



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

# Report on the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in Brussels



Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat,  
Copenhagen



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

## Programme of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, Brussels

### Monday, 3 July

08.00 – 09.00	Working Breakfast on Gender Issues
09.30 - 12.30	Meeting of the Standing Committee
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	Inaugural Plenary Session:
-	Call to order and opening remarks by Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE PA
-	Address by Mr. Herman De Croo, President of the Belgian House of Representatives, and Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate
-	Addresses by Senior Official(s) of the Host country
-	Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, H.E. Mr. Karel De Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, followed by a question/answer session
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 - 18.00	Plenary Session (cont.):
-	Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies
-	Address by Mr. Marc Perrin De Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General
-	Report by Ms. Tone Tingsgård, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues followed by a debate
-	Consideration of Supplementary items
Evening	Opening reception offered at the Royal Castle in Laeken in the presence of his Majesty the King Albert II

### Tuesday, 4 July

07.00 - 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.00 - 11.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
-	Opening remarks by Mr. Göran Lennmarker, Chair of the Committee;
-	Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mr. Wolfgang Grossruck, Rapporteur;
-	Debate
09.00 - 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
-	Opening remarks by Ms. Cecilia Wigström, Acting Chair of the Committee;
-	Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, Rapporteur;
-	Debate
11.30 – 13.30	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
-	Opening remarks by Mr. Benjamin Cardin, Chair of the Committee
-	Introduction of the Draft Resolution by Mr. Roland Blum, Rapporteur
-	Debate
12.00 – 14.00	Mediterranean Side Meeting
14.15 - evening	Excursion to Bruges

### Wednesday, 5 July

07.00 – 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.30 - 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
-	Debate (cont.)
-	Consideration of amendments
09.30 - 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
-	Debate (cont.)
-	Consideration of amendments
11.30 - 13.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
-	Debate (cont.)
-	Consideration of amendments
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science Technology and Environment
-	Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution
-	Supplementary items
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
-	Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution
-	Supplementary items
16.30 - 18.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
-	Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution
-	Supplementary items
Evening	Culinary evening in the premises of the Belgian Federal Parliament offered by Mr Herman De Croo, the President of the House of representatives and Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin, the President of the Senate

### Thursday, 6 July

07.00 - 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.00 - 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
-	Supplementary items
-	Election of the Committee Officers
09.00 - 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
-	Supplementary items
-	Election of the Committee Officers
11.10-11.30	Meeting of the Bureau
11.30 - 13.30	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
-	Supplementary items
-	Election of the Committee Officers
13.30 - 15.00	Lunch break
15.00 - 18.00	Plenary Session
-	General debate

### Friday, 7 July

07.00 - 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.30 - 12.30	Plenary Session
-	Report by Mr. Jerry Grafstein, Treasurer
-	Report by Mr. R. Spencer Oliver, Secretary General
-	Consideration of Committee Resolutions
-	Adoption of the Final Document
-	Election of the Assembly Officers
12.30	Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE PA

## Introduction



From 3 to 7 July 2006 the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met for its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in Brussels. Parliamentarians from across the OSCE and beyond took part in the Session, which was held in the premises of the European Parliament. At the end of the Session the Assembly passed the Brussels Declaration with political and technical recommendations in the fields of security, economics, environmental affairs and humanitarian issues. The Brussels Declaration is focused on the theme of the Session: *'Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE Region'*.

Prior to the official opening of the Session, the Heads of Delegation met in the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee approved the budget for the coming fiscal year, upon the recommendation of the Treasurer. Following a report by the Secretary General on activities, the Heads of Delegations heard reports on recent election observation activities and on work by the Assembly's Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committees.

During the Opening Plenary Session on 3 July, the Assembly was addressed by Alcee L. Hastings, OSCE PA President; Herman De Croo, President of the Belgian House of Representatives; Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate; H.E. Karel De Gucht, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE; René Van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE. The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Vice-President Tone Tingsgård also delivered her report to the Plenary Session.

From 4 to 6 July, the Assembly's three General Committees met to discuss current issues within their fields of work, and to consider and amend draft resolutions.

On the final day of the Session, the Assembly again met in plenary to consider all of the resolutions and to adopt the Brussels Declaration. Before adjourning, the Assembly elected Göran Lennmarker of Sweden as its new President, as well as other officers of the Assembly.



## Standing Committee Meeting



The Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations met prior to the official opening of the Annual Session. OSCE PA President **Alcee L. Hastings** (USA) welcomed Members and informed them about the admittance of the Republic of Montenegro as the 56<sup>th</sup> participating State of the OSCE, a decision taken just a few weeks prior to the opening of the PA Session. The Standing Committee decided to propose to the Assembly to grant Montenegro full membership in accordance with the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

In his last address to the Standing Committee as President of the OSCE PA, Congressman Hastings thanked his colleagues for their co-operation and the warm hospitality he had experienced during his numerous visits to participating States. President Hastings briefed the Heads of Delegations about his activities since the Winter Meeting in February and emphasized the important role that Parliamentarians play in adding visibility and political leadership to OSCE election observation missions. Hastings also highlighted the importance of parliamentary meetings and said: "Such dialogue and discussion is an exceptional learning experience and provides tremendous insight to the new prospects and challenges facing the region and the OSCE."



The Treasurer of the Assembly, Senator **Jerry Grafstein** from Canada, reported on the excellent financial state of the Assembly and informed the Standing Committee that the PA had received a favourable report from its external auditors for the 13<sup>th</sup> straight year. The Treasurer thanked the International Secretariat for its continued co-operation and the effective financial administration by the Secretary General and the Financial Assistant. Senator Grafstein highlighted his goal of obtaining a full year's budget in the reserve allocations and explained that great progress had been made towards this end. Subsequent to the Report of the Treasurer, the Standing Committee adopted the proposed budget for 2006-2007.

In his report, OSCE PA Secretary General **Spencer Oliver** summarized the activities of the Assembly's International Secretariat during the past six months. He highlighted the Assembly's bulletin, *News from Copenhagen*, which provides a good overall picture of the Assembly's activities, and of the efforts of the many Members of the Assembly who regularly contribute to the work of the Assembly. The Secretary General also welcomed the new Conference Co-ordinator, Ms. Odile Lelarge, to the staff.

The Heads of Delegations also heard a report by the Sub-Committee that has been working on proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure. The Sub-Committee put forward a Report at the Winter Meeting in February, and had decided that more consultations were needed before presenting its final report to the Standing Committee at the Autumn Meetings in November.

Members of the Standing Committee heard reports on the Assembly's recent election observation missions to Belarus, Ukraine, the partial rerun of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, and the referendum on independence in Montenegro. President Hastings, who served as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Special Co-



ordinator for the observation missions in Belarus and Ukraine, reported on these two missions. On the elections in Belarus, President Hastings concluded: “the Belarusian people deserve better”. Opposition candidates and parties were obstructed by the incumbent administration from giving voters a genuine choice in who should lead. In Ukraine, the observers concluded that the election was “free and fair,” and President Hastings congratulated colleagues from Ukraine on having made great progress in just a short period of time. **João Soares** (Portugal), who headed the OSCE PA visit in conjunction with the partial rerun of the elections in Azerbaijan, reported that progress was made with regard to the campaign leading up to the rerun, yet noted that the level of public trust in the election administration remains low. Senator **Jerry Grafstein**, who served as Deputy Head of the OSCE PA mission to the independence referendum in Montenegro informed the Standing Committee that the referendum was conducted overall in line with OSCE commitments. In the ensuing discussion Members agreed on the need to continue the current election observation programme and to strengthen the role of the Assembly in this regard. Members also discussed establishing a set of objective criteria of elections standards, and the need for all participating States to allow international observation of their elections.



The Standing Committee was also briefed on the work of the Assembly’s Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives. **Anne-Marie Lizin**, President of the Belgian Senate and OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantanamo, presented her report following her visit to the detention facilities in Guantanamo Bay. **Kimmo Kiljunen** (Finland) reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Moldova and expressed his concern over the lack of progress and the increasing tension in the region. Presenting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia (Georgia), Vice-President **Tone Tingsgård** from Sweden provided an overview of the situation on the ground in Abkhazia and expressed her regret that no progress has been made with regard to finding a solution. She also reported on the first visit of the Committee to the region of Abkhazia, in June 2006. **Uta Zapf** (Germany) reported on the Working Group on Belarus and regretted that in spite of the resolution adopted by the Assembly in Washington in 2005, no progress had been made. In the absence of Congressman **Christopher Smith** (USA), Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, Congressman **Joseph Pitts** delivered a report stressing the scope and tragic human consequences of trafficking. **Göran Lennmarker**, Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, regretted that no breakthrough had been obtained in the negotiation process and repeated his view that there is currently a golden opportunity to finding a solution to the conflict in the OSCE-led negotiations. **Roberto Battelli** (Slovenia), Special Representative on South East Europe, presented his first report on his activities and provided an overview of the activities and the situation in the OSCE Missions in the region.

Considering future work, the Standing Committee heard reports on preparations for upcoming events, including the Autumn Meetings in Malta in November 2006, the Winter Meeting in Vienna in February 2007, the Expanded Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen and the Economic Conference which will be hosted by Andorra in 2007.



## Opening Plenary Session



Prior to proceeding with the regular business of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, the Assembly officially welcomed the delegation from the Republic of Montenegro, which had recently joined the OSCE, to the Assembly. **Ranko Krivokapic**, Head of the new Delegation and President of the Montenegrin Parliament, addressed the Assembly, and stressed Montenegro's commitment to stability and democracy.

### Opening Remarks by Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

President Hastings opened the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, and, on behalf of the Assembly, warmly thanked the Federal Parliament of Belgium for the generous assistance and hospitality in hosting the meeting. He applauded the remarkable involvement of the Belgian Delegation in the work of the OSCE PA since its inception. The President reiterated the Assembly's willingness to co-operate closely with the OSCE Chairmanship, and

expressed his hope that the Ministerial Council would bring added impetus to the Organization's work.

President Hastings gave a brief overview of the main activities of the Assembly during the past year, in which the PA has continued to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue and provide a link between the OSCE governmental structures and elected representatives. He noted the progress the OSCE has made, growing from 35 States to 56, from a Conference to an Organization. Continuing, he urged critical thinking regarding how the Organization can work most effectively in the future, including through reforms to uphold efficiency and credibility.

Congressman Hastings reiterated the Assembly's strong support for the OSCE's field missions. He also noted the importance of making the public more aware of the OSCE and its activities, as well as his own efforts towards strengthening the transatlantic relationship. The Congressman urged Mediterranean States to apply the framework of the OSCE and its experience in overcoming divisions.





The President expressed his pride at the continuing development of the OSCE PA's election observation programme, noting that he had personally led several observation missions. Hastings underlined that the experience of parliamentarians in running their own elections gives them unique electoral expertise and unmatched credibility. He urged continued strengthening of this work by the Assembly.

Concluding, President Hastings thanked all parliamentarians for the time they have devoted to the work of the Assembly, and particularly expressed his gratitude for the support that Members had provided to him during his mandate as President.

### **Address by Herman De Croo, President of the Belgian House of Representatives**

On behalf of the Belgian House of Representatives, Herman De Croo welcomed the OSCE PA to Brussels.

Mr. De Croo stressed the importance of the OSCE, which he noted has become a pillar of the European security architecture. He underlined the Belgian commitment to the Organization and to OSCE values, clearly demonstrated by the country's Chairmanship work in 2006. The Speaker reminded Members of the Chairman-in-Office's invitation for parliamentarians to participate in discussions on reform of the Organization, and expressed his confidence that the OSCE PA could contribute to this important debate. He fully supported the recommendations of the Assembly's June 2005 Colloquium on *'The Future of the OSCE'*, and noted the need for a closer association of the Assembly in OSCE decision-making processes. In particular, he called for the Assembly to be given the power to approve the OSCE budget and Secretary General.



Mr. De Croo stressed the importance of PA work in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, and highlighted the appointment of Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committees as effective tools to this end. Also, he noted the important election observation work being done by the OSCE as one of the most politically relevant aspects of work being undertaken by the Organization. Mr. De Croo highlighted the contribution made by Belgian parliamentarians to OSCE PA election observation missions. President De Croo also called on Members to continue to support OSCE field missions as the OSCE's most valuable assets.

Concluding, Mr. De Croo expressed his confidence that the coming Session would be a success, and that it would raise the visibility of the Organization and its work.

### **Address by Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate**

Anne-Marie Lizin, who is also the Head of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE PA, welcomed all participants to Belgium, noting that it was appropriate for the Assembly to be meeting in Brussels, at the center of European democracy. In addition, it is appropriate to be in Belgium during the Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE, she noted.

President Lizin invited all Members to participate in a special side-event she was organizing in conjunction with the Annual Session, aimed at improving the protection of children from abuse.

Mrs. Lizin stressed that there was good reason to be proud of the successes of the Assembly, but urged continued and innovative work. In this regard, she noted that gaining oversight responsibilities over the budget of the executive side of an organization is

an important parliamentary role, as was done by the European Parliament.

Mrs. Lizin noted the importance of the relationships forged within the Assembly, and mentioned work that she and the Belgian Senate had undertaken together with parliamentarians from Kazakhstan as an example of the benefits of these relations. The Assembly has continued to be an important forum for the advancement of democracy, but she noted that not everything was perfect: more work remains to be done in the field of gender equality, she said. However, advances have been made, in this field and in others, and she noted work by the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives as an excellent tool for focused work.

The Assembly must be willing to engage with and discuss difficult and controversial issues such as territorial integrity and protection of minorities, she stressed. Also, it is important for the PA to examine and talk about human rights issues in all OSCE states, both East and West of Vienna. Mrs. Lizin noted that in her capacity as Special Representative on Guantanamo, she has recommended that American authorities lay out a calendar detailing steps for closing the detention center as soon as possible.

One of the most important topics to be addressed, Senator Lizin noted, has to do with election observation by the OSCE. A good equilibrium between the parliamentary and executive work must be achieved, she said, and stressed that Members can be proud of their work in this field.

Finally, Mrs. Lizin remarked on the active participation of the Belgian Delegation in the OSCE PA, underlining the importance of the body.



### **Address by H.E. Karel De Gucht, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE**

The Belgian Foreign Minister, who is also the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, welcomed the opportunity to address the PA. He noted the remarkable progress that has been made over 30 years, given that the countries of Europe, the former Soviet Union, and North America all gather for dialogue based upon the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. Similarly, dialogue between partner institutions is important, and he noted his appreciation for the Assembly's invitation to the Chairman-in-Office to address its meetings.

Minister De Gucht stressed the importance of the Session's theme, '*Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE Region*', noting that this has implications for all three OSCE dimensions. He noted the unique characteristics of the OSCE, which works to address the needs of States as well as citizens.

The Minister reminded participants of the priorities of the Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE, in particular with regards to improving the effectiveness of the Organization. He expressed his hope and confidence that real solutions would be achieved by the end of the year.

On the issue of electoral observation, the Minister underlined that this was a collective responsibility of the OSCE, and stressed that parliamentarians have a key role to play and offer an invaluable contribution based on their personal experience as elected officials. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights also has a critical role in evaluating electoral processes, he noted, underlining the relevance of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement between the OSCE PA and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.





Minister De Gucht reminded participants of his priority of rebalancing OSCE work in the three traditional OSCE dimensions. He remarked on work in the field of political-security relations, saying that the OSCE is theoretically well-placed to deal with issues such as military doctrine, but that more effort is needed to realise this. In the second dimension, the Chairmanship had been focusing on security in the area of transportation, as well as giving greater substance to work in the field of fighting organized crime. The Minister noted the need for work in solving so-called 'frozen conflicts', while stressing that greater willingness and leadership by those involved in these conflicts is need. He pointed to positive steps regarding the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and regarding Transdniestria.

The Chairman stressed the importance of dialogue and co-operation between institutions, but also with non-governmental organizations. He further remarked on OSCE efforts towards improving respect for individual and collective identities, underlining the Chairmanship's commitment to further work in promoting tolerance. Respect for the rule of law and human rights must be encouraged through dialogue, he noted, but this dialogue must go both ways. The Chairmanship will continue to fulfil its role of facilitating such dialogue within the OSCE, he said.

Following his address, the Chairman-in-Office answered Members' questions regarding the appointment of a Special Representative on Trafficking, improving dialogue between the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly, efforts to strengthen OSCE election observation, the need for independence of OSCE field missions, and the need for election observation both East and West of Vienna.



### **Address by René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

President van der Linden thanked Members for their invitation to address the OSCE PA, and remarked on the many aspects that the OSCE PA and the Council of Europe PA (PACE) have in common.

He noted that traditionally, the two Assemblies had worked in close conjunction, and said that he looked forward to continuing to work together. In particular, van der Linden mentioned the close co-operation of the Assemblies through the Parliamentary Troika on South East Europe, which PACE has been chairing most recently. He noted some of the recent results of this co-operation.

President van der Linden also highlighted co-operation in the field of election observation. He noted that the OSCE PA and PACE regularly consult each other on observation missions, and issue joint statements. He stressed the importance of continued parliamentary involvement in this field, which entails both political and technical aspects. "It goes without saying that parliamentarians are best-placed to take care of the political aspects of observations, thus complementing ODIHR's efforts that mostly focuses on more technical areas," he said. The PACE President also invited the OSCE PA to participate in a conference on election observation.

Mr. van der Linden wished Members a successful Session, and expressed his willingness to continue co-operation in the future. In particular, he noted the fields of trafficking, protecting rights of children, and finding solutions to frozen conflicts as important areas to engage with, and urged Members to make good use of their political influence to this end.







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

The OSCE Secretary General thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to speak, and for the active role it has undertaken during the past year. He noted the special role of the Assembly in ensuring a democratic footing for the OSCE, and in avoiding bureaucratic ensconcement. The Organization, he said, needs all manner of interest and engagement in order to fulfil its ambitious role, and he called upon parliamentarians to continue to propose recommendations, and to maintain a presence on the ground during elections.

Ambassador de Brichambaut commented on the work of field presences in South Eastern Europe, noting the importance of this area, which accounts for 48 percent of the entire OSCE budget. The OSCE is

actively participating in the work of the Steering Group on future institutional arrangements in Kosovo, as the OSCE's involvement will largely depend on the outcome of future status negotiations. He stated that the Organization is expected to maintain a strong presence in Kosovo in the future, within a broader mandate.

On the issue of OSCE reform, the Secretary General reminded Members of the decisions taken at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council in December 2005. He noted that as Secretary General, he had been given the responsibility for Working Groups on three central reform issues related to the Secretariat, and informed Members of progress being made on reform discussions. He expressed his confidence that the political will exists to surmount remaining difficulties and to reach solutions in time for the Brussels Ministerial Council in December 2006.

The OSCE Secretary General outlined suggestions on reform which fall under his responsibility. He discussed the move towards more performance-based programming and budgeting. He further outlined his proposals on improving human resources policies, based on a more selective use of the secondment system, and by permitting a further extension of the permissible period of service within the OSCE. In the field of extra-budgetary projects, the Secretary General has proposed maintaining decentralized decision-making, while encouraging greater involvement of participating States in oversight of these projects.

The Secretary General highlighted OSCE work on promoting tolerance, and particularly focused on the Organization's contribution to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative. He also stressed the







important role of parliamentarians in sensitizing governments to issues related to promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Ambassador de Brichambaut drew Members' attention to the situation of gender equality in the OSCE, noting that women remain under-represented at senior management levels. He noted progress in some areas, and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Parliamentary Assembly in bringing greater attention to this issue.

Following the Secretary General's presentation, he answered questions from the parliamentarians regarding increasing the analytical capability of the OSCE Secretariat on conflict-prevention, as well as on the visibility of the Parliamentary Assembly on the OSCE website. In addition, he addressed questions regarding how best to improve gender balance in the OSCE Secretariat and on improving feedback on OSCE PA suggestions on budget-spending in the OSCE.

### **Report by Tone Tingsgård, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues**

The Special Representative on Gender Issues reported on recent Assembly work aimed at improving gender equality. Vice-President Tingsgård remarked particularly on a panel discussion organized on the side-lines of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, in March.

Mrs. Tingsgård reminded Members of the resolution on gender issues passed by the Assembly in 2005, and noted that this year she had aimed at mainstreaming the issue throughout the Assembly's recommendations.

The Vice-President further highlighted the lack of



gender balance within the senior management levels of the OSCE. She also noted that, despite low overall participation by women in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, women are well-represented in the Assembly's leadership positions. Mrs. Tingsgård urged further efforts both in the OSCE and the PA to improve the situation.

### **Supplementary Items**

The Assembly considered, and subsequently adopted the Resolution on Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography, proposed by Congressman *Christopher Smith* (USA). The Resolution strongly condemns the exploitation of children, particularly through child pornography, and urges States to take legislative measures to ensure that these crimes are fully punishable. The resolution also proposes specific measures on reporting and collecting data on exploitation of children in order to enhance measures to combat these practices.



## Side Meetings

### Working Breakfast on Gender Issues

Again this year, the OSCE PA devoted particular attention to gender issues. On 3 July, during the first day of the Assembly's Session, a working breakfast on gender issues was hosted by the President of the Belgian Senate, **Anne-Marie Lizin**. In her welcoming remarks, Mrs. Lizin stressed the importance of promoting women's participation in politics and informed participants of a special side event on combating child pornography that she would be hosting during the Session. She also shared the Belgian experience, emphasizing legislative initiatives to ensure gender equality at all political levels. In addition, Mrs. Lizin urged work towards building an international network of NGOs which can combat 'honour crimes' in OSCE countries.

Vice-President **Tone Tingsgård**, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, chaired the meeting. Mrs. Tingsgaard expressed her regret that despite the high level of activity in the Assembly to promote gender equality, progress is very slow. She presented the conclusions of the OSCE PA Gender Report 2006: Although approximately half of the employed people in the OSCE are women, these women do not reach the top positions. Mrs. Tingsgaard also noted the relatively few number of women parliamentarians who participate in OSCE PA activities. However, in spite of this, she noted that the leadership of the Assembly has quite good gender balance. The Special Representative repeated her call on Governments to nominate more women to high-level positions in the OSCE and urged Members of the Assembly to help identify and support the candidature of qualified women for such positions. "The women are there – and they are qualified. But until the OSCE reaches a situation, or rather a culture, where women are regarded as equally qualified as men, they will need some extra help," she said.

Mrs. Tingsgård also reported on a project she had carried out with other women from the Assembly. In conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the OSCE PA women organized a side meeting entitled *Women in Security Politics – do women make a difference?* Mrs. Tingsgård concluded that the event was a success in bringing visibility to the Assembly within the UN and not least among NGOs, and it provided a good opportunity to discuss gender in the context of the issue of security politics, which has traditionally been run by men.





## Side Meetings

**Monica Gutierrez Arques**, Gender Officer at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna then summarized the Annual Report from the Secretary General, showing that women hold just 13% of senior level posts and that all Heads of Missions and Institutions are men.

In the ensuing debate, several Delegates addressed the meeting, urging further work within the Assembly, and in national parliaments, to continue to improve the gender imbalance in the OSCE PA.

### Mediterranean Side Meeting



The Mediterranean side meeting, which took place on 4 July, was chaired by **Bruce George**, President Emeritus and Special Representative of the OSCE PA on Mediterranean Affairs. Three of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Algeria, Israel and Tunisia, as well as parliamentarians from the Mediterranean and other OSCE regions participated in the meeting.

Mr. George welcomed the participants and stressed the need for the Assembly to continue addressing issues of importance to the Mediterranean region. Mr. George introduced **Arturo Pérez**, Deputy-Chairman of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, who gave an account of the activities carried out by the Contact Group in 2006, and analyzed the prospects for the Annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar to be held in Egypt in November 2006. Following his presentation, several parliamentarians took the floor to address issues such as extending the Mediterranean Dialogue in the OSCE to other countries and common security challenges of the Mediterranean countries.

Subsequently, **Jason Azzopardi**, Head of the Delegation of Malta, presented the prospects for the Fourth OSCE PA Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, which will be hosted by Malta in November 2006. Mr. Azzopardi's presentation was followed by an open debate on the issues to be discussed in Malta, focused on migration and integration of minorities in the Mediterranean. Educating young people on the sharing of civilizational values was also mentioned by the participants as an important aspect to be considered in the Mediterranean Forum. Mr. Azzopardi also announced that a delegation from Libya will be invited to attend the meetings in Malta.

Future activities were also discussed by participants. **Roberto Battelli**, Head of the Delegation of Slovenia, informed that the Parliament of Slovenia will host the Assembly's 2007 Autumn Meetings, including the Mediterranean Forum, next year. A Delegate from Israel, **Collette Avital**, issued an oral invitation to the Assembly to meet in Israel in the future. **Hans Raidel** (Germany) noted the need for co-ordination of the different Mediterranean activities carried out by the various inter-parliamentary assemblies.







# First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Under the chairmanship of **Göran Lennmarker** (Sweden), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security discussed a wide range of topics included in the Rapporteur's draft resolution, which mainly focused on the current situation in the Balkans, as well as the fight against corruption and organized crime. In addition, the First General Committee debated supplementary items on Enhancing the Role and Increasing Efficiency of the OSCE PA (Georgia), Moldova (Finland) and Afghanistan (Canada).

In its Edinburgh Declaration from 2004, the Assembly asked the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to prepare a report on national policies regarding minorities. In the first meeting of the Committee, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, **Rolf Ekeus**, presented his Report on '*Policy on Integration and Diversity in Some OSCE participating States*'. The report is a comparative study of policies in established democracies in relation to their integration of minorities. In his presentation, the High Commissioner highlighted that the issue of immigration is taken seriously by OSCE participating States, which are making efforts to implement immigration policies. The study focuses on how minorities should be integrated in society and how policies can help to manage the situation. Ambassador Ekeus stressed that immigration, globalization and the economy are factors that help increase diversity and that diverse societies as a rule are better developed. Because of this link between diversity and development, Mr. Ekeus highlighted the importance of establishing integrative policies in OSCE participating States. He stressed his recognition that integration processes are complex. He further highlighted the importance of education to promote inclusiveness and the necessity to adopt policy measures which sustain diversity and respect for religion and culture.

## Report and Resolution

Introducing his Report and Resolution, the Committee Rapporteur, **Wolfgang Grossruck** (Austria) highlighted the challenges facing the OSCE, particularly in the Balkans. He emphasized the importance of the OSCE field missions in this region, citing the efficient organization of the OSCE office in Albania and the professional referendum monitoring mission in Montenegro. Mr. Grossruck also emphasized the need for more co-ordination between the European Union and OSCE countries to constructively engage in the negotiations on the future status of Kosovo. He also highlighted the importance of the fight against corruption and organized crime. Finally, he stressed the key role parliamentarians can play in their respective national parliaments in encouraging their governments to support the initiatives currently taking place in the Balkans. After having debated and voted on the 36 amendments, the Committee unanimously adopted the resolution.

The resolution recommends that the OSCE offer itself to the participating States as a leading international actor in the co-operation and co-ordination of efforts in democratization, institution-building based on rule of law, combating discrimination against minorities, trafficking in human beings, and other threats to human security. In addition, it calls upon OSCE participating States to co-operate with the OSCE field missions and urges the field missions to increase their efforts in promoting regional co-operation with local authorities.





## Supplementary Items

Three supplementary items were debated and voted on in the First General Committee.

The supplementary item on Enhancing the Role and Increasing Efficiency of the OSCE PA, sponsored by **Nino Burjanadze** (Georgia), was adopted following debate on the proposed amendments. The resolution emphasizes the need to adapt the Organization to changing security challenges and to intensify the co-operation between OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE in order to implement more effectively OSCE objectives and consolidate democratic institutions in the OSCE participating States.

The supplementary item on Moldova was presented by **Kimmo Kiljunen** (Finland) and commented on by Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova, Ambassador **William Hill**. The resolution urges the Moldovan Government and the administration of the Transdniestrian region to actively seek in good faith for ways that can lead to a comprehensive and lasting political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

The supplementary item on Afghanistan was sponsored by **Consiglio Di Nino** (Canada) who called for the OSCE participating States to support the restoration of a stable economy in Afghanistan and emphasized the need for more regional co-operation between the OSCE Central Asian participating States. In addition, the resolution reaffirms the commitments made on Afghanistan by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and recognizes the progress made in maintaining political and military security, fostering economic development and promoting human rights in the region.

## Election of Officers

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

**Chair:** *Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)*  
**Vice-Chair:** *Hans Raidel (Germany)*  
**Rapporteur:** *Kristian Pihl Lorentzen (Denmark)*





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



The three sessions of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment (Second Committee) were chaired by Congressman **Benjamin Cardin** (USA). The Rapporteur, presented his report entitled '*Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE Region*', which was followed by a general debate and consideration of the draft resolution and its amendments. The Committee also debated six supplementary items.

### Report and Resolution

The Rapporteur of the Second Committee, **Roland Blum** (France) underlined that the objective of his report is to reaffirm the role of the economic dimension in a global approach to security. The signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, he said, were aware of the importance of economic factors in consolidating an area of peace in Europe. In his report Mr. Blum addresses the importance of economic integration in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Economic integration in this area is primarily based on the countries' diversity and trade in natural resources. Mr. Blum also addressed issues such as economic and environmental insecurity in the OSCE area.

The resolution proposed by Mr. Blum and adopted by the Committee puts forward specific proposals aimed at intensifying the role of the OSCE in economic and environmental issues. Mr. Blum stressed that democracy helps to foster economic prosperity and stability. Democracy is vital for achieving healthy economic development.



**Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, briefed the Committee on major developments of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, placing particular emphasis on the work of the OSCE since the Assembly last met in Vienna. Mr. Snoy also briefed Members on his office's efforts on combating corruption and promoting entrepreneurship among women-owned and minority-owned small businesses.

Mr. Snoy informed parliamentarians about the numerous activities of his office leading to the conclusion of the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum held in Prague in May. The Forum concluded discussions on secure transport networks in the OSCE region, and addressed the issue of secure transportation networks and the development of transport links as a way to enhance economic co-operation and stability.







### Supplementary Items

The Second Committee dealt with six supplementary items in the form of draft resolutions.

The Resolution on Risk Management, presented by **Anne-Marie Lizin** (Belgium) and adopted by the Committee, addresses the multiple aspects of systemic risk governance and of its growing importance to international and global security. It stresses the need to

promote concrete actions related to systemic risk governance and effective management of systemic risks.

The Second Committee adopted the Resolution on Illicit Air Transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition, presented by **Francois-Xavier De Donnea** (Belgium). It calls upon OSCE participating States to implement their undertakings in the OSCE Document on SALW.

The Resolution on Forming a Global System of Warning and Eliminating Consequences of Natural Disasters, presented by **Serguey Glaziev** (Russian Federation) addresses the need to reduce the negative consequences of natural disasters. The resolution recommends that the governments of OSCE participating States begin elaborating a global system for warning and eliminating consequences of natural disasters.

The Resolution on Monitoring Social Development in the OSCE Region, presented by **Doris Barnett** of Germany indicates that differences exist between the countries and regions of the OSCE as regards the implementation of the human dimension commitments. It urges the OSCE participating States to ensure that a social progress report is presented to the national parliaments regularly.

The Resolution on the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, presented by **Consiglio Di Nino** (Canada) reiterates that corruption represents one of the major impediments to prosperity and sustainable development of OSCE participating States. In adopting this resolution, the Committee urges parliamentarians in the OSCE to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it.

The Resolution on Limiting Immunity for Parliamentarians in order to Strengthen Good Governance, Public Integrity and the Rule of Law in the OSCE Region, presented by Congressman **Benjamin Cardin** and adopted by the Committee, urges the parliaments in the OSCE region to legislate to provide clear, balanced, transparent and enforceable procedures for waiving parliamentary immunities in cases of criminal acts or ethical violations.

### Election of Officers

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

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







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



The Acting Chair of the Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, **Cecilia Wigström** (Sweden), presided over all of the meetings of the Third Committee. During the four meetings of the Committee, Members considered a wide range of issues within these fields. In particular, there was discussion on OSCE election observation activities, gender issues, crimes of honour, anti-Semitism, conduct by international OSCE staff, and combating violence against children.

### Report and Resolution

The Rapporteur of the Third Committee, **Anne-Marie Lizin** (Belgium), gave Members of the Committee a brief overview of her Report and draft Resolution,



highlighting a number of issues of particular importance. In the field of election observation, Mrs. Lizin stressed that it was particularly important that the OSCE PA and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) co-operate effectively in this common undertaking. The Rapporteur continued by addressing the issue of so-called 'honour crimes' or 'vendetta'. Such practices exist throughout the OSCE region, she noted, and must be fully addressed in national legislation. In the field of security services, Mrs. Lizin underlined that her intention was to encourage adequate parliamentary oversight of these bodies in order to avoid potential problems. Senator Lizin also addressed the issue of protection of national minorities in her draft Resolution, in order to continue focus on this key issue within the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly. In the field of freedom of religion, the Rapporteur stressed that it is important that the PA continue to speak out in favour of this right, as certain restrictions remain in some areas of the OSCE. Finally, addressing the last chapter of her Report, Mrs. Lizin discussed the conduct of OSCE staff in the field, stressing that it was vital that these staff be held to high moral standards and that they not contribute in any way to practices such as trafficking.

Following a general debate on the issues addressed in Mrs. Lizin's Report, as well as on issues such as the American detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, potential problems surrounding electronic voting practices and OSCE PA-ODIHR co-operation, the Committee amended and approved the Third Committee Resolution. In addition to the issues addressed by the Rapporteur, the Resolution reiterates OSCE commitments on gender and election standards. Also, the Resolution urges action by all States to ensure adequate protection of children from exploitation and abuse, including through education and appropriate authorities at the national and international levels.

### Supplementary Items

The Third General Committee considered, and approved, four supplementary items.

The supplementary item on Improving the Implementation of OSCE Electoral Standards and Com-





mitments and the Effectiveness of OSCE Election Observation Activities was presented by **Marieluise Beck** (Germany). The resolution calls upon OSCE States to place particular emphasis on implementing OSCE election commitments, and to adopt additional commitments to increase transparency of election procedures.

The supplementary item on Co-operation with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations, also proposed by Mrs. Beck, emphasizes the important role played by civil society in the Helsinki process. The resolution calls for open exchanges of views with non-governmental representatives by both participating States and by OSCE parliamentarians.

The Committee adopted the resolution on Combating anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Discrimination, presented by **Gert Weisskirchen** (Germany). The resolution builds upon previous resolutions adopted by the Assembly, recognizes the work being done by the OSCE/ODIHR in this field, calls for national plans

to combat discrimination, and urges increased educational and awareness-raising efforts on the problems of discrimination.

The supplementary item on Funding for Positions of Advisors in the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, proposed by **George Voinovich** (USA) and adopted by the Committee, urges that the OSCE provide the necessary funding to support ODIHR work in the field of non-discrimination.

### Election of Officers

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

**Chair:** *Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)*  
**Vice-Chair:** *Cecilia Wigström (Sweden)*  
**Rapporteur:** *Jesús López-Medel (Spain)*









## Closing Plenary Session



The Second Plenary Session was opened by President **Alcee Hastings**, who informed the Assembly about the results of the elections in the three General Committees. Members then undertook a general debate on current issues, in which over 30 Members took the floor to express their opinions on issues of concern.

Members noted the importance of the OSCE in reinforcing multilateral dialogue in Europe, and including North America in this dialogue. The OSCE PA, it was stated, is vital to promoting dialogue within this context, and President Hastings was commended for his role as President of the Assembly. Some delegates expressed their deep concern over environmental issues, particularly focused on climate change and ecological catastrophes. Energy security was also noted as an area in which closer co-operation was important. The importance of continued concentration on fighting corruption was also stressed by Members.

Members addressed the issue of trafficking in human beings. Several Members expressed their deep concern over this crime, and reiterated the need for implementation of specific policies in both sending and receiving countries. Minorities' rights were raised by several parliamentarians, and the need for uniform respect of rights throughout the OSCE was stressed. More co-operative work on immigration and integration policies is needed, stressed one Member. A number of parliamentarians noted that the OSCE PA can assist in raising awareness of related problems, including xenophobia.

Several Members voiced their ongoing concern over the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and considered the OSCE role in this context. One Member underlined the importance of applying the Geneva Conventions to detainees at the United States facility in Guantanamo Bay, and noted recent legal decisions in the United States.



In the field of elections, several Members stressed the importance of co-ordinated observation work within the OSCE. Such work is of vital importance in promoting free and fair elections in the OSCE area, it was noted.

The candidates running for President of the Assembly were each given the opportunity to share their opinions, and all put forward their views on Assembly work in the future.

The Assembly Treasurer, Senator **Jerry Grafstein** presented his report to the PA, noting that the Assembly's finances were in excellent shape and that almost all contributions had been received. He commended the work of the International Secretariat's managing of Assembly work, and thanked President Hastings for his hard work on behalf of the OSCE PA. Secretary General **Spencer Oliver** delivered his report, noting that the International Secretariat had supported a busy year for the Assembly, but that it continued to function well within budget. He thanked the President for his active work at all levels, stressing that President Hastings had represented the OSCE PA at all levels, from the Ministerial conference to on-the-ground election observation missions.





The Assembly considered, and then adopted, the Resolution on Strengthening Effective Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Intelligence Agencies, presented by **Roberto Battelli** (Slovenia), which outlines a general framework for parliamentary oversight of security services. It recommends establishing specialised parliamentary bodies for scrutiny of intelligence services, increased exchanges of best-practices in the field, and calls for States to ensure that their territories are not used to assist rendition flights.

The work of each of the three General Committees was presented to the Plenary by **Göran Lennmarker**, **Benjamin Cardin**, and **Cecilia Wigström** respectively. Following their presentations, the Brussels Declaration, made up of the Committee Resolutions, was adopted by the entire Assembly, as were each of the supplementary items that had been considered in the three Committees.

OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings was presented with a commemorative plaque as thanks for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Assembly. Congressman Hastings thanked all Members, as well as the staff of the Delegations, for their work.

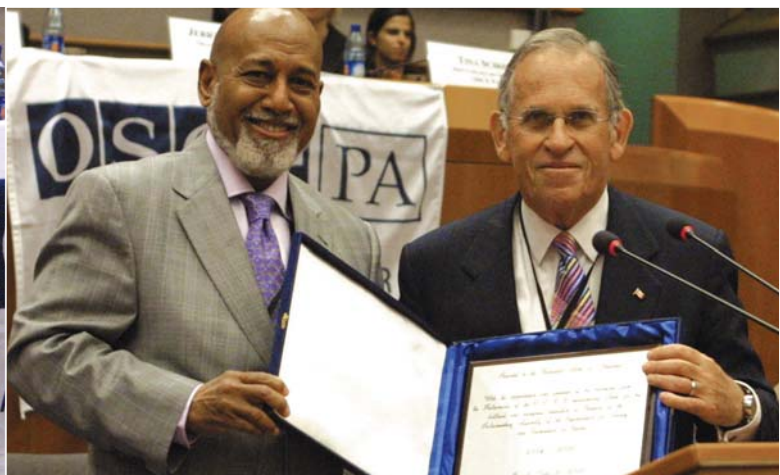
Prior to the closing of the Session, Treasurer Jerry Grafstein announced the results of the elections of Assembly Officers.

Newly elected **President Göran Lennmarker** briefly addressed the Assembly, and paid tribute to the other candidates in the Presidential election, and stressed that he looked forward to working with all Members. He thanked President Emeritus Hastings for his efforts, and the Belgian parliament for their hospitality in hosting the Session.

### Election of Assembly Officers

Prior to closing the 15th Annual Session, the Assembly elected the following parliamentarians as officers:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Göran Lennmarker</b> (Sweden)
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Benjamin Cardin (USA)</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>João Soares (Portugal)</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Tone Tingsgård (Sweden)</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Wolfgang Grossruck</b> (Austria)













# The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE PA is the parliamentary dimension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, whose 55 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The primary task of the 317 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.

## The International Secretariat

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 14.



*Secretary General  
Spencer Oliver*



*Deputy Secretary  
General  
Vitaly Evseyev*



*Deputy Secretary  
General  
Tina Schön*



*Special Repre-  
sentative  
Andreas Nothelle*



*Presidential Advisor  
Gustavo Pallares*



*Programme  
Officer  
Anna Chernova*



*Press Officer  
Andreas Baker*



*Liaison Officer  
Andrés Blasco  
Cortés*



*Assistant to the  
Secretary General  
Dana Bjerregaard*



*Conference Co-  
ordinator  
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