their engagement and constructive co-operation. He urged them to be proactive to achieve the goals of Helsinki +40. “It is high time to revitalize the culture of engagement that inspired the Helsinki Final Act of 1975,” Kozhara said.

He underlined that the reports and draft resolutions being presented in Istanbul are full of worthwhile proposals and ideas.

Kozhara discussed the goals of the Ukrainian Chairmanship in the three dimensions and stated that the role of the Assembly on election monitoring is indispensable to the organization and called for constant co-operation and coherence that will further strengthen the OSCE’s credibility. He also called for more efforts to connect the public and media to the OSCE, and said the Parliamentary Assembly can make crucial contributions in this regard.

“We should use the upcoming anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act to find solutions to common challenges,” concluded Kozhara.



Wolfgang Grossruck



Leonid Kozhara

Inaugural Plenary Session

Foreign Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu

Speaking about the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu noted that this is an historic stage of change,



stating the first one lasted from 1975 to 1990, and the second one from 1990 until now. He stressed that there is new momentum and the OSCE should respond to those transformations and challenges.

The Minister highlighted three basic objectives for the OSCE: resolving frozen conflicts, establishing new concepts of security in the three dimensions and promoting the transformation of OSCE neighbours. He said there is a need in particular for a “Helsinki initiative” in the Middle East and North Africa.

Letter from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Emin Onen, Head of the Turkish OSCE PA Delegation, read a letter from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He reminded participants that the Parliamentary Assembly is one of the most prominent tools of the OSCE and has a leading role in combating hate crimes and discrimination.

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Cemil Çiçek

Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, focused on Helsinki +40, a timely topic and an added value to the organization, he said. He urged parliamentarians to overcome the lack of confidence between themselves and praised the work of recent and current OSCE Chairmanships. He spoke about the need to combat racism and xenopho-



bia as an OSCE priority, as well as cyber security and the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Speaker Çiçek stressed that Helsinki +40 will be a success only if it stays at the top of the agenda at the ministerial level. He also urged greater public awareness of OSCE activities.

The Speaker discussed several additional topics such as racism, drug trafficking, new technologies, cyber threats, and terrorism. He wished success to all candidates for the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier discussed the importance of increasing



inter-parliamentary and intergovernmental co-operation, as well as strengthening the OSCE's coordination with other international organizations. He further addressed the Organization's finances and discussed the important work being done

by the OSCE field operations.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry

Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada)

spoke about the gender aspects of conflict cycles, calling for an OSCE-wide implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She especially called for a stop to the horrors of rape and other crimes that historically have further marginalized women in conflicts.



Dr. Fry called on parliaments to engage women minorities in their legislative and policy-making processes recalling the UN 1995 Beijing Declaration on Women's Rights, which recognized women's rights as human rights.





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 Fall Meetings and the Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

Chaired by OSCE PA President Wolfgang Grossruck on 29 June, the Standing Committee approved 24 items for debate during the Annual Session. Five supplementary items were allocated to the plenary, seven to the First Committee, seven to the Second Committee and five to the Third Committee. Four items failed to receive the 2/3 majority needed to be included on the main agenda for the session, including resolutions related to the situation in Kazakhstan, Kurds in Turkey, human rights in Russia, and the Yogyakarta Principles on sexual orientation and human rights.

Following a welcome address by Head of the Turkish Delegation Emin Onen, the Standing Committee heard reports from Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), who informed the committee of the Assembly's financial health, and the chairs of the Subcommittee on the Rules of Procedure and the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE, Joao Soares (Portugal) and Francois-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium), respectively.

After reporting that the Assembly's budget has been frozen for four years in a row, Battelli informed the delegates that in order to maintain current levels of activities, a modest increase would be needed for the next fiscal year, which was agreed to unanimously. The Standing Committee also agreed to proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure, specifically regarding the number of valid signatures required for supplementary items.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver thanked the Turkish hosts for their hard work in organizing the Annual Session, as well as the Danish and Austrian governments for continuing to provide office space for the International Secretariat in Copenhagen and Vienna. He reported on the Assembly's activities for the previous year, noting that there had been a record-high number of election observation missions. The

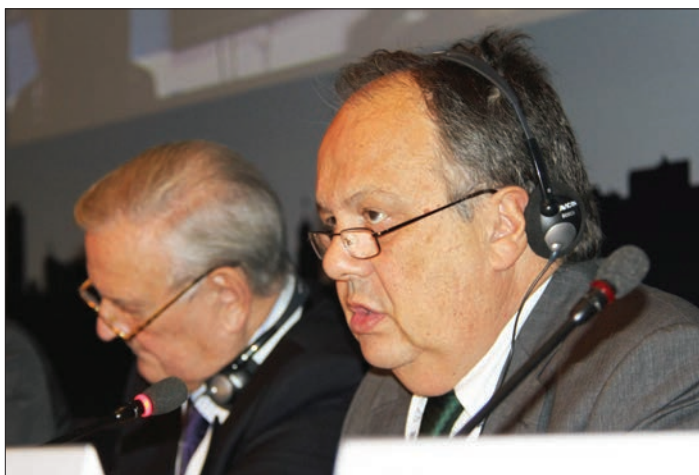
Secretary General also mentioned the increased co-operation he has initiated with his counterparts at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the NATO PA.

Presenting his report, de Donnea informed participants that he had met ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic in Vienna to discuss the issues that precipitated President Riccardo Migliori's earlier decision to rescind the 1997 Co-operation Agreement. He expressed his view that the agreement should be reactivated in order to strengthen collaboration between the PA and ODIHR, as well as other international partners.

Following de Donnea's report, the Standing Committee unanimously agreed to continue to adhere to the 1997 Co-operation Agreement on election observation based on the condition that all parties involved, including the Parliamentary Assembly, the ODIHR and other partner assemblies participating in the election observation mission, will begin inclusive early drafting of the preliminary post-election statement.

It was also announced during the Standing Committee that Switzerland will host the 2014 Autumn Meeting, which will be held 2-5 October in Geneva. Ranko Krivokapic, Head of Montenegro's Delegation, encouraged strong participation in the 2013 Autumn Meeting being held in October in Budva. Noting that the location of Budva is known for its historic role as a bridge between empires of the East and West, Krivokapic pointed out that it is an ideal location for a meeting of the OSCE PA.

Head of the Finnish Delegation Ilkka Kanerva announced that Finland will host the 24th Annual Session in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015. He expressed Finland's pride in being able to host the annual gathering of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the city where the OSCE was launched in 1975. "It's time to say, 'welcome home OSCE PA,'" he said.







General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



The First Committee began its work on 30 June with Chair Asa Lindestam, Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli and Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene as the officers. Aleknaite Abramikiene presented her report, underlining the Helsinki +40 process as a framework for the dialogue on common security challenges.

In the debate, parliamentarians discussed the issues covered in the report, as well as the ongoing democratization processes within the OSCE area. The discussion touched upon human rights issues challenging the traditional understanding of security matters, by mention-



ing recent protests around the world, including those in Istanbul. Turkish parliamentarians welcomed the discussion of the issue, stressing the adherence to the democratic forms of conflict resolution as well as peaceful expression of the people's will and within the limits of law.

The First Committee held a total of five sessions with a focus on the report and draft resolution. In addition, the committee debated seven supplementary items, including resolutions on the Palestinian National Authority status within the OSCE, the situation in Syria and cyber security.

MPs consider gender issues at working lunch

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) opened the working lunch on gender issues by reminding participants of the importance of promoting gender equality in public and private life. She introduced the four speakers at the event, three of whom were from Turkey: Azize Sibel Gönül, MP from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and chairwoman of the gender equality committee in parliament; Sedef Küçük, MP from the Republican People's Party; and Sebahat Tuncel, MP from the Democratic Society Party. The keynote speaker was Nick Smith, a member of the United Kingdom's delegation to the OSCE PA.

Gönül stressed that since the beginning of the republic, Turkey has worked toward gender equality. Küçük spoke about her party's efforts to improve the situation of women. Tuncel described gender equality as a long-term struggle, noting that women everywhere should raise their voices for women and girls in the Middle East.

Smith focused on sexual violence in conflict zones. There is an urgent need to address the culture of impunity by building nations' legal capacities, he said.

During the lunch, participants discussed new strategies that can be applied to improve gender equality in the OSCE region, arguing that issues of gender equality stem from societal norms that need to change.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene

Report and Resolution

In her speech, Aleknaite Abramikiene focused on the efficacy of the work in the OSCE region and general progress in the political and security dimension. She stated that although in recent years the development has been slow, the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly remain valuable organizations which play critical roles in promoting security and stability.

The resolution calls for parliaments and governments to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, renew negotiations on the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, and update the Vienna Document to lower the threshold at which states are to inform each other of military exercises.

The debate touched on arms control, protracted conflicts issues and the upcoming withdrawal of the ISAF from Afghanistan in 2014. Parliamentarians stressed that support for Afghanistan should be one of the OSCE's highest priorities. Committee Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli stressed the importance of finding better ways to address conflict resolution.

There were 74 proposed amendments to the resolution, with 46 adopted and six withdrawn.

"The vote we have taken today says we are ready and willing to change, now we need the proper follow up from governmental leaders to make our security agreements match the modern challenges in our region," said Aleknaite Abramikiene following the adoption of the resolution.

Supplementary Items

The First Committee discussed seven supplementary items. The resolution "The Role of Local and Regional Authorities in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation Scenarios" by Jose Ignacio Sanchez Amor called attention to regional authorities' contribution to conflict resolution and was adopted with two amendments.

Following a lively debate, the resolution calling for expanding the OSCE partnership with non-member Mediterranean states to include the Palestinian National Authority was adopted in a close vote.

The Committee passed the resolution "Transnistrian Settlement Process" by the principal sponsor Oleg Zarubinskyi, Head of the Ukrainian delegation.

The resolution on cyber security by Liisa-Ly Pakosta (Estonia) was adopted after a debate highlighting the importance of balancing freedom of speech and privacy.

In the debate on Kent Harstedt (Sweden)'s resolution on the Arctic, members debated the growing economic and transportation needs while preserving the delicate ecological balance in the Arctic region. The resolution called for further co-operation in the region and was adopted with two amendments.

The resolution reiterating the OSCE PA's calls to close the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo presented by Lord Alf Dubs (United Kingdom) was adopted with overwhelming support. The draft resolution on the situation in the Middle East and its effect on the OSCE area sponsored by Isabel Pozuelo (Spain) provided for a lively debate on the humanitarian situation in Syria. The resolution calls on participating States to increase their levels of assistance to help alleviate the crisis in the country.

Election of Officers

Chair: *Makis Vroidis (Greece)*

Vice-Chair: *Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)*

Rapporteur: *Pia Kauma (Finland)*

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Presiding over the Second Committee, Vice-Chair Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) opened the first session by giving the floor to Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre of Bishkek. Emphasizing the importance of co-operative work across the three dimensions of security, Amb. Kapinos noted that economic growth and energy security have a direct effect on ordinary citizens' lives. In this respect, the Second Dimension should not be undervalued, he said. He also underlined the significant role that the Assembly can play for Central Asia through the engagement of OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Thierry Mariani (France).

In addition to the primary resolution of the Committee, seven supplementary items were included on the agenda for debate. The items dealt with water management, promoting energy saving and security, gender aspects of labour migration, exploitation of children and sustainable development.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Doris Barnett presented her draft resolution "Helsinki +40," highlighting alternatives to austerity for a sustainable economy. The resolution urges greater international co-operation in tackling environmental and economic challenges in the lead-up to the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015 and recommends that the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe makes the economic and environmental dimension a central pillar of the Helsinki +40 process.

"In the nearly 40 years since the Helsinki

Final Act was adopted, while we have seen many important strides made towards closer international co-operation in the economic sphere and to protect the natural environment, the bottom line is that the international community has too often failed to adequately address various environmental crises including water management, biodiversity loss, air pollution, over-fishing, and of course, climate change," she said.

On climate change, the measure calls for countries to agree on binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions at November's COP19 meeting in Warsaw.

The measure urges governments to co-operate to protect water supply as a prerequisite for economic and social progress; focuses on cities to increase mass transit investments to address climate change and protect quality of life; and recommends that governments tax stock trading, particularly high-frequency trading, to make short-term speculation more expensive.

In the debate, members spoke about challenges posed by extractive industries and economic austerity. Several MPs spoke in favour of increased trade, green growth and sustainable development, as well as food security, water management, and energy security. Seven amendments out of ten were agreed to and the resolution was adopted.

Supplementary Items

"Water Management as a Priority for the OSCE CiO in 2014," sponsored by Ybeltje Berckmoes-Duindam (Netherlands), passed with no amendments. Presenting the resolution, the sponsor praised the work of the OSCE

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Alain Neri



Norwegian delegation

Office in Tajikistan on water management and appreciated the joint initiative of the OSCE, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme that facilitated a treaty between Moldova and Ukraine to sustainably manage the Dniestr/Nistru river basin.

Oleg Zarubinskyi (Ukraine)'s draft resolution "Promotion of Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency in the OSCE Region" was agreed to with two amendments. The resolution supports the use of the OSCE as a platform for exchange of best practices and experience between participating States and relevant international organizations in the area of energy saving and efficiency.

"Environmental Dimension of Energy Security," sponsored by Ruhi Açıkgöz (Turkey), was adopted with two amendments. The supplementary item urges participating States and private companies operating in oil and gas markets to show due diligence in the transportation of hydrocarbon resources through maritime choke points.

The resolution on strengthening security in the border areas of the OSCE sponsored by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Roza Aknazarova, passed with overwhelming support.

The resolution "Gender Aspects of Labour Migration," sponsored by Svetlana Bychkova from Kazakhstan was adopted with no amendments as was the resolution on ensuring that children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation by the same principal sponsor. Both resolutions urge participating States to co-operate to protect women and children with regard to migration and labour.

Viktor Guminsky (Belarus)'s resolution regarding the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development was accepted without amendments. The supplementary item recalls the provisions relating to the transition to a green economy contained in the Monaco Declaration adopted at the 2012 Annual Session of the OSCE PA, including the resolution on promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy.

The Second Committee concluded its work by electing new committee leadership, promoting Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) to the position of chair. Nilza Sena (Portugal) was elected vice-chair of the committee and Roger Williams (United Kingdom) was elected rapporteur.



Voting in the First Committee

Election of Officers

Chair: Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

Vice-Chair: Nilza Sena (Portugal)

Rapporteur: Roger Williams (UK)

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Isabel Santos (Portugal) chaired the four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions attended by more than 50 parliamentarians. In addition to the main resolution, four supplementary items were adopted, with one defeated. The supplementary items agreed to by the committee dealt with topics such as civil society in the OSCE region, combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and discrimination, freedom of religion or belief, and human rights in Belarus.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Anna Phelan (Ireland) presented her report highlighting the current challenges facing the OSCE area 40 years after the adop-

tion of the Helsinki Final Act, focusing in particular on human trafficking and freedom of the media.

Phelan argued that the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act should be renewed and the progress in the Human Dimension since 1975 should be concretely measured. She pointed out that during this period of economic crisis, workers are facing increased job insecurity and austerity measures may further endanger their rights. The Helsinki +40 process offers an opportunity to facilitate discussion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region, she said.

Fifteen parliamentarians from different delegations took the floor raising a broad range of issues, such as the situation of refugees, of victims of trafficking, violations of journal-

Side event focuses on racism, xenophobia and intolerance



Alaattin Büyükkaya, former Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA and current Deputy Minister in Charge of EU Affairs for Turkey, opened the 30 June side event on racism, xenophobia and intolerance citing the example of Istanbul as a city where the three monotheistic religions coexist in mutual respect. The well-attended event included participation by Turkish religious leaders and was hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu



Viola von Cramon

ists' rights, as well as the situations in specific countries. Two members of the Turkish Delegation expressed their opinions concerning the protests occurring in their country.

Following the discussion, the committee debated the proposed amendments to the main resolution authored by Ann Phelan, who was represented by James Walsh (Ireland). Fifty-one amendments to Phelan's draft resolution were considered and among them, 32 were adopted, 13 rejected, four withdrawn and two were pre-empted. The resolution was adopted as amended with broad support, including additional paragraphs on issues such as freedom of expression, human trafficking, Interpol reform and a call to abolish the death penalty.

Supplementary Items

As a result of the vote in the Standing Committee on 29 June, several supplementary items intended for the Third Committee were removed from the agenda of the Annual Session, including: "Human Rights in the Russian Federation" (by De Caluwe of the Netherlands), "The Situation in Kazakhstan" (by von Cramon of Germany), "Recognition of the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" (by Arena of Belgium).

Five supplementary items were ultimately debated by the Third Committee.

"Strengthening Civil Society Institutions in the OSCE Region," authored by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), passed with four amendments.

The item on Belarus, sponsored by Chris-

tian Holm (Sweden), was adopted with three amendments. The resolution addresses the situation of human rights in Belarus and calls on the authorities in Minsk to co-operate closely with OSCE institutions.

In a close vote, the committee rejected an item on citizenship issues sponsored by Nikolay Kovalev (Russian Federation), which would have, *inter alia*, called upon the OSCE participating States to amend their legal frameworks in order to prevent statelessness.

The committee passed an amended version of the supplementary item on "Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE Region." Sponsored by Dean Allison (Canada), the resolution calls on national parliaments to ensure that national legislation is consistent with international obligations relating to freedom of religion, thought, conscience, or belief.

The resolution on the role of education in combating discrimination, sponsored by Mehmet Naci Bostanci (Turkey), passed as amended with one abstention. The measure calls upon the OSCE participating States to intensify their efforts in the field of education.

The meeting closed with the election of committee officers, with Isabel Santos (Portugal), Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey), and Gordana Comic (Serbia) elected to the Bureau.

Election of Officers

Chair: Isabel Santos (Portugal)

Vice-Chair: Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Gordana Comic (Serbia)

Closing Plenary Sessions



The Assembly meeting in plenary session on 2 July.

Wolfgang Grossruck chaired two plenary sessions on 2-3 July, in which four supplementary items, as well as the Istanbul Declaration, were debated and adopted.

Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro) presented an invitation to the Budva Autumn Meeting in October. Speaker of the Georgian Parliament David Usupashvili also addressed the plenary, underlining the importance of the OSCE's work for Georgia and the broader Caucasus region. Former OSCE PA President Riccardo Migliori, who stepped down from the Italian Parliament in early 2013, addressed the Assembly on 3 July.

Debate on Resolutions

Four supplementary items were considered in plenary session on 2 July: "Trafficking Victim Watchfulness: Planes, Trains, Buses and Hotels," "The Humanitarian Crisis in Syria," "Intercountry Adoptions," and "Freedom of the Media."



Chris Smith

Introduced by OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues Chris Smith (United States), the resolution on human trafficking calls on OSCE participating States to adopt legislation to ensure that transportation professionals are properly trained to identify trafficking victims. The resolution was warmly received and adopted unanimously with three amendments.

The resolution on Syria, introduced by Head of Turkey's Delegation Emin Onen, provided

for a spirited debate involving 14 interventions. Urging the international community to take decisive action to fulfill its responsibilities to safeguard international peace and provide urgent financial support to the host countries of refugees, the resolution passed as amended with one vote against and 12 abstentions.



Emin Onen



Roger Wicker

Roger Wicker (United States) introduced his resolution "Intercountry Adoptions," which urges participating States to resolve disputes related to adoptions in the interest of children. It passed with

broad support and no amendments.

The supplementary item on freedom of the media, introduced by Marie Arena (Belgium) reaffirms the crucial importance of freedom of speech, press and information and calls for participating States to ensure the right to freely establish independent media.

The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly with no amendments.



Marie Arena

Closing Plenary Sessions

Treasurer's Report

On 3 July Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported on the financial matters of the OSCE PA. He thanked the Turkish Parliament and the head of the Turkish Delegation for their support in hosting the Assembly's 22nd Annual Session. The treasurer also thanked the Danish Parliament and Austrian Government for continuing to provide generous support to the International Secretariat.



The treasurer expressed gratitude to the national parliaments that have expressed willingness to host upcoming Annual Sessions, particularly welcoming the invitations of Azerbaijan, Switzerland and Finland. He stressed the importance of solidarity of all delegations to maximize the cost-effectiveness of the Assembly. In this regard, he asked parliaments that have not yet hosted the Assembly to consider doing so.

Battelli reported that the OSCE PA remains in good financial health and that its spending has remained within budget. He noted that the finances have once again received a positive assessment from external auditors, and indicated that the Standing Committee unanimously approved the Assembly's annual budget for the next fiscal year.

The treasurer reported that a 4.9 per cent (140,000 EUR) increase was agreed to, noting that the Assembly had operated with a frozen budget for the past four years.

He concluded by thanking the Secretariat for effective management of the finances.

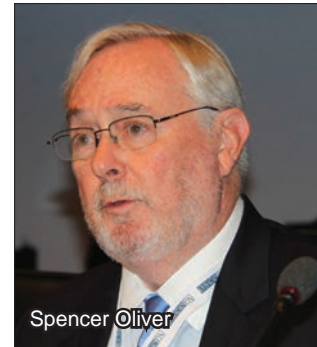
Secretary General's Report

OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver started by thanking Battelli for his strong support. He also thanked the Turkish Parliament and the Head of the Turkish Delegation Emin Onen for the excellent work in hosting the session, as well as the procedural advisors from the British House of Commons,

who made sure that the meetings ran smoothly. The Secretary General further expressed gratitude to the staff of the International Secretariat for their hard work.

Oliver stressed the importance of parliamentarians following up on the national level after the Istanbul Declaration is adopted, as this work is the democratic foundation of the OSCE.

Oliver reiterated Battelli's statement on encouraging participating States to host Assembly meetings. He further reported on the meeting of the Rules Committee, noting that the changes in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure will help make the PA more efficient.



Adoption of the Declaration and Election Results

The session ended with the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and the announcement of election results for new Assembly officers. Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapic was elected Assembly president along with six new vice-presidents. Roberto Battelli was re-elected treasurer for a third two-year term.

"I am honoured to receive the support of my colleagues," Krivokapic said upon his election. "Being from a part of the world that has received and continues to receive so much support from the OSCE, as president I intend to give back to this Organization with energy and dedication throughout my term to ensure the Parliamentary Assembly helps to strengthen the OSCE in the field and our shared commitments in our capitals."

A nine-time elected parliamentarian, Krivokapic has been president of the Montenegrin Parliament since 2003.







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 two-thirds majority vote.



Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro)

was elected President of the Assembly at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. A nine-time elected parliamentarian, Krivokapic has been president of the Montenegrin Parliament since 2003 and has served previously in the parliaments of Yugoslavia from 1993 to 1997 and the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro from 2003 to 2006. In Montenegro, Krivokapic he led the process of writing the declaration of independence and in the 1990s was an anti-war activist and one of the founders of the Democratic Forum, which aimed to establish Montenegro's multi-party system.



Roberto Battelli (Slovenia)

was elected Treasurer of the Assembly at the Vilnius Annual Session in 2009 and re-elected in 2011 and 2013. Since becoming a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 1992, Mr. Battelli has been particularly active in election observation. He has observed more than 20 elections across the OSCE area, and has served as head of the OSCE PA delega-



tion and as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers in Serbia, Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Battelli has been active in the Democracy Team for Moldova, the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure, and the Sub-committee on Transparency and Accountability. In addition to serving as Treasurer, he is also currently the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, a position he has held since 2006.

Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria)

is President Emeritus of the Assembly, following his four-month tenure as PA President after Riccardo Migliori's departure from the Italian Parliament in March 2013. President Grossruck was the most senior Vice-President of the Assembly at the time, having been elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2011. He previously served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee. He was first elected to the Parliament of Austria in 1995 and has been a Member of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE PA since 1996. Mr. Grossruck has been particularly active in the Assembly's election observation activities.



Isabel Pozuelo (Spain)

was elected Vice-President at the 2009 Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected to full terms

Officers of the Assembly

at the 2010 and 2013 Annual Sessions. She has been a member of the Spanish delegation to the OSCE PA since 2004 and has previously served as head of delegation. She has participated in election observation missions to, among others, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, Georgia, and Armenia. Pozuelo has been a member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies since 1996, having served as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the Finance Committee and the Health Care and Consumer Affairs Committee. Her term as Vice-President expires in 2016.



Alain Neri (France)

was re-elected Vice-President during the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. He previously served one year as Vice-President and one term as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. He has been a member of the Parliamentary Assembly since 2002 and has served as Deputy Head of the French Delegation since 2007. From 2007 to 2008, and since 2009, he has been the secretary of the bureau of the French National Assembly, where he has served since 1988. He also served as Vice President of the French National Assembly from 2008 to 2009. He has served as Mayor of Beauregard-l'Eveque since 1983. His vice-presidential term expires in 2016.



Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade. She previously served two terms as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, having

previously served as Committee Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. Ms. Habsburg Douglas is also the Head of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. With a background in law and journalism, Ms. Habsburg Douglas served as Secretary General of the International Pan-European movement prior to being elected to parliament in 2006. Her OSCE PA Vice-Presidential term ends in 2014.



George Tsereteli (Georgia)



was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. Following a career in business and as a practicing neurologist, Mr. 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. From 2010 to the present he has served as President of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), having previously served as Vice-President of the EPF. He is currently Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia. His OSCE PA Vice-Presidential term ends in 2015.



Robert Aderholt (United States)

was elected OSCE PA Vice-President at the

Officers of the Assembly

Monaco Annual Session in 2012. He has served as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 4th congressional district since 1997, is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Aderholt is also a member of the Agriculture, Rural Development Subcommittee; Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee; and the Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee. He serves on the House Cybersecurity Task Force and is a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania)

was elected Vice-President at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul after serving two terms as Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security. A Member of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania since 1992, she has served as Head of Delegation of Lithuania to the OSCE PA since 2008. She was first elected Rapporteur in 2011. She also is a member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. Ms. Aleknaite Abramikiene is a Member of the Committees on Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, Legal Affairs, Social Affairs and Labour, Environment Protection and the Commission on Family and Child Affairs of the Lithuanian Seimas.



Doris Barnett (Germany)

was elected Vice-President in 2013 to fill a vacancy in the Bureau. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1994. 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 also a member of the Council of Europe and the European Security and Defence Assembly. Her term as OSCE PA Vice-President ends in 2015.



Emin Onen (Turkey)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. Mr. Onen has been a Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007. He has been working as Head of the Delegation to the PA since 2011 and has participated in several election observation missions carried out by the OSCE PA. Mr. Onen is a member of the Committee on EU Harmonization and the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Chairman of Turkey-China Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group. His term as OSCE PA Vice-President ends in 2014.



Ilkka Kanerva (Finland)



was elected Vice-President to fill a vacancy during the 2013 Annual Session. Mr. Kanerva is the longest standing member of the Finnish Parliament, first elected in 1975. He currently serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee,

a committee which he has been a part of off and on since 1979. He heads Finland's delegations to the OSCE PA and NATO parliamentary assemblies. He previously served as Finland's Foreign Minister from 2007 to 2008, at which time he served as the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE.

General Committees



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

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

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

First General Committee

Makis Voridis (Greece)



was elected Chair of the First Committee at the Istanbul Annual Session in July 2013, Voridis also heads the Hellenic Delegation to the OSCE PA. He is a member of the Hellenic Parliament for the Attica Region and serves on the parliament's Economic Affairs Committee. Since November 2011, he has served as Minister of Reconstruction, Transportation and Network. Voridis is Chief Whip of the New Democracy

Party and since March 2013, has served as OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration.

Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)

was elected Vice-Chair of the First Committee



at the Istanbul Annual Session in 2013. Guliyev, a Member of Parliament since 2005, currently serves on the Permanent Committee on State Building and Legislative Policy and is the author of his country's law on civic participation. He

has been a member of Azerbaijan's OSCE PA delegation since 2005. He also heads the Azerbaijan-Romania Inter-parliamentary Working Group.

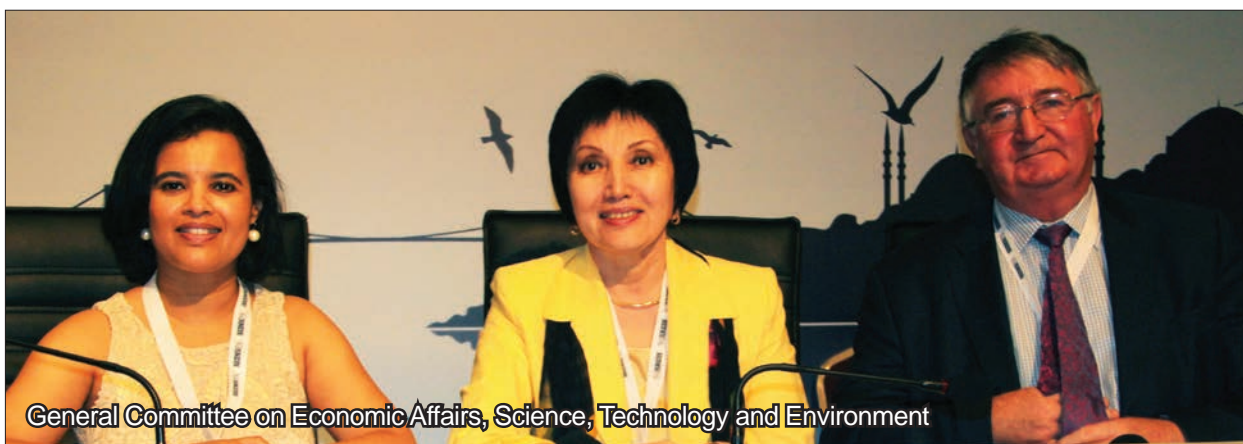
Pia Kauma (Finland)

was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee on 2 July 2013 at the 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul. Kauma has been a Member of Parliament since 2011 and serves on the Constitutional Law Committee and Commerce Committee. She is also a



deputy member of the Social Affairs and Health Committee and the Environment Committee. Prior to joining parliament, Kauma worked in journalism and accounting, as well as other professions.

General Committees



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Second General Committee

Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) was elected Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul, after having served one year as Vice-Chair. She serves as Head of Kyrgyzstan's Delegation to the OSCE PA. She first served in the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan in 2000-2001 and returned in November 2010. Mrs. Aknazarova serves on the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Information and Religious Policies as well as the Parliamentary Democracy Committee. From 2001 to 2005 she served as Minister of Labour and Social Protection in the Government of the the Kyrgyz Republic. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Moscow Academic-Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and has been a central figure in reforming the banking sector in Kyrgyzstan.

**Nilza Sena (Portugal)**

was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2013 Istanbul Annual Session. A Member of the Portuguese Delegation



tion to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 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.

Roger Williams (United Kingdom)

was elected Rapporteur of the Committee on



Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. Williams, who holds a degree in natural sciences, has been a Member of Parliament since 2001 and a member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2010. In the mid-1980s he was elected Chairman of the Brecon and Radnorshire branch of the National Farmer's Union and became Chair of the Brecon Beacons National Park in 1990. He served as Shadow Secretary of State for Wales from 2007 to 2010 and as Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from 2006 to 2010. He currently sits on the Science and Technology Committee in the House of Commons after having served on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee from 2005 to 2010.

General Committees



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Third General Committee

Isabel Santos (Portugal)



was elected Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. She had previously served one year as Vice-Chair of the committee. Ms. Santos has been a Member of

Parliament in Portugal from 2005 to 2009 and resumed her service in the Parliament in 2011. She serves on Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and the Committee on Agriculture and Sea. She has participated in a number of OSCE PA election observation missions over the years.

Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey)



was elected Vice-Chair of the Third Committee at the Istanbul Annual Session in 2013. Kulkuloglu has been a Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey since 2007. He prepared reports on "Political Abuse and Corruption" since 2007

and filed several criminal complaints which have turned into lawsuits. He was a Member of the Committee on Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology

from 2007 to 2011. He has been a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2011 and participated in several election observation missions (Serbia, Montenegro, and the United States).

Gordana Comic (Serbia)



was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. In December 2012, she was also appointed Special Representative on National Minorities in Central and South East Europe by then President Riccardo Migrori.

Comic, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, has been a Member of Parliament since 2000 and a delegate to the OSCE PA since 2005. She chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2004 to 2007 and is currently member of the Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality, the Environmental Protection Committee, the European Integration Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



Voting for committee officers











*Secretary General
Spencer Oliver*

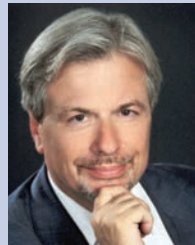
The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly, and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and has a permanent staff of 16, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



*Deputy Secretary
General
Tina Schøn*



*Deputy Secretary
General
Gustavo Pallares*



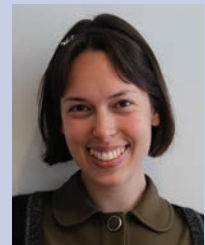
*Special
Representative
Andreas Nothelle*



*Assistant to the
Secretary General
Dana Bjerregaard*



*Deputy Director
of Administration
Marc Carillet*



*Programme
Officer Maria
Chepurina*



*Programme Director
Anna Chernova*



*Senior Counsellor
Semyon Dzakhayev*



*Conference
Co-ordinator
Odile LeLarge*



*Administrative
Director
Kurt Lerras*



*Director of Presidential Admin-
istration Roberto Montella*



*Editorial Director
Nat Parry*



*IT-Supporter
Stephen Paul*



*Staff Assistant
Pia Cathrin
Rasmussen*



*Operations Officer
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.



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