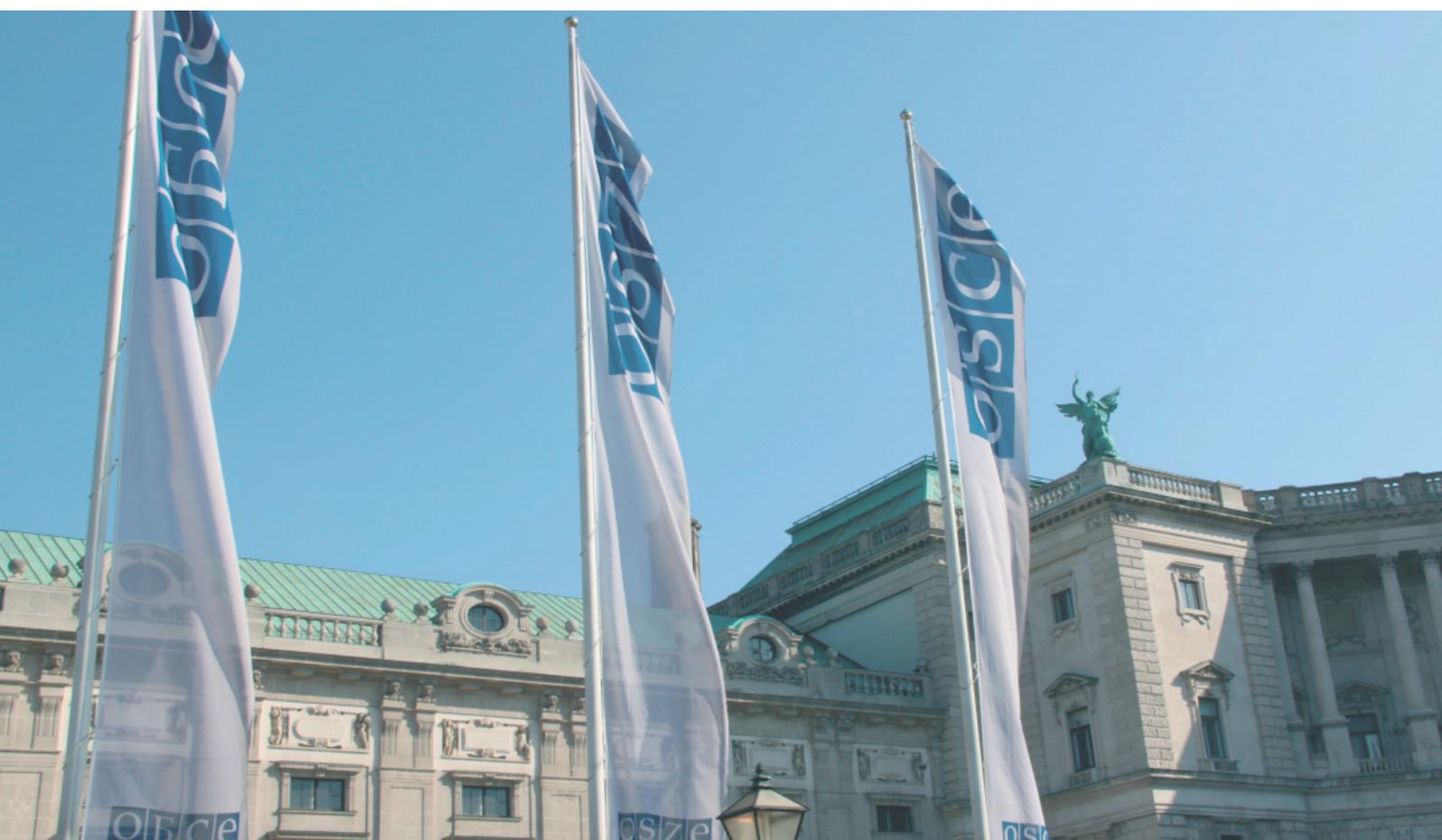


# REPORT

## OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY TENTH WINTER MEETING VIENNA, AUSTRIA 24-25 FEBRUARY 2011



**OSCE PA**

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

*Prepared by the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA*

# REPORT ON THE TENTH WINTER MEETING OF THE OSCE PA

## CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FIRST JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science,     Technology and the Environment .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights     and Humanitarian Questions .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>CLOSING JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Debate on Immigration, Integration and Multi-Ethnic Dialogue in the OSCE .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Debate on the Current Situation in the Mediterranean .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>23</b>

## Summary



Since February 2002, the OSCE PA has held an annual Winter Meeting at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna. The Winter Meeting provides an opportunity for the three General Committees to hold discussions and be briefed by high-level OSCE officials. The Meeting also serves as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three Committee Rapporteurs and to discuss their draft reports for the upcoming Annual Session. The Winter Meeting is the second largest event in the OSCE PA calendar.

The tenth Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, held in Vienna on 24-25 February 2011, concluded with a special debate on the situation in the Mediterranean area. OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Alcee Hastings (United States) opened the debate by calling on the OSCE to proactively reach out to help Mediterranean countries in transition to democracy.

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou issued a statement on behalf of the Assembly at the closing of the debate, noting that the OSCE PA “expresses its deepest concern for the conflicts and violence in the countries of North Africa and for the unacceptable repression carried out in Libya by Gaddafi’s regime.”

“We support the principles of democracy, freedom and human rights in any place,” the President said, “as well as the need for a peaceful evolution towards democracy.” He further expressed the OSCE PA’s readiness to co-operate with the United Nations, the European Union, the Arab League, and all international organizations, “so that effective and proactive measures are adopted in order to stop violence and the massacres of the civil population.”

The debate on the Mediterranean was preceded by another lively discussion on immigration, integration and multi-ethnic dialogue in the OSCE. The OSCE’s High Commissioner for National Minorities, Knut Vollebaek, and the OSCE PA’s Special Representative on

Migration, Kathleen Ferrier (Netherlands), opened the the debate, with Amb. Vollebaek pointing out that when it comes to integration, OSCE parliamentarians have a special role to play. “You represent a wide range of constituencies,” he said. “You are their voice and their means to participate and to have a say.”

Kathleen Ferrier noted in her address that there are few issues that affect the security of OSCE countries to the extent of migration. Stressing the increased urgency of the matter

*“We support the principles of democracy, freedom and human rights in any place, as well as the need for a peaceful evolution towards democracy.”*

-- OSCE PA Statement on North Africa

considering events in the Arab world, with many people leaving their countries and seeking refuge in countries of the OSCE, she emphasized that OSCE countries should be prepared to deal with this influx in a humane manner.

Speakers at the meeting also included Federal President of Austria Heinz Fischer, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis and Speaker Barbara Prammer of the Austrian Parliament. The OSCE PA’s Special Representative on Gender Issues, Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada), also addressed the Winter Meeting. In her first address as Special Representative, Dr. Fry explained Canada’s approach to gender-based analysis.

Participants included 228 parliamentarians from 53 countries, including several from the Mediterranean Partners. The Winter Meeting consisted of meetings of the Standing Committee, each of the three General Committees, and joint sessions of the General Committees.

## First Joint Session of the General Committees



Federal President of Austria Heinz Fischer, together with OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou and Secretary General Spencer Oliver, greets OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Audronius Azuabalis

The Winter Meeting's first joint session of the General Committees began with a brief address by OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou who noted that in terms of the number of participants the 2011 Vienna meeting was already one of the most successful in its ten-year history. He expressed his hope that the meeting would also be as successful in terms of its achievements.

President Efthymiou announced that the agenda would focus on the major political issues in the OSCE area, ranging from the situation in Belarus in the Third Committee, to the current state of affairs in the Mediterranean region. Before giving the floor to the President of Austria, Mr. Efthymiou requested a moment of silence for the former Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the OSCE, Fuad Ismayilov, who had just passed away.

### Heinz Fischer, Federal President of Austria

Austria's Federal President Heinz Fischer began by summarizing the outcome of the OSCE Astana Summit in December 2010. Pointing to the personnel changes which will take place in the Organization in 2011, he used the opportunity to mention that Dr. Ursula Plassnik, an Austrian diplomat, stands as a candidate for the post of the Secretary General.

Furthermore, President Fischer stressed the importance of the OSCE countries' dedica-

tion to fulfillment of the ambitious political agenda, warning in particular of the dangers of unresolved conflicts in the OSCE region. He called for better co-operation between OSCE and Belarus and also condemned the violence against Libyan civilians.

Stressing the significance of the co-operation between important international actors in matters of energy security, climate change and self-sustaining development, President Fischer announced that a World Economic Forum for Europe and Central Asia will take place in Vienna on 8 and 9 June 2011. In closing, President Fischer once more underlined the importance of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and wished the participants a fruitful discussion.

### Petros Efthymiou, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Following President Fischer's speech was an address by Petros Efthymiou, who pointed to an "identity crisis" in the OSCE and called for more action in undertaking improvements. He spoke about the current issues of human rights, energy security and transnational organized crime, and outlined the importance of the role that the OSCE can perform in order to deal with them effectively. President Efthymiou said that the election of the next OSCE Secretary General also bears significance for the upgrading of the Organization. He also mentioned his recent

## First Joint Session of the General Committees



visit to Kyrgyzstan and highlighted the important work of the OSCE field presence there. Mr. Efthymiou expressed his hope that the OSCE PA's Belgrade Annual Session will result in a successful proposition on how to develop and realize the OSCE's full potential.

### **Audronius Azubalis, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Lithuania**

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Lithuania Audronius Azubalis, former Head of Lithuania's Delegation to the OSCE PA, reported to the parliamentarians on the results and challenges of the OSCE's work under the Lithuanian Chairmanship. Having noted the progress the OSCE participating States have made over the years, Minister Azubalis went on to analyze individual cases that still face challenges. He expressed his concern over failure in Belarus to meet OSCE commitments and raised



Federal President of Austria Heinz Fischer

the issue of the closure of the Office in Minsk. He also lamented the loss of life in recent protests in Albania.

Minister Azubalis gave a brief analysis of unresolved conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan and called for the OSCE to strengthen monitoring activities in these regions and to consider possible confidence-building measures. The Minister went on to warn against transnational threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking and cyber-crime. He offered his support for the democratic aspirations of the people of Tunisia and Egypt and shared concerns about the situation in Libya.

The Minister recalled the political declaration made in Astana and reaffirmed the Chairmanship's determination to make the stated intention become reality. In this regard, he announced that he will sponsor a Conference on Media Freedom in Vilnius in June 2011. In closing, Minister Azubalis thanked all the participants for their contribution to the Organization's work.







## General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



**Karl-Georg Wellmann,  
Chair of the First Committee**

Karl-Georg Wellmann (Germany), Chair of the First Committee, introduced the Committee's agenda, which included presentations by FSC Chair Ambassador Stefan Skjaldarson, Special Representative for Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen, Rapporteur Tonino Picula and Committee Vice-Chair Canan Kalsin on follow-up to the Oslo Declaration.

**Canan Kalsin,  
Vice-Chair of the First Committee**

Vice-Chair Canan Kalsin (Turkey) presented her interim follow-up report on developments related to OSCE PA recommendations adopted at the 19th Annual Session in Oslo.

Ms. Kalsin briefed participants on the situation in Kyrgyzstan, outlining in particular the work of the OSCE PA Special Representative Kimmo Kiljunen, the Permanent Council's Common Security Initiative as well as the election observation mission to Kyrgyzstan for the October 2010 parliamentary elections.

With regard to OSCE reform, the Vice-Chair mentioned the missed opportunity to reach consensus on a common Action Plan during the Astana Summit, while noting that OSCE norms and commitments were reaffirmed. She reported that President Efthymiou has advocated a set of reforms in order to strengthen transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, in the working of the Permanent Council and in the selection process of Secretary General.

Ms. Kalsin expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan in 2010, which marked the deadliest year in the country since military operations began. Further, she pointed out that the September elections in Afghanistan were



marked by "serious, systemic deficiencies," according to the OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team report.

The Vice-Chair concluded by stating the importance of women participating in moving political processes forward, including building sustainable peace processes.

**Tonino Picula,  
Rapporteur of the First Committee**

Presenting his proposal for the Annual Session, Rapporteur Tonino Picula (Croatia) concentrated on formulating tangible results from the Astana Summit Declaration. With regard to the global security agenda, he highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach, which should support a multilateral – as opposed to multipolar – security system in order to face ongoing transnational threats.

Mr. Picula pointed to indications of an OSCE political crisis, primarily regarding its lack of legal character, as well as the inability to reach consensus on the extension of the OSCE field operations in Georgia and Belarus and the late introduction of a civil police mechanism in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Picula asserted that the OSCE's comprehensive security approach must be strengthened by embodying human rights in the politico-military dimension. This concept should be expanded by increasing the role of the Forum for Security Co-operation, he said, which should be applied in particular to the protracted conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova and Georgia. In this regard, the Parliamentary Assembly can contribute by keeping these conflicts high on its agenda.

Structural reforms should be implemented in order to raise the political profile of the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Picula said, and to

## General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

improve OSCE reaction capability as well as its decision-making procedure. He also stressed the need for the timely adoption of the budget and enhance the Organization's transparency and accountability in order to forge consensus as well as active co-operation among Institutions.

### **Stefan Skjaldarson, Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Representative of Iceland to the OSCE**

Ambassador Skjaldarson gave an overview of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation's work, particularly regarding confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). He emphasized the 1999 Vienna Document as the most important document governing CSBMs, which are reviewed on a yearly basis by the OSCE's Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

The Chair informed that after years of deadlock, there is new momentum to look into how to develop further CSBMs and arms control in Europe. The Astana Summit tasked the FSC to revitalize, update and modernize the 1999 Vienna Document and present it under the form of a 2011 Vienna Document at the Ministerial Council in Vilnius. Simultaneously, discussions were initiated on a renewal of the CFE regime.

In addition to placing a strong focus on the above-mentioned issues, the FSC has covered other important issues such as small arms and light weapons (SALW), non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the current politico-military situation in the OSCE area.

### **Kimmo Kiljunen, OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia**

The OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia, Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), reported on the organizational proceedings and the results of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the tragic events that took place in southern Kyrgyzstan last June. Despite a common will of the international community to establish the commission, the work started with delay due to the difficulties of forging consensus on organizational aspects.

Working from October 2010 to January 2011 a team of experts conducted around 700 interviews, and collected around 1,000 statements and 5,000 photographs. The final report is expected to be disclosed in late March, following additional comments by Kyrgyzstan's government.

Mr. Kiljunen stressed that the report aims to provide a narrative objectively providing a picture of the incidents, qualifying crimes in terms of international humanitarian law and identifying the responsibilities of military and security forces, as well as non-state armed actors including both institutional and individual agents. The Special Representative also pointed to the use of systematic gender violence during the tragic events.

Mr. Kiljunen also outlined the report's recommendations, which focus on principles of reconciliation, accountability and fighting impunity. He further called upon the international community to follow up on the situation in the country.

### **Discussion on Reform of the OSCE**

#### **Alcee Hastings, former OSCE PA President**

Alcee Hastings (United States), former PA President, stressed that despite a changing geopolitical landscape, the OSCE continues to face many of the same problems. Mr. Hastings expressed the importance of the next OSCE Secretary General being a prominent political figure and called for more transparency within the OSCE, notably in making the meetings of the Permanent Council public and revising the consensus rule.

#### **OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou**

In his remarks, President Efthymiou highlighted the unique nature of the OSCE and expressed the need to avoid the risk of outsourcing its tasks. He regretted the missed opportunity of an agreement on a forward-looking plan in Astana and called for the revitalization of the OSCE Corfu Process.

The Parliamentary Assembly President also stressed the importance of political figures assuming the posts of Secretary General and Director of ODIHR.

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



**Roland Blum,  
Chair of the Second Committee**

Second Committee Chair Roland Blum (France) opened the meeting by introducing the Committee's agenda, which included presentations by OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Maria Grazia Giammarino and OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues Chris Smith. The Committee, Mr. Blum said, would hear from the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Goran Svilanovic, Committee Rapporteur Serhiy Shevchuk, and the Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE PA Gustavo Pallares.

**Serhiy Shevchuk,  
Rapporteur of the Second Committee**

Rapporteur Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) introduced his presentation by making reference to the OSCE Summit in Astana and the necessity to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization. He provided an overview of the topics to be covered in his draft report that will be presented at the Assembly's Annual Session in Belgrade. In his draft report, Mr. Shevchuk said that he plans to discuss issues such as energy security, environment, migration problems, cyber security, as well as advanced technology and the role of science.

Mr. Shevchuk mentioned the need to deepen the dialogue concerning energy security in the OSCE region, and welcomed various initiatives that relate to this issue. Pointing out that 2010 was a year with record numbers of natural disasters throughout the world, he invited



**Goran Svilanovic,  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities**

the participating States to better co-operate and carefully manage natural resources, including water. Mr. Shevchuk also discussed the issue of migration, stressing that it impacts all countries in the OSCE area. Popular ideas concerning the topic are usually based on emotions and myths, he noted, and are far removed from the socio-economic reality.

Mr. Svilanovic briefed the Committee on the OCEEA's plans for 2011, noting that one of its main priorities remains supporting the Lithuanian Chairmanship in preparation for the 19th Economic and Environmental Forum. Other activities planned by the OCEEA relate to energy security, good governance, transport, migration management, environment and security, as well as climate change.

During 2011, the OCEEA intends to actively contribute to the development of human capital by increasing local knowledge on energy issues.

The Co-ordinator further pointed out that the OCEEA is particularly interested in supporting and developing training activities in

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



the areas of national risk assessments, financial crime investigation techniques, links between AML and trafficking in human beings, anti-corruption strategies and action plans, responsible business conduct and collective action, and local good economic governance. He also urged those OSCE participating States that have not yet ratified the UN Convention against Corruption to do so.

A new Trainer's Manual on Labour Migration Management has just been released, announced Mr. Svilanovic, and, together with the IOM, the OCEEA is developing a project on harmonized data collection as a sound basis for policy-making.

### **Maria Grazia Giammaromaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammaromaro, underlined that trafficking in human beings is increasingly focused on labour exploitation.

Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers are placed in jobs by organized criminal groups, Ms. Giammaromaro pointed out, and exploited in slavery-like conditions. The variety of forms of exploitation is endless, with people exploited for forced begging, petty crime, pick-pocketing, and also receiving, transporting and selling stolen goods and drugs. A significant trend is also the increase in exploited children, as well as disabled persons.

The Special Representative pointed out that trafficking in human beings is mostly a busi-

ness of organized crime and an inexhaustible source of illicit profits which are linked to other organized criminal activities. The Special Representative also reported that over time traffickers have changed their modus operandi and now use more sophisticated means of recruitment and coercion.

Ms. Giammaromaro welcomed the significant progress that has been made during the past ten years in the fight against trafficking. Targeted legislation, anti-trafficking policies and national machineries have been established in many OSCE participating States. However, she emphasized that it is one thing to enact good legislation, but another to secure its full and effective implementation.

### **Chris Smith, OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues**

Chris Smith continued the presentation on the Role of the OSCE in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The OSCE PA Special Representative pointed out that if much progress in combating human trafficking has been accomplished during the previous decade, many challenges still remain. He reminded parliamentarians of the importance of not treating victims of human trafficking as criminals.

He noted that sex tourism is an escalating threat to children, and called for enhanced international cooperation to monitor the travel of convicted sex offenders. He also called for the reinforcement of the mechanism to fight against pedophile sex tourism, and backed the idea of training airline flight attendants and others in the tourist industry to spot potential trafficking victims.

### **Discussion**

Presentations were followed by a lively discussion in which Members emphasized the importance of tackling the issues presented during the meeting. Parliamentarians were particularly concerned about human trafficking and provided input from their own countries concerning the subject. When asked about organ trafficking, the Rapporteur expressed his strong belief that the Parliamentary Assembly should tackle this issue and include it in the Belgrade Declaration.

## General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



### **Walburga Habsburg Douglas, Chair of the Third Committee**

Chaired by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions met on 24 February to hear presentations from the Vice-Chair on follow-up to the Oslo Declaration and from the Rapporteur of the Committee on plans for the upcoming Annual Session in Belgrade. The question of human rights and its connection with security has always been the major interest of the Third Committee, Ms. Habsburg Douglas said. The Committee also agreed to hold an important exchange of views on the situation in Belarus.

### **Robert Aderholt, Vice-Chair of the Third Committee**

In his follow-up report, Mr. Aderholt (United States) gave particular recognition to the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the priority it has given to media freedom and the security of journalists. The Chairmanship's attention to protecting journalists will hopefully further support the work being done by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Aderholt said.

The Vice-Chair also highlighted the work being done to combat trafficking in human beings. The Third Committee has regularly addressed this issue, and Mr. Aderholt expressed pride that his colleague Chris Smith from the United States leads the PA's efforts in this field.



A number of field missions are implementing innovative projects on combating human trafficking, the Vice-Chair reported, and on the OSCE's governmental side important work is being done by the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Strategic Police Matters Unit. "Both have been active in improving co-operation and supporting training at the national level of law-enforcement personnel," Mr. Aderholt said.

### **Matteo Mecacci, Rapporteur of the Third Committee**

The Rapporteur of the Committee, Matteo Mecacci (Italy), presented his ideas for his report to the Third Committee to be presented at the 20th Annual Session in Belgrade. Bearing in mind the general theme of "Strengthening the OSCE's Effectiveness and Efficiency -- A new start after the Astana Summit," Mr. Mecacci argued that it is important for the OSCE to ask itself what role it plays in ensuring security in the region, and ensure that it is applying the proper responses to the various challenges.

Touching on the situation in the Mediterranean region, he said that it was wrong to assume that the Arab world was somehow exempt from democratization. In this respect, Mr. Mecacci said that in his report he would like to send a principled message about the importance of giving serious thought to how our governments proceed on this situation.

Mr. Mecacci concluded by saying that the OSCE has to take the initiative at the highest

## General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



political level, noting that it could be difficult to take effective steps considering the OSCE's cumbersome decision-making procedure, in particular the consensus rule. Reiterating the central question of his report, he asked what are and should be the functions of the OSCE.

### Discussion on Belarus

#### **Uta Zapf, Chair of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus**

Uta Zapf (Germany) opened the discussion by pointing out that the PA truly cares about this country, which is why a working group was created in the first place.

She reminded the Committee of the Working Group's mandate, to facilitate dialogue between the Government and opposition of Belarus in an attempt to promote free and fair election processes and aid in the development of democracy. She pointed out that over the years, progress was being made in the country, specifically in respect to the election law and increasing the possibility of open campaigning.

Because of the reports of fraud in the vote-counting process, Ms. Zapf expressed her opinion that the protesters were right to go out into the street on election night to demonstrate, and deplored the arrests and treatment of these demonstrators. She also criticized the closing of the OSCE Office in Minsk, noting that the field presence is still very much needed there.

Ms. Zapf also discussed the work by the European Union and national parliaments on the issue of Belarusian democracy.



#### **Tony Lloyd, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Short-Term Observer Mission to Belarus**

Mr. Lloyd (United Kingdom) began by reminding his colleagues of the purpose of election observation. The role of observers is not to tell countries how to conduct their elections, or instruct the authorities on the mechanisms that they administer. Rather, the role of observers is to see that elections represent the will of the people. Many observers, he noted, travelled to Belarus with a guarded optimism, positively noting that the opposition was being permitted to campaign freely and enjoying wide access to the media.

Pointing to these positive steps, Mr. Lloyd said that up until the count, there was hope among the observers that things were improving in the country. The count, however, was so lacking in transparency that the conclusions of the observers could only be negative. In some cases, it was obvious that things were going "determinedly wrong," he said, and the aftermath left the observers "shocked." He said that the Belarusian authorities overreacted to the election night demonstrations, pointing out that the sentences against protesters have been excessively harsh.

#### **Janez Lenarcic, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

ODIHR, Mr. Lenarcic said, had been working with the Belarusian authorities since 2009 in helping to implement recommendations

## General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



from previous elections, including with registration of candidates. Belarus, however, has a long way to go, he said. Even before the election, ODIHR observed an uneven playing field and a significant lack of transparency.

There were significant improvements made to the electoral code, but these improvements were overshadowed by what happened during the vote count and afterwards. Finally, he expressed ODIHR's readiness to continue working with Belarus. ODIHR offered assistance regarding legal reform, election administration, transparency with the vote count, issues related to freedom of assembly, and mechanisms for election dispute resolution. Mr. Lenarcic said that the ongoing trials of opposition activists are a key issue, and he expressed ODIHR's willingness to observe these trials.

### **Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

Ms. Mijatovic stated that there is not one of the 56 participating States that is immune from the criticism of the office that she heads. There are many issues that need to be remedied in OSCE countries, most urgently the imprisonment of journalists and impunity, but also issues such as registration and licensing, and laws that criminalize defamation. She called on all States to repeal or amend such laws.

The freedom of media in Belarus has been a particular focus of her office since she assumed her post, Ms. Mijatovic said. She has been closely monitoring the situation of four journalists, in particular, who have been subject to government pressure.

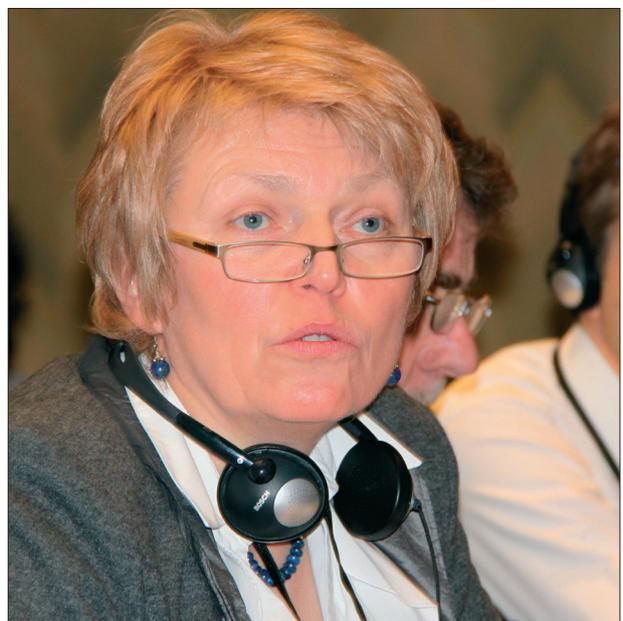
During the spring and summer of 2010, the office was in contact with Belarusian authorities and in the spirit of co-operation her office offered analysis of Belarus's new media regulations. She noted that the authorities seemed willing to co-operate, but these positive developments were overshadowed by the events following the 19 December election. Belarusian and foreign reporters were beaten up and detained, she reported, and while foreign journalists were quickly released, Belarusian detainees were given jail sentences of between 10 and 15 days.

In line with her mandate, she had hoped to visit Minsk in January, but the authorities would not accommodate her request. She still hopes to visit the country as soon as possible.

### **Discussion**

A delegate from Belarus pointed to positive changes made to the electoral code and noted that more than a thousand international observers from various organizations received credentials to monitor the election. He argued that observers have largely overlooked the positive changes in the electoral process in Belarus and have allowed emotions to colour their assessment of the election. Other members expressed support for the sanctions that the EU has launched. Particular support was expressed for the protection of journalists.

The floor was given to a guest speaker from Belarus, Alyaksandr Kazulin, not a member of parliament but a prominent politician. Mr. Kazulin noted that the election was not transparent, and claimed that the results were falsified.



## Standing Committee Meeting



The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 56 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. The 2011 Winter Meeting's Standing Committee met on 25 February and was addressed by the PA's President, Treasurer, and Secretary General as well as by Special Representatives and members of Ad Hoc Committees.

### Address by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Barbara Prammer

Ms. Prammer said that following up on the Corfu Process and the Astana Summit, it is now up to the participating States to act on their words. Because contemporary threats are complex and need to be addressed within a comprehensive concept of security, the OSCE is the most effective forum to do so. An important role in this discussion is played by the parliamentarians, who can bring these complex issues to the citizens.

Speaking of her own country's contribution, Ms. Prammer noted that Austria places a special emphasis on the role of women in conflicts. She continued by outlining that in the coming months, some important posts within the OSCE need to be filled. A political figure should assume the post of the Secretary General, Ms. Prammer, said, stressing that the OSCE PA should have a voice in the selection process.

Ms. Prammer further emphasized the importance of better protection for Roma and Sinti, as well as freedom of the media, and called for greater participation of politicians in election observation. In closing, she mentioned the increasing importance of parliamentary diplomacy, and suggested organizing regular meetings between all the speakers of parliaments.

*“Despite the fact that we have by far the smallest staff and budget of all similar parliamentary organizations in Europe, we continue to maintain and increase our level of activities.”*

-- OSCE PA Treasurer Roberto Battelli

### OSCE PA President Petros Eftymiou

President Eftymiou reported on his October visit to Vilnius, where he addressed the Lithuanian Parliament on the behalf of the OSCE PA. During his last visit to Russia he met with MP Alexandr Krizlov, as well as Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. He also reported on his official visit to Turkey, as well as a presidential visit to

Kyrgyzstan where he met with a number of prominent politicians, including President Roza Otunbayeva.

Mr. Eftymiou noted that the PA actively participated in the Astana Summit and

acknowledged the help of Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Vice-President of the PA, who helped enable the Assembly to play an active role.

Mr. Eftymiou noted that some OSCE field presences need more support, pointing out an imbalance in allocated resources, for example between the Mission to Kosovo and the Centre in Bishkek. The President argued that in order to improve the situation in the field operations, a political figure needs to assume the post of Secretary General of the OSCE.

### Report of the Treasurer, Roberto Battelli

Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) informed the Standing Committee that the

## Standing Committee Meeting



## Standing Committee Meeting



detailed budget report has been distributed. The PA had again stayed within the budget and there are no plans of increasing the budget for the coming fiscal year, the Treasurer reported. Mr. Battelli stressed that, despite having a comparably small budget with little staff, the Assembly remains very active and has aimed to increase activities. The report further contains the list of national contributions, which is linked to the scales of contributions as decided by the PC.

### Report of OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver

The Secretary General began by thanking Mr. Battelli for the efficient management of the Assembly's finances. He noted a number of discrepancies in the fund management of the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and highlighted

the past instances of funds going missing. As a result he reiterated the call for introducing outside independent professional auditors for the OSCE Secretariat.

Mr. Oliver reported that the PA had successfully inserted some language into the Astana Summit Declaration, although the original language proposed by the OSCE PA had been denied.

Furthermore, the Secretary General also informed the Standing Committee that 446 MPs of the OSCE PA took part in a number of election observation missions, and emphasized the communication tool *News from Copenhagen*, which is sent out every week.

In conclusion, the Secretary General noted the exceptional growth of the OSCE PA since its foundation. In particular, he mentioned that at the moment the PA has eight Special Representatives, four annual meetings and it has had 181 Research Assistants over 13 years who have come from 30 countries.

### Report of the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on the Rules of Procedure Pia Christmas-Moeller and Consideration of Amendments to the Rules

Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark) presented the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The subcommittee that she chairs had agreed on the principle of limiting the number of supplementary items at Annual Sessions, but did not agree on precise wording. This proposal will be presented to the Standing Committee at

## Standing Committee Meeting



a later meeting, Ms. Christmas-Moeller said.

Following debate, six of the eight proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

### Reports on Election Observation Activities

Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria) informed the participants of his visit to Azerbaijan two weeks earlier, which was intended to follow up on the OSCE's election observation of the 7 November 2010 parliamentary elections. Mr. Grossruck pointed to co-operation difficulties with the ODIHR, which did not accept the position of the Parliamentary Assembly. He reminded the participants that as national legislators, OSCE parliamentarians have power of funding for the ODIHR, calling on ODIHR to co-operate with the OSCE PA and not confront it.

Tonino Picula (Croatia) reported on the 28 November parliamentary elections in Moldova, which met most OSCE commitments and were administered in a free and fair manner. They were a positive step in the development of Moldova, Mr. Picula said.

Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom), reporting on the presidential election in Belarus, stated that co-operation with ODIHR was very good. The conclusions the observers drew on the election, despite some slight improvements from previous elections, could only be negative, he said, pointing in particular to extreme irregularities during the vote count.



## Closing Joint Session of the General Committees



Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry

In the closing joint session, the three General Committees heard a report by the Special Representative on Gender Issues, Hedy Fry, and held special debates on immigration and the situation in the Mediterranean area.

### Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry

Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada), addressed the Parliamentary Assembly for the first time as its Special Representative on Gender Issues. In her report, Dr. Fry outlined her work plan for the year. She emphasized that equality and social cohesion must be supported by legislation, good public policy and a solid process for achieving clear, measurable equity goals.

The Special Representative pointed out that a close working relationship is needed within the OSCE on gender issues in order to share objectives, information and best practices.

Dr. Fry stressed the fact that the tone for collaboration and credibility is to be set by an example of gender balance within the bodies of the OSCE PA. She challenged delegates to raise the target of women representation in the Bureau to 30 per cent in 2011 by electing six women to leadership positions, saying that once that goal is reached, the target should be raised to 33 per cent in 2012.

The Special Representative introduced the Canadian experience with gender-based analysis in law-making. She suggested holding a workshop as a means of exploring in depth some of the topics related to gender issues such as women's role in economic development, violence against women, and the role of women

in the resolution of conflict and promotion of peace. This will help participants to share best practices and to implement some of these practices where applicable, in national Parliaments or within delegations over the next year

Dr. Fry stressed the fact that the overall goal of Gender Equality is not just equality of representation, but also equality of opportunity for women and men to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their communities. In conclusion, the Special Representative called on the participants to put collective efforts at making gender equality a core component of the work at OSCE PA.

### Special Debate on Immigration, Integration and Multi-Ethnic Dialogue in the OSCE

The OSCE's High Commissioner for National Minorities, Knut Vollebaek, and the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Migration, Kathleen Ferrier (Netherlands), opened the special debate on immigration, integration and multi-ethnic dialogue, with Amb. Vollebaek pointing out that when it comes to integration, OSCE parliamentarians have a special role to play.

"You represent a wide range of constituencies," he said. "You are their voice and their means to participate and to have a say. You are in the position to develop innovative approaches in managing diversity in a way that can deliver the many benefits but which also contain the risk of potential human costs and conflict."

Kathleen Ferrier noted in her address that there are few issues that affect the security of OSCE countries to the extent of migration. Stressing the increased urgency of the matter considering events in the Arab world, with many people leaving their countries and seeking refuge in countries of the OSCE, she emphasized that OSCE countries should be prepared to deal with this influx in a humane manner. "Migration and immigration involve the very future of our societies," she said. Ms. Ferrier noted that the lack of prospects for integration could drive people to become migrants. As migration is here to stay, she said, it requires a balanced, comprehensive and cooperative approach.

The debate demonstrated the common view

## Closing Joint Session of the General Committees



Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier



Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Alcee Hastings

that OSCE must assist local populations in harnessing their national governments, spreading wealth and making North African nations more economically attractive places to live. Some delegates emphasized the idea that the Organization should be a platform for the exchange of the best practices regarding how to balance social cohesion with diversity promotion.

The need for better tolerance towards migrants and improvement of legal and awareness building tools were emphasized during the discussion. Health service and employment policy best practices should become examples for implementation in certain OSCE participating States.

It was pointed out that in this crucial transitional period, the OSCE should play a critical role in Mediterranean and Arab migration. The OSCE should provide parliamentary and technical support for free democratic elections and synergy between migration and development.

Some delegates pointed out that migration brings huge advantages, indeed having become the basis for building certain countries. The OSCE should pay particular attention to this very sensitive issue and its different aspects, such as language equality, protection of basic human rights and to build harmonic world of equality but not the culture of minorities.

### Special Debate on the Current Situation in the Mediterranean

The debate on the situation in the Mediterranean region was introduced by Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Alcee Hastings (United States). “This debate is

inspired by the courage and dignity of the people in Tunisia, Egypt, and throughout the Mediterranean region,” Mr. Hastings said as he opened the debate.

With representatives from Algeria, Jordan, Israel, Morocco and Egypt in attendance, Mr. Hastings called for swift action to help countries looking to transition to democracy. He said parliamentarians should assist in building democratic institutions in the region through more than election observation.

In the discussion, parliamentarians stressed that the OSCE should help in building democratization in countries even if they are not within the OSCE’s scope. It was emphasized that European countries should acknowledge their responsibility for supporting stability in Mediterranean countries and that repression must be immediately condemned.

The Winter Meeting concluded with the 228 parliamentarians issuing a joint statement on the situation in North Africa. The PA “expresses its deepest concern for the conflicts and violence in the countries of North Africa and for the unacceptable repression carried out in Libya by Gaddafi’s regime,” read the statement, issued by OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou.

“In compliance with the Helsinki Final Act,” the statement went on, “the OSCE PA pledges to co-operate with the United Nations, European Union, Arab League, and all international organizations, so that effective and proactive measures are adopted in order to stop violence and the massacres of the civil population as well as to share the commitment to helping and supporting the refugees and victims of this crisis.”









**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE TENTH WINTER MEETING  
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

*Vienna, 24 – 25 February 2011*

**Thursday, 24 February 2011**

09.00 – 11.45 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**  
(Ratsaal, 5<sup>th</sup> floor)

12.00 – 13.15 **Joint Session of the three General Committees:** (Neuer Saal, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

- Opening by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Petros Efthymiou
- Address by the Federal President of Austria, Mr. Heinz Fischer
- Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Petros Efthymiou
- Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Lithuania Mr. Audronius Ažubalis, followed by a question & answer session

13.15 -15.15 Lunch Break

15.15 - 18.00 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**  
(Neuer Saal, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

15.15 - 18.00 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**  
(Ratsaal, 5<sup>th</sup> floor)

18.15 Departure of buses from *Hofburg* to the Austrian Parliament

18.30 **Reception offered by the Austrian Parliament (Austrian Nationalrat)**

**Friday, 25 February 2011**

09.00 – 12.00 **Standing Committee Meeting**  
(Ratsaal, 5<sup>th</sup> floor)

12:00- 13.30 Lunch break

**13:30- 16.30 Joint Session of the three General Committees:** (Neuer Saal, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Address by the Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, followed by a question & answer session

Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Ms. Hedy Fry, followed by a debate

Special Debate on *Immigration, Integration and Multi-Ethnic Dialogue in the OSCE*

Special Debate on current political issues: *Current Situation in the Mediterranean*

Closure by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Petros Efthymiou



Philippe Nobile



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 18, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



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Deputy Secretary  
General  
Gustavo Pallares



Special  
Representative  
Andreas Nothelle



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The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 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.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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