

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S 23RD ANNUAL SESSION BAKU



*Helsinki +40: Towards
Human Security for All*



REPORT ON THE 23RD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMETARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary



Hosted by the *Milli Mejlis*, the 23rd Annual Session took place in Baku from 28 June to 2 July 2014.

The 23rd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held at the Fairmont Hotel Congress Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan from 28 June to 2 July 2014 under the theme “Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All.”

Hosted by the *Milli Mejlis* (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan, the Session was attended by nearly 300 parliamentarians from more than 50 OSCE participating States.

Assembly President Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro), Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Swiss Federation President and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter, Russian State Duma Chair Sergey Naryshkin and Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Deputy Chair Ruslan Koshulynskyi all spoke at opening-day plenaries on Saturday, 28 June.

Ilkka Kanerva, former Foreign Minister of Finland and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, was elected Assembly President at the close of the Session on 2 July, with Christine Muttonen (Austria) and Kent Harstedt (Sweden) elected to vacant Vice-President posts, and Emin Onen (Turkey) re-elected Vice-President after having served one year in the post.

Officers were also elected to the three General Committees.

Asa Lindestam (Sweden) was elected Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, while Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) and Pia Kauma (Finland) were re-elected Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, respectively.

Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) and Nilza Sena (Portugal) retained their respective posts as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, while Marietta Tidei (Italy) was elected Rapporteur.

There were no changes in the bureau of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, as Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal), Vice-Chair Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey) and Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia) all retained their posts.

Following the adoption of a proposal to establish an interparliamentary liaison group on Ukraine in order to de-escalate the situation on the ground and support the country out of the crisis, members of the Russian and Ukrainian OSCE PA Delegations met on the sidelines.

In addition to the meetings of the three general committees, the Standing Committee and the plenary sessions, a number of side events were held, including a working lunch on gender issues and an event featuring several Azerbaijani civil society groups.

“It is my wish and personal ambition to recall the spirit of Helsinki. And above all, it is our responsibility to turn words into concrete action.”

PA President Ilkka Kanerva

Baku Declaration



At the close of each Annual Session, the Assembly adopts a Declaration with recommendations in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment and human rights. Representing the collective voice of the OSCE parliamentarians, the Declaration helps shape OSCE and national policy. It is complemented by a number of supplementary items relating to OSCE commitments and values.

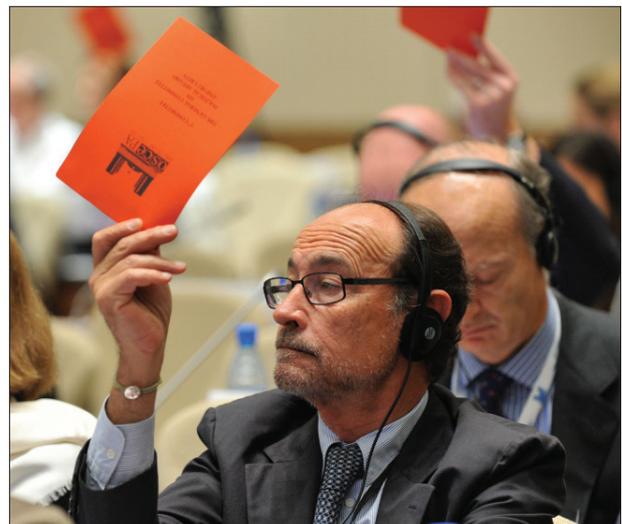
The crisis in Ukraine was among the Baku Declaration's central themes, with other issues including enhanced confidence-building measures in the military sphere, democratic control of countries' armed forces and recommendations on cyber threats. The Declaration expressed grave concern about the situation in Ukraine and emphasized the role of the OSCE in engaging all parties in a constructive dialogue.

A supplementary resolution, proposed by U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, was adopted condemning Russia's violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the sphere of environmental issues and economics, the Baku Declaration called for sustained work towards a new universal climate agreement, regulations to limit the risk of financial crashes, and steps to ensure the economic empowerment and property rights of women.

The Declaration also offered a diverse set of recommendations and pronouncements in the human dimension – from condemning hate crimes against migrant workers to calling for a redoubled fight against anti-Semitism and raising the cases of specific individuals in the OSCE region.

Fourteen supplementary items were adopted by the PA in addition to the Baku Declaration, including resolutions on the prevention and prosecution of child sex-trafficking, refugees and migration, food security, and water resources. A resolution on the upcoming 40th anniversary of the OSCE emphasized the need for the Helsinki +40 process to reflect a strong parliamentary dimension that will add to the relevance, democratic legitimacy and outreach of the process.





Inaugural Plenary Session



Opening the 23rd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 28 June 2014, President Ranko Krivokapic extended his gratitude to the Azerbaijani hosts and stated that the basis for the success of the Assembly's work is its willingness to confront the world's most demanding issues. In this respect, he commended the role the



OSCE Chairman-in-Office has played in responding to the situation in Ukraine as well as the role in the country of the Organization as a whole. He stressed that there is no bigger priority for the OSCE than restoring peace and stability in Ukraine, and emphasized how crucial parliamentary diplomacy is in this regard. Krivokapic expressed hope for continuing the PA's constructive work in Baku, emphasizing the importance of bridging differences and reaching mutual understanding among all OSCE participating States.

Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan

President Aliyev began by discussing Azerbaijan's challenges and successes in all three security dimensions of the OSCE, stressing in particular the efforts to develop democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Azerbaijan's implementation of political and economic reforms has paid off with successful development and modernization, Aliyev said. He stressed the importance of co-operation

with international organizations including the OSCE as a vital avenue for pursuing modernization. President Aliyev noted that only in a stable and predictable political situation is it possible to plan for the future.

Aliyev further argued that national security cannot be separated from energy security and that energy diplomacy is crucial to establishing and sustaining regional co-operation.

Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan

Ogtay Asadov said that hosting the Annual Session is symbolic of Azerbaijan's history as a nation at the crossroads of different cultures and religions. Noting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, he recalled that the *Milli Mejlis* was the first secular parliament established in the Muslim world. He also briefed delegates about developments in the country, particularly focusing on its socio-economic policies.

Asadov reflected on the theme of the Session, stating that human security is at the core of all other dimensions of security and is handled best by harmonizing efforts on the national and international levels.



Inaugural Plenary Session

Didier Burkhalter, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE



Didier Burkhalter

Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation and Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, provided an overview of the initiatives that the Swiss Chairmanship had undertaken during 2014 and reminded

participants of Switzerland's general priorities for the OSCE: to promote security and stability, to improve people's living conditions and to strengthen the OSCE's capacities. The CiO stated that the Ukraine crisis had topped the agenda of the Chairmanship since day one, not only because core principles of the Helsinki Final Act had been challenged, but also because the OSCE was in a unique position to assist Ukraine in overcoming the crisis by providing a platform for inclusive dialogue.

Burkhalter also commended the PA's Helsinki +40 Project as complementary to the Chairmanship's initiatives.

Sergey Naryshkin, Speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Russian State Duma Chairman Sergey Naryshkin expressed his hope that the OSCE will reaffirm its overarching mission, underlining the necessity of open and honest dialogue to promote OSCE ideals enshrined in the Helsinki Accords 40 years ago. In this regard, he urged the establishment of an International Contact Group on the situation in Ukraine within the Parliamentary Assembly and called on parliamentarians to continue to discuss ways and means to resolve the crisis within the framework of a broad-based international forum. He underlined that the Contact Group would strengthen the role of the OSCE PA in the global political architecture of the 21st



Sergey Naryshkin

century. Naryshkin also praised the diverse agenda of the Annual Session, stressing the urgency of issues such as fighting terrorism, human trafficking, food security and development of cultural space.

Ruslan Koshulynskyi, Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine



Ruslan Koshulynskyi

Ruslan Koshulynskyi noted the high value that Ukraine places on its co-operation with the OSCE particularly in establishing international standards of democracy and respect for human rights.

While regretting that the situation had worsened dramatically in his country, he also underlined that Ukraine was taking steps to de-escalate the situation. He cited the peace plan presented by President Petro Poroshenko as an example of Ukraine's commitment to restore peace, security and stability.

Antonius Broek, United Nations Resident Co-ordinator



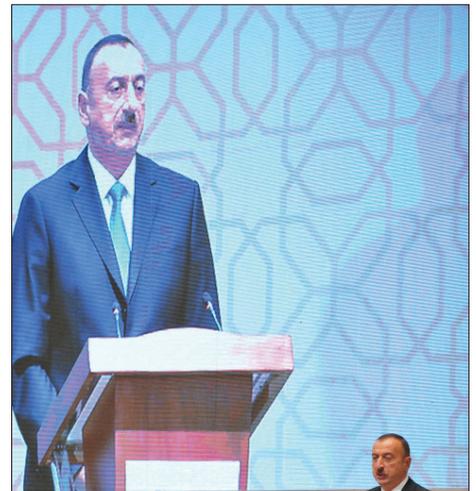
Antonius Broek

Antonius Broek commended the Parliamentary Assembly's focus on Ukraine, as well as on the rise of extremism, radicalism and xenophobia, emphasizing that the protection of human rights is paramount. He welcomed the PA's

decision to hold a special debate on Ukraine, saying the situation there had given rise to serious concern about continuing violence, polarizing rhetoric and clear violations of common principles.

"The bloodshed in Ukraine has to stop and we cannot allow tensions over the situation there to continue to paralyze international action on deadly conflicts in other areas," he said.





Standing Committee



The Standing Committee consists of the 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, the Fall Meetings and the Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

President Ranko Krivokapic opened the Standing Committee meeting with a report on his activities of the previous year, discussing in particular improved institutional co-operation in election observation, as well as between the PA's general committees and their counterparts on the OSCE's governmental side. He also underscored the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine.

The President discussed the preparations for the Helsinki +40 Project seminars, noting the involvement of several prominent think tanks in the Russian Federation, the United States, Sweden and Finland.

Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported on the Assembly's financial health, noting that the PA had received a positive audit from outside, independent, professional auditors. Battelli offered thanks to Bahar Muradova, Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation, for her work in organizing the Annual Session, as well as to other delegations for hosting meetings. He also thanked the German Head of Delegation, Vice-President Doris Barnett, for Germany's extra-budgetary contribution for the early deployment of the election observation mission to Ukraine.

After proposing that the budget be increased by 1.1 per cent in order to maintain the PA's activities, the budget was unanimously adopted by the committee.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver reiterated Battelli's thanks to the Azerbaijani Delegation for its preparation of the Session and urged other delegations to step forward in offering to host future meetings of the Assembly.

Oliver reported on the Assembly's activities for the previous year, noting in particular the success of the PA's observation mission to Ukraine despite difficulties with the OSCE/

ODIHR during the mission. He also mentioned the increased co-operation he has initiated with his counterparts at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and NATO.

Finally, the Secretary General presented the Helsinki +40 Project as an opportunity to take stock of the OSCE's past and look towards the future. Following a series of seminars in Moscow, Washington and Stockholm, the Project will culminate in the Helsinki +40 Colloquium in Helsinki in July 2015, corresponding with the 24th Annual Session and just before the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Delegates raised several important issues during the course of the meeting, including the necessity of resolving protracted conflicts and the possibility of expanding the capacity of the Special Representative on the South Caucasus in that regard. Parliamentarians emphasized the importance of applying standards equally within the OSCE, noting that in addition to Ukraine, there are other conflicts in which violations of Helsinki principles are taking place.

The Standing Committee approved 14 supplementary items for debate during the Annual Session, with four allocated to the First Committee, three to the Second Committee, and six to the Third Committee. One supplementary item, dealing with Russia's violations of the Helsinki Final Act, was allocated to the plenary.

A total of 181 amendments were tabled on all draft resolutions.

It was also announced that Switzerland would host the 2014 Autumn Meeting, to be held 3-5 October in Geneva, with President Krivokapic noting that the city would serve as an ideal venue for the meeting. With the Winter Meeting being held in the usual venue in Vienna, it was also announced that the 2015 Annual Session would be held in Helsinki, where the OSCE was launched in 1975.







General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Azay Guliyev and Gustavo Pallares



Pia Kauma presents the First Committee report and draft resolution.

Under the chairmanship of Vice-Chair Azay Guliev (Azerbaijan), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security debated a wide range of issues included in the report and resolution of Rapporteur Pia Kauma (Finland) and four supplementary items. In four sessions, parliamentarians discussed the situation in Ukraine, protracted conflicts in the OSCE region and democratic control of armed forces, with delegates calling on all countries to strictly adhere to international law and avoid double standards.

Report and Resolution

In her speech, Kauma underlined the impor-

tance of updating the Vienna Document, including adapting arrangements for conventional arms control to today's changing politico-military reality. She stated that strong parliamentary oversight is crucial for democratic control of countries' armed forces. One of her key recommendations was to promote transparency by building on existing documents such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty, the Vienna Document, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The delegates thanked Kauma for her report and resolution while noting that the current situation in Ukraine has damaged trust in the OSCE region. Parliamentarians urged the

MPs consider gender issues at working lunch



The Gender Lunch was chaired by Bahar Muradova (centre), Roza Aknazarova (left) and Walburga Habsburg Douglas (second from right)

A Working Lunch on Gender Issues was held in the *Milli Mejlis* on 30 June, with a discussion focused on the tenth anniversary of the OSCE's Gender Action Plan. Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation and Deputy Speaker of the

Milli Mejlis Bahar Muradova chaired the lunch, together with Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) and Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden). Participants were invited to discuss barriers to women's participation in politics and how to overcome these and other ongoing challenges to gender equality.

In the discussion, parliamentarians acknowledged the importance of gender equality in society, and shared best practices in their countries. Support was also expressed for initiatives promoting gender equality in every field.

The event was supported by OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Research Assistant Astrid Loury from the International Secretariat.

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



OSCE to to adjust to new realities and reclaim its role in promoting peace and security.

The debate also touched on arms control, protracted conflicts, improving confidence- and security-building measures and Arctic security. Delegates raised additional concerns of the dangers of cyber warfare, cyber terrorism and cyber crime, urging an effective common multi-dimensional cyber security strategy that respects fundamental freedoms. The delegates emphasized the task of devising control mechanisms to prevent the intelligence services becoming “a state within a state.”

Of 49 proposed amendments, 35 were adopted.

Supplementary Items

The First Committee debated and adopted four supplementary items related to mediation capacity in the OSCE area, terrorism, regional co-operation in South East Europe and engagement with Afghanistan.

“The Development of Mediation Capacity in the OSCE Area” authored by Johannes Koskinen (Finland) encouraged enhancement of mediation capabilities, specifying the role played by the OSCE in general and its Parliamentary Assembly in particular. The resolution identifies the activities that could be enhanced with the help of parliamentarians in order to avoid new crises and solve old ones. Stressing the importance of mediation activities in peace-building and recovery processes, in particular in preventing post-conflict countries from relapsing into conflict, the resolution was adopted with one amendment.

The resolution introduced by Roberto Bat-

telli (Slovenia) on regional co-operation in South East Europe praised the positive developments in the region over the past year while calling on the countries to continue engaging in co-operation processes and fostering good neighbourly relations. It included an appeal to EU Members to ensure that their governments keep the question of future membership for South East European countries high on the agenda. The committee adopted seven amendments to the supplementary item.

The draft resolution on the fight against terrorism sponsored by Nikolay Kovalev calls on various stakeholders to intensify their collective efforts in the fight against terrorism, to co-ordinate national legislation with the international obligations and to promote co-operation in the field.

The draft resolution on the OSCE’s engagement with Afghanistan introduced by Emin Onen (Turkey) was adopted unanimously.

The resolution calls on the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to increase their contributions in all three dimensions of security as well as improve the level of regional co-operation in the field. It recommends adopting all necessary measures to effectively control participating States’ borders with Afghanistan. The resolution passed with four amendments.

The First Committee completed its business by electing its leadership.



Election of Officers

Chair: Asa Lindestam (Sweden)

Vice-Chair: Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)

Rapporteur: Pia Kauma (Finland)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Chair Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) opened the first session of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment on 29 June by outlining the agenda for the coming days. She mentioned that the report and draft resolution prepared by Rapporteur Roger Williams (United Kingdom) on the theme of “Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All” had received 30 proposed amendments.

Also on the agenda of the Second Committee were three supplementary items.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Roger Williams called upon OSCE participating States to ensure that investment takes place in scientific and technological projects, which in turn will generate employment and also create vital infrastructure for the future. His report also called upon countries to identify and deal with any environmental emergencies that might occur, as well as the importance of having secure borders. It further stressed the importance of science and technology in dealing with challenges including both economic and environmental crises.

Williams described his draft resolution as a document “that comprehensively addresses a wide range of issues across the OSCE area,” referencing issues such as water security, climate change and fracking. The Rapporteur also emphasized the document’s

underlying theme of international co-operation and the importance of innovation in scientific and technological endeavours. “The stability and security of countries can be badly affected by economic difficulties,” Williams pointed out, noting however that “the global recession is gradually being addressed.”

During the debate, delegates raised a number of additional issues related to the economic and environmental dimension, including energy security, gender equality, and migration. The importance of continuing investments in science and technology in the context of the economic crisis was emphasized, as was the urgency of combating climate change.

Over two days of debate, the committee adopted 27 amendments to the draft resolution, adding language, *inter alia*, about protecting mountainous regions and the importance of participating States ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Valentina Leonenko (Belarus) speaks during the Second Committee debate.

The resolution was unanimously approved as amended.

Supplementary Items

The committee also amended and adopted three supplementary items dealing with protection and promotion of socio-economic rights, enhancing trust in the OSCE area, and food and water security.

Viktor Guminsky (Belarus) introduced the supplementary item “Protection and Promotion of Socio-Economic Rights in the OSCE Area,” which underscored the fundamental significance of economic and social rights as integral elements of the concept of human rights, as well as the importance of their full realization by all appropriate means. It also welcomed, within the framework of an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly initiative, further consideration of questions relating to the realization and promotion of socio-economic rights in the OSCE region.

The committee unanimously adopted the resolution “The OSCE at 40 Years - A Region of Trust and Mutually Beneficial Co-existence,” proposed by Doris Barnett (Germany), which commended the launch by the OSCE PA of the Helsinki +40 Project. It further stressed the need for the OSCE’s Helsinki +40 process to reflect a strong parliamentary dimension in order to increase the relevance, democratic legitimacy and outreach of the process. It urges the OSCE to make use of the Parliamentary Assembly’s field experience and substantial role in parliamentary diplomacy in efforts to bridge divergent security perceptions and develop a security community.

The committee also adopted the supplementary item “Food Security, Limited Water Resources and Stability in the OSCE Area,” introduced by Andreas Aebi (Switzerland). The resolution underlined that security is indivisible and that in the context of food security the interests of no State may be defended to the detriment of another. It identified local, regional and international food security as a significant challenge that will only be growing in urgency, increasingly affecting security both inside and outside the OSCE area.

The committee concluded its business by electing its bureau by acclamation. Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) and Nilza Sena (Portugal) were re-elected to the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The new Rapporteur for the committee is Marietta Tidei (Italy).



Nilza Sena, Roza Aknazarova and Marietta Tidei

Election of Officers

Chair: *Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)*

Vice-Chair: *Nilza Sena (Portugal)*

Rapporteur: *Marietta Tidei (Italy)*

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Isabel Santos, Andreas Baker and Seyki Kulkuloglu on the Third Committee panel.

Isabel Santos (Portugal) chaired the four sessions of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Opening the first meeting on 29 June, Santos reported on her work during the past year and gave the floor to Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia), who provided an overview of her report and draft resolution.

In addition to the main resolution, six supplementary items were debated and adopted by the committee, dealing with topics such as protection of cultural property in the OSCE area, immigration reform, the status of refugees, combating torture, prevention and prosecution of child sex trafficking, and democratic control of the security sector.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Gordana Comic presented her

report, focusing on migration management and human rights protection for migrants, regardless of their status – whether labour migrants or refugees. Stressing the universal nature of human rights, Comic described the socio-economic impact of migration flows on countries of origin, as well as the impacts on host countries, arguing that the practice of treating migrants as a threat is unacceptable.

In particular, the report addressed a number of issues such as rule of law, access to justice, political prisoners, civil society engagement and OSCE human dimension reform. Regarding the latter, Comic's proposed reforms included reinforcing field presences, strengthening their mandates and intensifying operational responses. The Rapporteur concluded by saying that the central importance of human security is growing and the failure to meet OSCE human dimension commitments under-

Special debate on extremism, radicalism and xenophobia



Ranko Krivokapic opens the the Special Debate on "The Rise of Extremism, Radicalism and Xenophobia: Challenges for the OSCE Region," 29 June.

On 29 June, President Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro) delivered introductory remarks to the Special Debate, "The Rise of Extremism, Radicalism and Xenophobia: Challenges for the OSCE Region," which featured the participation of 27 members of parliament.

"Xenophobia and extremism are social diseases, for which it is not enough to focus on removal of symptoms, but to work on the causes," Krivokapic said, pointing to his own region's experience with ethnic violence during the break-up of Yugoslavia.

In the debate, the value of the OSCE in bringing together historically divided peoples was touched upon. Others noted the importance of education and dialogue, and that limited capacity to take on board all undocumented migrants should not be confused with xenophobia.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Voting in the Third Committee

mines the credibility of the Organization.

Sixteen parliamentarians from 14 countries took the floor to raise a broad range of issues, including the challenges of agreeing on a definition of what constitutes a political prisoner, the situation of refugees fleeing from conflict areas, the necessity of burden-sharing in managing migration flows, the fight against discrimination, as well as situations in specific countries of the OSCE area.

Following the discussion, the committee debated 45 amendments that had been tabled. Of these, 30 were adopted, 14 were rejected and one withdrawn. The resolution was adopted as amended with overwhelming support.

Supplementary Items

Six supplementary items were debated and adopted by the Third Committee.

Calling for participating States to reinforce dialogue with countries of origin and transit countries as part of broader OSCE actions on migration, the resolution “Comprehensive Immigration Reform,” authored by Cristina De Pietro, (Italy) passed with one amendment.

“Protection of Cultural Property in the OSCE Area,” introduced by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), passed with six amendments. The resolution called, *inter alia*, for countries to adopt legislation and agree on common standards that will encourage and facilitate the prompt return of cultural property to its owners.

“Prevention and Prosecution of Child Sex Trafficking,” authored by Christopher Smith (United States), called on participating States “to step up efforts to achieve the universal recognition and consolidation of the civil, economic, social and cultural rights and individual

freedoms of children of any status and of their right to effective protection against all forms of violence and exploitation.” It passed unanimously with four amendments.

An item on the situation of refugees was introduced by Isabel Santos (Portugal). Calling on OSCE participating States to develop a common policy on receiving refugees, particularly with regard to admission, reception conditions, procedures and funding, the resolution passed with

three amendments.

A resolution on combating torture sponsored by Christine Egerszegi (Switzerland) called on participating States to respect the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and was adopted with no amendments.

Finally, Roberto Batelli’s supplementary item dealing with “Democratic Control of the Public and Private Security Sectors” was considered. Reminding participating States and their parliaments of their obligation to reinforce existing mechanisms of democratic oversight of security sectors and to adapt them to new challenges, the resolution passed unamended.

The committee chose its bureau at the close of the meeting, with its previous leadership re-elected by acclamation.



Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu, Isabel Santos and Gordana Comic

Election of Officers

Chair: Isabel Santos (Portugal)

Vice-Chair: Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey)

Rapporteur: Gordana Comic (Serbia)

Closing Plenary Sessions



The Assembly meeting in plenary session on 2 July.

President Ranko Krivokapic chaired two plenary sessions on 1-2 July, in which parliamentarians participated in the Special Debate on Ukraine and considered a supplementary item on the violation of Helsinki principles by the Russian Federation, as well as the Baku Declaration.

Special Debate on the Situation in Ukraine and Consideration of the Supplementary Item on Violations of Helsinki Final Act

In the Special Debate on Ukraine, participants welcomed new initiatives being introduced in the Parliamentary Assembly promoting Russian-Ukrainian dialogue with a view towards de-escalating the crisis as important steps in parliamentary diplomacy.

Vice-President Doris Barnett (Germany), whose initiative brought the Russian and Ukrainian Delegations together for the first time in April, suggested that the two-track dialogue set a primary goal of encouraging a genuine truce in Ukraine. Mykola Katerynychuk, Deputy Head of Ukraine's Delegation to the OSCE PA, said Kyiv is "ready at any moment to go back to a unilateral ceasefire," but that Russia must first stop its alleged funnelling of weapons to separatists.

Alexey Pushkov, Deputy Head of Russia's Delegation, praised the contact he had with Ukrainian MPs during the Annual Session, urging all sides to "stake everything on efforts to move closer together rather than stress our differences."

Christine Muttonen (Austria) pointed out that parliamentarians, through their informal transnational networks, often have more options available than traditional diplomats.

Other parliamentarians in the debate offered ideas to resolve the crisis, including appealing to the Russian President to use his influence to compel Ukrainian separatists to disarm, while others suggested negotiating with the separatists, and possibly holding a national referendum on federalization.

A total of 56 members took the floor during the debate.

Following the Special Debate, the delegates considered a resolution that condemned Russia's recent actions in Ukraine. The item, introduced by Deputy Head of the U.S. Delegation Benjamin Cardin, specifically condemned



Benjamin Cardin

"the clear, gross and uncorrected violation of the Helsinki principles by the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine, including the particularly egregious violation of that country's sovereignty and integrity."

It further expressed "unequivocal support for the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

The resolution was adopted following a lively debate by a margin of 92 in favour to 30 against with 27 abstentions, with six amendments agreed to.

Closing Plenary Sessions

Treasurer's Report

First expressing his gratitude to the Azerbaijani hosts and particularly to Head of Delegation Bahar Muradova, Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported on the financial matters of the OSCE PA. He noted that the OSCE PA remains in good financial health and is functioning in a highly cost-effective way.



The Parliamentary Assembly's finances had once again received a positive assessment from auditors, Battelli reported, and he noted that the Standing Committee had unanimously approved the Assembly's annual budget for the next fiscal year. The Treasurer also thanked Vice-President Doris Barnett for Germany's extra-budgetary contribution for the election observation mission to Ukraine in order for staff members to be deployed early. Battelli recommended a budgetary adjustment of 1.1 per cent related to an increase in election observation allotment and general administrative expenses. He concluded by thanking the International Secretariat for its efficient management of the finances.

Secretary General's Report

Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver started by thanking the Treasurer for his work and support for the Assembly. He also thanked the *Milli Mejlis* of Azerbaijan and the Head of Azerbaijan's Delegation Bahar Muradova for the outstanding work in hosting the Session, as well as the procedural advisors from the British House of Commons, who had ensured that the meetings went smoothly and followed the recently amended Rules of Procedure.



The Secretary General stressed the importance of parliamentarians following up on the national level after the Baku Declaration is adopted, as they relay the Assembly's views to their home parliaments, reminding the delegates that they are the democratic foundation of the OSCE.

Oliver reiterated Battelli's statement on encouraging participating States to host future Assembly meetings. Finally, the Secretary General noted that 2015 will be a crucial year for the OSCE, with its approaching anniversary to be commemorated with the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project.

Adoption of the Declaration and Election Results



The Session ended with the adoption of the Baku Declaration and the announcement of the election results for new Assembly officers. Head of the Finnish Delegation Ilkka Kanerva, a former minister for Foreign

Affairs and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, was elected Assembly President, along with two new vice-presidents: Christine Muttonen (Austria) and Kent Harstedt (Sweden) and Emin Onen (Turkey), who was re-elected after one year in office. Their term will end after the 2017 session.

In his speech, the newly elected President started by thanking President Emeritus Ranko Krivokapic for his dedication to the PA. Kanerva noted that the agenda ahead is challenging for the OSCE and one of the priorities this year will be to make sure parliamentarians can bring their input to the Organization, especially in the framework of the Helsinki +40 process.

"The agenda of the Assembly is very challenging" Kanerva said. "The security environment in Europe is changing. It is important that our Parliamentary Assembly can make a constructive contribution to improve the security environment on our continent."





Officers of the Assembly

The Officers of the Assembly, also known as the Bureau, include the President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, General Committee Officers and the President Emeritus. The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out, as well as for the efficient operation of the Assembly between meetings of the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes decisions by a two-thirds majority vote.



OSCE PA Bureau

Ilkka Kanerva (Finland)

was elected President of the Assembly at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. A former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kanerva has been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1975. He has held a wide variety of posts in his government and national



legislature, including service as a Minister in the Ministry of Finance (1987-1995), Minister of Transport (1990-1991), Deputy Prime Minister (1991), Minister for Foreign Affairs (2007-2008), Deputy Speaker of Parliament (2003-2007), Chair of the Parliamentary Defence Committee (1999-2003) and Chair of the Parliamentary Security and Defence Reflecting group (2012-2013). Elected Vice-President of the Assembly to fill a vacancy in 2013, he has also served as a member of the OSCE PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and is a co-leader of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project.

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia)

was elected Treasurer of the Assembly at the Vilnius Annual Session in 2009 and re-elected in 2011 and 2013. Since becoming a member of the OSCE



Parliamentary Assembly in 1992, Battelli has been particularly active in election observation. He has observed more than 20 elections across the OSCE area, and has served as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation and as Special Coordinator of the OSCE short-term observers in Serbia, Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the Assembly, Battelli has been active in PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE and the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure. In addition to serving as Treasurer, he is also currently the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, a position he has held since 2006.

George Tsereteli (Georgia)



was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. Following a career in business and as a practicing neurologist, Tsereteli came to politics in 1995, serving in the Tbilisi municipality and as Minister of

Labour, Health and Social Affairs. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1999, and has served as Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Vice Prime Minister, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy, Chairman of the Committee on Healthcare and Social Issues and as Acting Chairman of Parliament.

Officers of the Assembly

Since 2010, Tsereteli has served as President of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, having previously served as Vice-President of the organization. His OSCE PA Vice-Presidential term ends at the Annual Session in 2015.

Doris Barnett (Germany)



was elected Vice-President in 2013 to fill a vacancy in the Bureau. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1994. She currently serves on the Committee on Economics and Technology and the Committee on

European Union Affairs. She is the Head of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA and also a member of the Council of Europe and the European Security and Defence Assembly. Her term as OSCE PA Vice-President ends in 2015.

Robert Aderholt (United States)



was elected OSCE PA Vice-President at the Monaco Annual Session in 2012. In the U.S. Congress, he is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, which has jurisdiction over funding the operation

of the federal government. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and a member of the Commerce, Justice and Science as well as the Defense Subcommittees, he supports greater transparency, accountability and oversight of the appropriations process. Aderholt is also an active member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the Helsinki Commission), which monitors and encourages implementation of OSCE commitments among the 57 participating States.

Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania)

was elected Vice-President at the 2013 OSCE PA Annual Session in Istanbul after serving two terms as Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security. She also served as Head of Delegation of Lithuania



to the OSCE PA from 2008 to 2012 and is a member the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. Aleknaite Abramikiene has been a member of the *Seimas* (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania since 1992 and is a member of the Committees on European Affairs and Legal Affairs. She holds a degree in music from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and a law degree from the Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius. Her term as OSCE PA Vice-President runs until the end of the 2016 Annual Session.

Isabel Pozuelo (Spain)



was elected Vice-President at the 2009 Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected to full terms at the 2010 and 2013 Annual Sessions. She has been a member of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2004. Pozuelo

has served in the Spanish Congress of Deputies since 1996, and is currently a member of the Defence Committee. She previously served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Finance Committee and the Health Care and Consumer Affairs Committee. She has also served as member of the PERSAM Foundation for the integration of migrants in the workforce. Her term as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President expires in 2016.

Officers of the Assembly

Alain Neri (France)



was re-elected Vice-President during the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. He previously served one year as Vice-President and one year as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. He has been a member of the

Parliamentary Assembly since 2002 and has served as Deputy Head of the French Delegation since 2007. From 2007 to 2008, and since 2009, he has been the secretary of the bureau of the French National Assembly, where he has served since 1988. He also served as Vice-President of the French National Assembly from 2008 to 2009. Neri has been a member and Vice-President of the Social Affairs Committee for various periods between 1988 and 2008 and is now member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He has served as Mayor of Beauregard-l'Eveque since 1983. His vice-presidential term expires in 2016.

Kent Harstedt (Sweden)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. A Member of the Swedish Parliament since 1998, he has served on the Committee on Defence, the Committee on Health and Welfare, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining Parliament, Harstedt worked as a freelance journalist and served as chair of UNICEF Sweden from 1999 to 2005. In the OSCE PA, Harstedt is a member of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security and has been particularly active in election observation activities, having participated in missions to Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United



States and Ukraine. He is also active in the Swedish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

States and Ukraine. He is also active in the Swedish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Emin Onen (Turkey)



was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul and was re-elected at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. He has been a Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Turkish Delegation

to the OSCE PA since 2007, serving as Head of Delegation since 2011. He has also participated in several OSCE PA election observation missions. In his national parliament, Onen is a member of the Committee on EU Harmonization and the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee. He also serves as Chairman of the Turkey-China Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group. As a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs between 2007 and 2011, he worked on numerous international agreements and reported on them to the Assembly's plenary and the government. Onen also served as Vice-President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly between 2010 and 2012.

Christine Muttonen (Austria)



was elected Vice-President at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. In addition to serving as Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation to the PA, she is also active in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

She has participated in several OSCE PA election observation missions. Muttonen has been a Member of the Austrian Parliament since 1999 and also serves as area spokesperson for the Austrian Social Democratic Parliamentary Group for Foreign and European Politics.

General Committee Officers



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

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

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

First General Committee

Asa Lindestam (Sweden)



was elected Chair of the OSCE PA’s General Committee on Political Affairs and Security at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. She previously held the same post from 2012 to 2013. Elected to the Swedish Riksdag in 2002, Lindestam

serves on the Committee on Defence and the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and is Chair of the Social Democratic Women District Committee. She also served

in the Riksdag’s Committee on EU Affairs and the Defence Commission. Lindestam has been a member of the OSCE PA since 2007 and has participated in many election observation missions, including to Armenia, Belarus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Russia, Serbia, Tunisia, the United States and Ukraine.

Lindestam has a professional background in education.

Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)



was elected Vice-Chair of the First Committee at the Istanbul Annual Session in 2013. Guliyev, a Member of Parliament since 2005, currently serves on the Permanent Committee on State Building and Legislative Policy and is the author of his country’s law on

civic participation. He has been a member of Azerbaijan’s OSCE PA Delegation since 2005. He also heads the Azerbaijan-Romania Inter-parliamentary Working Group.

Pia Kauma (Finland)

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



General Committee Officers



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

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

Second General Committee

Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

was elected Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul, after having served one year as Vice-Chair. She serves as Head of Kyrgyzstan's Delegation to the OSCE



PA. She first served in the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan in 2000-2001 and returned in November 2010. Aknazarova serves on the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Information and Religious Policies as well as the Parliamentary Democracy Committee. From 2001 to 2005 she served as Minister of Labour and Social Protection in the Government of the the Kyrgyz Republic. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Moscow Academic-Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and has been a central figure in reforming the banking sector in Kyrgyzstan.

Nilza Sena (Portugal)

was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment at the 2013 Istanbul Annual



Session. A Member of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2011, Sena is also a founder and member of the Board of the Portuguese Platform for Sustainable Development and Vice-Chair

of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Science and Culture. She is Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party and a Professor at the Technical University of Lisbon. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and a PhD in Social Sciences in the specialty of sociology and has published numerous academic articles.

Marietta Tidei (Italy)



was elected Rapporteur of the Second Committee at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. Elected to her national parliament in 2013, Tidei is active in the Parliamentary Committee for the Procedures of Charge and the

Committee on Economic Activities, Trade and Tourism. She is from Rome and is a member of the Democratic Party.

Third General Committee

Isabel Santos (Portugal)

was elected Chair of the Committee on Democ-

General Committee Officers



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

racy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 2013 Annual Session in Istanbul. She had previously served one year as Vice-Chair of the committee. Santos was a Member of Parliament in Portugal from 2005 to 2009 and resumed her service in the Parliament in 2011. She serves on Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and the Committee on Agriculture and Sea. She has participated in a number of OSCE PA election observation missions over the years.



Gordana Comic (Serbia)



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

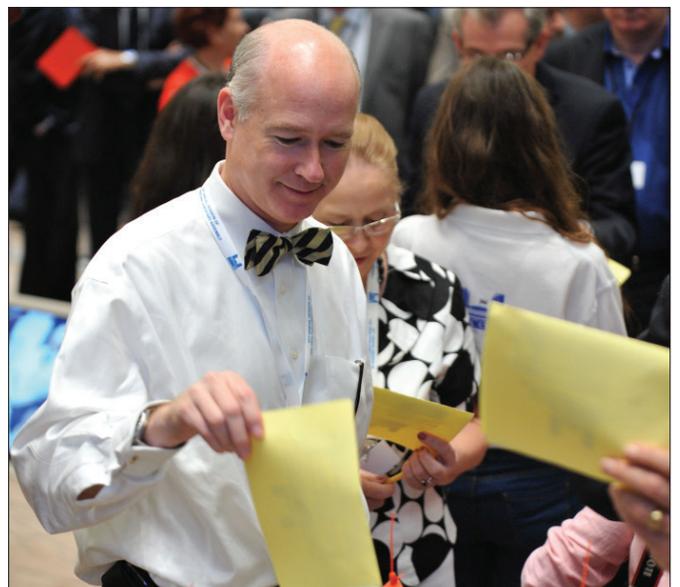
President Riccardo Migliori. Comic, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, has been a Member of Parliament since 2000 and a delegate to the OSCE PA since 2005. She chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2004 to 2007 and is currently member of the Committee on Human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

Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Third Committee at the Istanbul Annual Session in 2013. Kulkuloglu has been a Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey since 2007. He prepared reports on “Political Abuse and Corruption” since 2007 and filed several criminal complaints which have turned into lawsuits. He was a Member of the Committee on Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology from 2007 to 2011. He has been a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2011 and has participated in several election observation missions.



Voting for Committee Officers in Baku.











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 four staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



Deputy Secretary
General
Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary
General
Semyon Dzakhaev



Special
Representative
Andreas Nothelle



Director of Elections
Andreas Baker



Assistant to the
Secretary General
Dana Bjerregaard



Deputy Director of
Administration
Marc Carillet



Programme Officer
Maria Chepurina



Office Assistant
Farimah Daftary



Conference
Co-ordinator
Odile LeLarge



Administrative
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Kurt Lerras



Director of Presidential
Administration
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Francesco Pagani



Editorial Director
Nat Parry



IT-Supporter
Stephen Paul



General Services Officer
Pia Cathrin
Rasmussen



Operations Officer
Iryna Sabashuk



Communications
Director
Richard Solash



Bringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, including Europe, Asia and North America, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and Seminars designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions to areas of latent or active crisis.



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