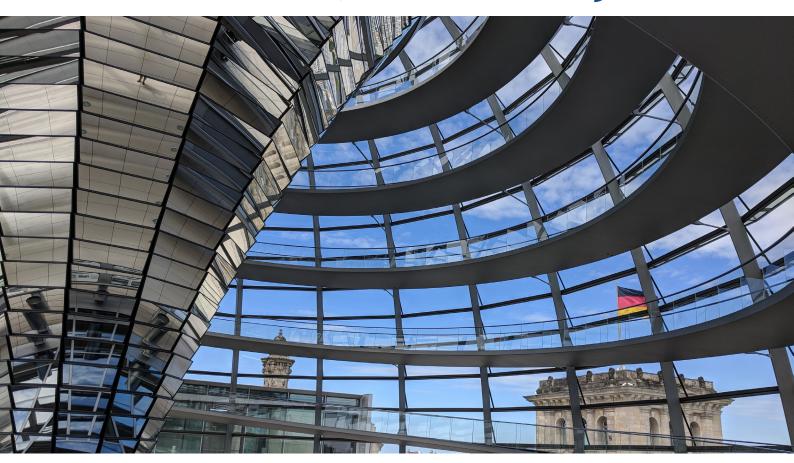
REPORT

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's

27th Annual Session Berlin, Germany





OSCPPA
BERLIN 7-11 July 2018

27th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly





REPORT ON THE 27th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat
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Summary



"In times when democratic principles

are challenged, we must focus on build-

ing the resilience of democratic states

and promote the consolidation of the

rule of law."

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli

nder the theme "Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments," the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met in Berlin for its 27th Annual Session on 7-11 July 2018. The meeting included the participation of some 300 parliamentarians from North America, Europe, Asia, and North Africa.

The opening session featured speeches by Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the German Bundestag; George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Olaf Scholz, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance for Germany; and Guglielmo Picchi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

Co-operation for Italy, representing the Italian OSCE Chairmanship.

The Annual Session culminated in the adoption of the Berlin Declaration with recommendations to national governments,

parliaments and the international community in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment and human rights. In addition to the three main resolutions, 16 supplementary items were adopted by the Assembly dealing including counter-terrorism, with topics human trafficking, migration, security sector governance, gender-based violence, countering propaganda.

George Tsereteli (Georgia) was elected Assembly President until the end of the 2019 Annual Session, while Peter Bowness (United Kingdom), Kari Henriksen (Norway), Kristian

Vigenin (Bulgaria), and Pascal Allizard (France) were elected Vice-Presidents.

Elections to the general committees were held on Tuesday 10 July. In the political and security committee, Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) was elected Chair, Sofio Katsarava (Georgia) Vice-Chair, and Alan Farrell (Ireland) Rapporteur.

the economic and environmental committee, Nilza de Sena (Portugal) was elected Chair, Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) Vice-Chair, and Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania) Rapporteur. In the human rights committee, Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) was elected Chair, Michael Georg Link (Germany) Vice-Chair, and

> **Kyriakos** Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) Rapporteur.

> At plenary sessions 10-11 on July, members heard reports from OSCE PA Special Representative Gender on Issues

Hedy Fry (Canada), OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger.

The Standing Committee met on 7 July to allocate supplementary items for debate and hear reports from the President, Treasurer, Secretary General, Special Representatives, leaders of election observation missions, and chairs of ad hoc committees. The ad hoc committees on migration and terrorism met on the margins and side events were held on topics including election observation, corruption, and

the environmental impacts of armed conflict.



Berlin Declaration



he OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted the 2018 Berlin Declaration on 11 July, with recommendations to help guide OSCE work and shape national policies in the fields of political-military affairs, economics and environment, and human rights. The Declaration, adopted following an amendment process carried out over several days of committee meetings, calls essential the "commitment to the fundamental principles of

international law, human rights and the rule of law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act." It urges renewed efforts to resolve conflicts, particularly the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and those in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.

In the Declaration, parliamentarians called for greater commitment to the OSCE's principles of dialogue and détente, arms control, security sector reform, strengthening confidence- and security-building measures, and the good-faith implementation of agreements.

The Declaration further calls on governments to ensure that human rights are respected by all security and intelligence services and urges parliaments to establish bodies for scrutinizing these services' activities. Parliaments should also support the OSCE's "structured dialogue" process, the Declaration says.

In the economic and environmental dimension, the Declaration stresses the unique role of parliaments in promoting reforms to implement OSCE commitments by fighting corruption, cracking down on organized 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.

crime, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Declaration also calls on parliaments to promote universal ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

International humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld during armed conflicts and the right of safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons must be respected, the Declaration says. It further calls for investigations into the serious

human rights violations of people in conflict zones and occupied territories, including in the South Caucasus, Ukraine, and Cyprus. All OSCE countries should "protect the rights of migrants and refugees, especially their freedom from arbitrary detention, and to actively work on

2018 OSCE PA Berlin Declaration

"The OSCE Parliamentary

Assembly urges a renewed com-

mitment from OSCE participating

States to the Organization's

principles of dialogue and

detente in the spirit of the

Helsinki Final Act."

the integration of refugees and protect their right to family reunification, with particular consideration for unaccompanied minors."

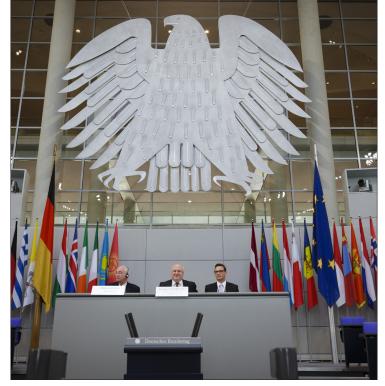
"We have just adopted a very strong Berlin Declaration that we hope will serve to guide our work in the weeks, months and years ahead," President Tsereteli said in a speech after the adoption of the Declaration. "We should all work to strengthen the OSCE, including by implementing its principles and communicating its messages to our governments and the people of our home countries."

Following its adoption, the Declaration was distributed to speakers of parliament and foreign ministers of OSCE countries, and the PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on its recommendations.















Inaugural Plenary Session



"Everyone in the OSCE should understand

that if they violate principles, they will

receive our attention. After all, that is what

we are here to do - to hold each other to

account."

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli

ith nearly 300 parliamentarians in attendance, the Annual Session opened 8 July with speeches by Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the German Bundestag; George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Olaf Scholz, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance for Germany; and Guglielmo Picchi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation for Italy, representing the Italian OSCE Chairmanship.

Speakers called for greater political will to ensure the full implementation of international

commitments found in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents. As elected representatives of the people, members of parliament have a key role to play in building support among

decision-makers in governments for ensuring compliance with these commitments, speakers said.

Wolfgang Schäuble, President of the German Bundestag

President Schäuble lamented deviations from international rules and standards and noted that at times of heightened mistrust, the informal encounters of parliamentarians facilitate mutual understanding. "The parliamentary dimension of the OSCE will continue to gain importance in light of hardened positions and mutual mistrust," he said.

He stressed the role of parliaments in promoting full compliance with OSCE commit-

ments, noting that oversight is a key role of any parliament.

George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

President Tsereteli spoke about how parliamentarians can promote adherence to OSCE principles such as sovereign equality, territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, inviolability of frontiers, and human rights. "These principles," he said, "are some of the most important international commit-

ments that exist, but we must admit that the state of implementation is not where it should be."

He pointed out that violations of OSCE commitments can lead to disagreements and ten-

sion within the OSCE area, but that through international pressure, better compliance can be ensured.

"Everyone in the OSCE should understand that if they violate principles, they will receive our attention," Tsereteli said. "After all, that is what we are here to do – to hold each other to account."

Olaf Scholz, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance for Germany

Vice-Chancellor Scholz noted that global challenges cannot be met by any single State, and that difficulties cannot justify political inertia, stressing that international co-opera-



Inaugural Plenary Session



tion is the way forward. The OSCE PA Annual Session is the right forum for discussing how to uphold OSCE commitments, he said. The Vice-Chancellor also argued for making full use of the structured dialogue established by consensus at the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg.

Guglielmo Picchi,
Deputy Minister of Foreign
Affairs and International Co-operation for Italy, representing the
Italian OSCE Chairmanship

Parliamentary diplomacy plays a fundamental role in promoting inclusive dialogue strengthening ownership among OSCE participating States, Deputy Foreign Minister Picchi said. "The debate today will be very valuable for the Italian Chairmanship also in view of the Ministerial Council which will be held in Milan on 6-7 December," said Picchi, representing the Italian OSCE Chairmanship.

He discussed priorities of the Chairmanship, including the crisis in and around Ukraine, the protracted conflicts, organized crime, and developing co-operation with Mediterranean and Asian Partner States particularly on migration and transnational threats such as terrorism, cybersecurity and illicit trafficking.

Supplementary Items

At the plenary session, members also considered the supplementary item "Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework."

The resolution, principally sponsored by Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Chair Nahima Lanjri (Belgium), calls on OSCE countries to implement policies for unaccompanied minors that take into account their specific needs and ensure family unity. The resolution was agreed to and was included in the Berlin Declaration adopted on 11 July.

Parliamentarians discuss violence against women at Gender Lunch



A working lunch on 9 July focused on the theme of "Combating Violence Against Women." Keynote speakers at the event included Dr. Franziska Giffey, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, of Germany; and OSCE Senior Advisor on Gender Issues Amarsanaa Darisuren.

The lunch was opened by OSCE PA Special

Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), who commended the OSCE's work on combating violence against women, and by OSCE PA Treasurer and Head of the German Delegation Doris Barnett, who stressed how essential it is to promote gender equality. OSCE PA President George Tsereteli also spoke, highlighting the indispensable role of parliaments and the OSCE PA, which he noted can help promote best practices and better information-sharing between governments.









































Standing Committee



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

he Standing Committee, chaired by President Tsereteli, met on 7 July. The Committee allocated 16 supplementary items for general debate, with five sent to the First Committee, five to the Second Committee and four to the Third Committee. Two supplementary items, "Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence" and "Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework," were allocated for debate in plenary sessions.

OSCE PA Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) presented her report, providing an overview of the financial situation and the status of annual contributions. Following the report, the Standing Committee unanimously approved the budget for the 2018-2019 financial year, which registered an increase of 7.1 per cent.

In his report, President Tsereteli provided the Standing Committee with an overview of his recent activities, emphasizing outcomes of recent visits to Baku, Warsaw, Lisbon, Tirana, and Chisinau. The President also discussed his visit in May to Ukraine, where he held talks with authorities in Kyiv and visited conflict-affected areas in Donbas.

Secretary General Roberto Montella presented his report, expressing gratitude that so many parliamentarians are willing to dedicate their time to promoting the OSCE and the PA. He encouraged parliamentarians to bring up issues of the OSCE PA in their own parliaments and among the press. He noted the wide range of activities the PA is engaged in and committed to keep the positive pace in the upcoming months. He stressed that there is no need to develop new commitments, but rather to focus on implementing existing ones, which he said is also a message that can be sent to the Italian Chairmanship ahead of the Ministerial Council.

Two OSCE PA Special Representatives, Pascal

Allizard (France) on Mediterranean Affairs and Christopher Smith (United States) on Human Trafficking Issues, also presented brief reports.

The heads of recent PA election observation missions presented their main findings. It was noted that the next elections to be observed will be those in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the United States.

The chairs of OSCE PA ad hoc committees delivered reports on their activities. Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Nahima Lanjri (Belgium) underlined the need to focus on how to assist States on the front lines of the migrant and refugee flows in their emergency responses as well as in integration policies. Makis Voridis (Greece), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, reported on visits of the committee, participation in international experts' events and on a number of projects, including a soon-to-be launched initiative to promote the implementation of relevant counter-terrorism commitments in national parliaments.

Information was provided on upcoming meetings, including the 2018 Autumn Meeting in Bishkek, the 2019 Winter Meeting in Vienna, and the 2019 Annual Session in Luxembourg. The Moroccan Delegation issued an invitation to host the 2019 Autumn Meeting in Marrakech.

The Standing Committee also voted to amend the PA's Rules of Procedure, to welcome the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC) as an observer.

Finally, members of the Standing Committee engaged in a debate on current international political issues. Among items raised were the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, human rights in the OSCE area, causes and consequences of migration flows and terrorism.





















































General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



ommittee Chair Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) opened the meeting of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security on 8 July by outlining the OSCE's current security landscape, pointing to the evolving conditions over the second half of the past century. He noted that "since World War II and the founding of the OSCE the present situation is one of the more complex of the ones we have seen."

He stressed the Assembly's role as a forum for dialogue, especially in relation to protracted conflicts, and underlined the role of the Assembly in upholding OSCE participating States' common principles. He furthermore pointed to the importance of recognizing PA resolutions at the OSCE's ministerial level, to communicate parliamentary recommendations to other dimensions of the OSCE.

He concluded his remarks by introducing the rapporteur's report and resolution, as well as announcing the five supplementary items to be discussed during the Committee meeting.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria) presented the main points of his report, first addressing and outlining core documents which make up the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, arguing that commitment to these must be upheld. He emphasized that security challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats and protracted conflicts require greater multilateral engagement.

"The level of dialogue and trust across the area spanning the 57 participating States of the OSCE has reached historic lows, which some might call a failure of multilateral organizations for falling short in managing the challenges we face," Vigenin said. "In light of these developments and the declining trust across

Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism meets in Berlin



Makis Voridis (Greece) chaired a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism on 7 July. Committee members discussed the CCT's visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in early June and committee members' participation in terrorism-related international events in Malta, Portugal, Italy, and Albania.

The CCT discussed ways to increase the contribution of parliamentarians in countering terrorism, as well as enhance co-operation with

OSCE executive structures and other international organizations. President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella also spoke at the meeting.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

the OSCE region, it is now more than ever of greatest importance for multilateral organizations to bridge divides and enable dialogue between States and their parliaments and their civil societies in security matters."

The rapporteur outlined central issues addressed in his report and resolution, such as cybersecurity, protracted conflicts, nuclear disarmament, the crisis in and around Ukraine, and counter-terrorism. The following debate centered on many of these issues. Speaking on the crisis in and around Ukraine, Roger Wicker (United States), commended the resolution's handling of this issue, stressing that Vigenin rightly positioned this as a priority of the PA.

Speaking on the draft resolution, Lord Peter Bowness (United Kingdom) underlined the importance of promoting the PA and its resolutions in national parliaments, to ensure awareness and recognition. Otherwise, he said, OSCE PA efforts will fail. He furthermore pointed to the serious security situation in the Western Balkans, and the deteriorating circumstances and increasing ethnic and religious tensions in the region.

The committee resolution passed after consideration of 25 amendments. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 50-5 with one abstention.

Supplementary Items

The committee debated and adopted five supplementary items.

The first, entitled "Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism," principally sponsored by Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Chair Makis Voridis (Greece), called on OSCE countries to support each other in countering terrorism and urged for strategic convergence between the OSCE's parliamentary and executive structures.

The supplementary item "Ten Years after the August 2008 War in Georgia," principally sponsored by Sofio Katsarava (Georgia), addressed the current security situation in Georgia. It proposed the creation of international security mechanisms in the occupied territories of

Georgia and furthermore stressed the necessity for full implementation of the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, including the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's military forces from Georgian territory.

The third supplementary item discussed in the Committee, entitled "Strengthening the OSCE's Approach to supporting Security Sector Governance and Reform in Participating and Partner States," principally sponsored by Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), centered on security sector governance and reform. The supplementary item called on executive structures of the OSCE to put a framework into place to allow the OSCE to more effectively assist participating States in managing conflicts and complex security challenges.

The discussion next centered on "Reaffirming the Commitment to and Guarantees of the Effective Operation of the OSCE," principally sponsored by Rita Bellens (Belgium). Bellens outlined the supplementary item, stating that it came out of concern for the growing tensions which have been developing within and between participating States in recent years. She stressed the need for continued international co-operation to resolve issues and pointed to structured dialogue as a good example of the initiatives the OSCE takes to play its part.

The final supplementary item on "Strengthening the Visibility of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly within the National Parliaments of Participating States," principally sponsored by Doris Barnett (Germany), was adopted unamended. Barnett introduced the supplementary item saying that all present should agree to introduce and discuss the Berlin Declaration in their national parliaments following the Annual Session to raise the visibility of the PA and ensure that its recommendations are on the national agendas of participating States.

Election of Officers

Chair: Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair: Sofio Katsarava (Georgia)

Rapporteur: Alan Farrell (Ireland)



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



haired by Nilza de Sena (Portugal), the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment met from 8-10 July. Members considered the report and resolution proposed by Rapporteur Sofio Katsarava (Georgia), as well as five supplementary items on transport links and corridors, youth potential, digital economy, integration processes, and demographic challenges.

Report and Resolution

Noting the priorities outlined by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship for the economic and environmental dimension, the Second Committee report focused on the following main points of interest: promotion of good governance and reducing corruption; environmental good governance; climate change; sustainable energy and energy efficiency; environmental migration and internal displacement. Increasing the engagement of national legislative branches was referred to as essential to achieve the goals discussed.

Rapporteur Katsarava stressed that climate change has pushed the earth into uncharted territory, contributing to extreme weather and migration. She acknowledged the success of the November 2017's UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn, where further action was outlined to combat climate change on international, national and subnational levels. Katsarava called on the Paris Agreement's signatory parties to accelerate the ratification process and fully comply with its commitments.

Regarding transparency, good governance

and the fight against corruption, the Rapporteur noted that a comprehensive legal framework is not enough. It must be complemented with an effective implementation of anti-corruption provisions and practical actions for policy coordination and monitoring in the OSCE area through increased partnerships.

Katsarava raised concerns on the increase of environmental migration and the current record high level of human displacement and migration. She noted, however, that transnational migration should not overshadow internal displacement caused by conflicts and urged greater attention to this topic as well. She thus encouraged partnerships aimed at promoting effective migration management through, among other measures, the exchange of best practices that prioritize legal migration.

On the environmental impact of conflicts, Katsarava mentioned the damage caused not only to civilians, but also to the resilience of countries and societies, and the negative effects of conflict on natural resources, like the disruption of water supplies. She called for the establishment of an ecological monitoring system in the occupied territories of Ukraine and Georgia.

Several members of parliament participated in the open debate to shape the final resolution and highlighted issues such as the importance of cities taking local action against climate change, the need for energy diversity with a focus on renewable energy, carbon pricing, and the possible impacts of the Nord Stream II gas pipeline project. After the consideration of 20 amendments and the approval of 17, the resolution was adopted unanimously.



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Supplementary Items

The supplementary item "Promoting Connectivity in the OSCE Area Through Development of Transport Links and Corridors, Including by Revitalizing the Ancient Silk Road," principally sponsored by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), highlighted the central role of transport links for sustainable development, infrastructure and economic co-operation, and welcomed the focus of the German, Austrian and Italian OSCE Chairmanships on further development of connectivity and partnerships. The resolution also pointed out the importance of the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative and its beneficial implementation within the Parliamentary Assembly. Three out of the five amendments proposed were adopted and the resolution was overwhelmingly adopted.

Sponsored by Godfrey Farrugia (Malta), the item "A Shared Priority: Fostering Peace and Security Through Enabling Young People to Reach Their Full Potential" aimed to engage youtyh in leadership and democratic governance for environmental, economic and social initiatives to succeed. During the debate and the discussion of the three amendments presented, special attention was drawn to the risk of radicalization and participation in terrorist groups by young people, which must be addressed through education. With one amendment, the item was overwhelmingly adopted.

The discussion of "Promotion of the Digital Economy in the Interests of Ensuring Economic Growth in the OSCE Area," principally sponsored by Boleslav Pirshtuk (Belarus), centered on the intellectualization of economy and the essential use of technology and data as a resource in the current new model of production and consumption. On this matter, the OSCE provides a crucial platform for dialogue, consultations and co-operation that can lead to trade growth and innovative development. Also, a legal framework must be established and harmonized among all participating States. The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly with one amendment.

Vladimir Dzhabarov (Russian Federation) sponsored the supplementary item "Connectivity and Alignment of Integration Processes



in the OSCE Area," which focused on a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, while expressing concern on the lack of progress in achieving it as a strategic goal set by the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana. It also called on participating States to enhance their regional and sub-regional integration arrangements for trade, economic growth and social progress to happen. In this regard, Dzhabarov said, cooperation at all levels is an indispensable tool to strengthen worldwide security and stability. The item was adopted with broad support.

The last item "Response to Demographic Challenges in the OSCE Area," principally sponsored by Ignacio Cosido (Spain), targeted three major demographic problems affecting labour force, economic stability, territorial balance and the environment: decrease in birth rates, quick population aging and depopulation in rural areas. Special attention was drawn to the consequences of these issues on migration flows. To tackle them, the item proposed some measures that should be adjusted to each participating State's specific reality: more efficient policies to support families, adapted and sustainable health and pension systems, and supply of basic services in low-populated areas.

The resolution was adopted unamended.

Election of Officers

Chair: Nilza de Sena (Portugal)
Vice-Chair: Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)
Rapporteur: Elona Gjebrea Hoxha
(Albania)



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



ommittee Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal) chaired four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions on 8-10 July. In addition to the main resolution, four supplementary items were debated and adopted. The main resolution and subsequent debate centered on a range of issues, including "fake news," political prisoners and the rights of migrants and refugees.

Report and Resolution

The Rapporteur of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), introduced his report by emphasizing that human rights are under pressure in many parts of the world and by expressing regret over a decline in respect for human rights over the past years. He called on national parliaments to confirm their commitment to human rights, as the promotion and protection of human rights are priority matters for the OSCE community.

Among other issues, Hadjiyianni focused in his report on racism and xenophobia, human rights challenges in conflict areas such as in Syria, Ukraine and occupied territories, the need to enhance the rights of refugees and migrants and efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Hadjiyianni concluded by

Migration work in focus at Annual Session



The OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on the margins of the Annual Session to discuss current and ongoing work. Chaired by Nahima Lanjri (Belgium), the committee heard remarks from President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella, who thanked committee members for their dedication to this important issue.

Members discussed current issues

and reviewed recent activities, including the visit to Serbia in June 2018, as well as the upcoming report to be issued at the 2019 Winter Meeting and the migration-related supplementary item to be debated in Berlin, "Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework."

Members also discussed differences among OSCE countries in the treatment of unaccompanied and separated minors and possible upcoming committee visits.



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

stressing that the common goal is to achieve a security community where human rights commitments are upheld, democratic standards are met and humanitarian law is respected.

Parliamentarians from across the OSCE area took the floor raising issues such as cyber warfare, propaganda and fake news, as rapidly advancing technologies and the lack of regulation of cyber issues lead to new challenges in this regard.

Committee members also discussed internally displaced persons, tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of religion or belief. Concerns about the situation of migrants and refugees in the OSCE area were raised and the need for an effective protection framework was highlighted, with members encouraging greater co-operation, in particular, on the issue of unaccompanied and separated children.

Following the debate, the committee members discussed the 25 proposed amendments to the draft resolution and it was subsequently adopted by a vote of 47 in favor and two abstentions.

Supplementary Items

Four supplementary items were debated during the meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. All four of them were adopted.

The supplementary item "Implementing Trafficking-free Communities," authored by Christopher Smith (United States), was the first to be discussed.

In his presentation Smith encouraged renewed effort to combat trafficking in human beings and highlighted the focus of the resolution on comprehensive implementation. Moreover, attention was drawn to the particularly vulnerable position of women and girls. The training of relevant authorities, as well as other stakeholders who are likely to be in contact with victims, was described as essential and a multi-level approach is needed in order to achieve trafficking-free communities. The supplementary item was adopted with overwhelming support.

The supplementary item on "Countering Propaganda for Hatred and War in the OSCE Area" was principally sponsored by Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania).

During his presentation Kasciunas called on the participating States to refrain from funding and using propaganda for hatred and war and invited governments in co-operation with civil society to develop a broad set of policy measures to counter propaganda, including through raising awareness of disinformation. The debate focused on the need for free, independent and pluralistic media, as well as media literacy in order to counteract propaganda. The supplementary item was adopted with one amendment.

The committee also debated a supplementary item on "Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Russian Federation," which was sponsored by Margareta Cederfeldt (Sweden) and presented by Christian Holm Barenfeld (Sweden).

Issues of concern, such as the oppression of political opponents, the deterioration of media freedom, crimes against LGBT people, as well as the tightening grip on civil society were raised during the presentation and the debate. The supplementary item was adopted with four amendments.

The final supplementary item, "Ongoing Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol" authored by Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), was presented by Serhiy Vysotskyi (Ukraine). Vysotskyi drew attention to the deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea and to attempts of silencing those opposing the Russian Federation. He referred to the Crimean Peninsula as a territory ruled by fear and immunity and specifically underlined the targeting of Crimean Tatars.

The supplementary item was adopted with no amendments.

Election of Officers

Chair: Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair: Michael Georg Link (Germany)

Rapporteur: Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni (Cyprus)



Plenary Sessions



haired by President Tsereteli, the plenary session on 10 July opened with an address by the Speaker of Montenegro's Parliament, Ivan Brajovic, who noted that in implementing OSCE commitments, parliaments play a key role. Strong institutions are the guardian of democracy, he said, offering examples of progress in his country in this regard.

Hedy Fry, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

Special Representative Hedy Fry (Canada) presented her report, which focused on violence against women as well as the need to include men in discussions about gender equality. The Special Representative noted that women contribute to economic productivity and competitiveness, so everyone benefits from their full participation in society. She also discussed the role of women in armed conflict, as caregivers and peacekeepers.

In the discussion of Fry's report, members noted that the lack of equality often enables violence against women and that equal opportunities must be provided for women to fully participate in political life.

Supplementary Items

The supplementary item "Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence," principally sponsored by Fry, was considered in the plenary session. It calls on OSCE participating States to adopt laws to address domestic and sexual violence and harassment, and urges full

implementation of National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The item was adopted with overwhelming support.

Open Debate

In the open debate, members spoke about the key role that national parliaments play in assuring implementation of OSCE commitments, the necessity of resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine, the importance of ensuring credible election observation, the need for rehabilitation programmes for returning foreign terrorist fighters, migration, and many other topics.

On 11 July the plenary reconvened for its closing session. Parliamentarians debated a wide range of topics, from the ongoing and protracted conflicts to human rights violations, from energy security to the protection of the environment, from challenges stemming from migration to transnational challenges such as terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking.

Many delegations stressed the need to rekindle Helsinki's spirit of dialogue and detente in order to restore trust among OSCE participating States.

Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the OSCE

OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger welcomed the excellent channel for multilateral dialogue offered by the Parliamentary Assembly as well as the inspiring ideas and



Plenary Sessions



contributions it offers to the overall work of the OSCE.

Moreover, he stressed that "in today's world, multilateralism and multilateral institutions are targets of acute criticism," noting that many people share this view.

"To ensure that the OSCE is sensitive to the aspirations and needs of our citizens, we need you, the Parliamentary Assembly, to represent their voices," he said. "The OSCE PA is by definition the most diverse and pluralistic of our structures. You represent a great variety of perspectives and interests." The OSCE Secretary General also called upon national parliaments to support their respective governments in funding the OSCE.

Roberto Montella, OSCE PA Secretary General

Montella commended the commitment of OSCE parliamentarians and assured them that they will continue to have the full support of the International Secretariat in turning their recommendations into concrete actions. He also noted that the high level of participation in the Annual Session, including by civil society, confirms the effectiveness of the Parliamentary Assembly and the desire to engage in its activities.

The Secretary General recognized two Members of the Assembly who were stepping down, Kent Harstedt (Sweden) and Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), thanking them for their many years of service and leadership in the OSCE PA.

Finally, he praised the Bundestag for an outstanding organization of the Annual Session.

Adoption of Berlin Declaration

The two addresses were followed by the voting procedure to adopt one by one the resolutions of the three committees and the sixteen supplementary items, which together comprise the Berlin Declaration. While some further amendments were proposed, all items as well as the overall final Declaration were adopted.

The supplementary items adopted by the plenary deal with topics including counter-terrorism and violent extremism, human rights in Crimea (Ukraine), building communities free of human trafficking, building an effective protection framework for migrant children, security sector governance and reform, and combating gender-based violence.

Announcement of Election Results and Closing Remarks

Election results were announced for the 2018-2019 term. President George Tsereteli was elected by acclamation. Peter Bowness (United Kingdom), Kari Henriksen (Norway), Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria), and Pascal Allizard (France) were elected Vice-Presidents.

In his closing address, President Tsereteli called to increase co-operation and ensure that the PA remains strong, even if debates are harsh, with the ultimate aim to strengthen the OSCE, implement its principles and communicate its messages to governments and the people: "We must let people know the value of this organization and why it matters."































Officers of the Assembly

The Officers of the Assembly, together with the General Committee Officers and President Emeritus, form the Bureau. The Bureau meets several times a year, including every April in Copenhagen, and is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out and for the efficient operation of the Assembly between meetings of the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes decisions by a two-thirds majority vote.



George Tsereteli (Georgia)



was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2018 Annual Session in Berlin, after having served as acting President since 9 November 2017. He had previously been Vice-President, first elected during the

2012 Annual Session in Monaco and subsequently re-elected during the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki. Following a career in business and as a practicing neurologist, Tsereteli came to politics in 1995. In the Georgian parliament, Tsereteli served as Deputy Chairman between 2000 and 2004, and from 2008 to 2012. In 2004, he was Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labor, Health, and Social Protection

Ilkka Kanerva (Finland)

is the Assembly's President Emeritus. Elected President at the 2014 Annual Session and re-elected in 2015, Kanerva is a former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and has been a member of the Finnish Parliament since 1975. He



has held a variety of posts in his government

and national legislature, including Foreign Minister, Minister of Transport, Deputy Prime Minister, and Deputy Speaker of Parliament. In the PA, he has served as Vice-President and as Co-Chair of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project. He is currently the PA's Special Representative on Mediation.

Doris Barnett (Germany)



was elected Treasurer in 2015 and re-elected in 2017. Previously an OSCE PA Vice-President, she has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1994, where 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 is also a member of the Council of Europe and the European Security and Defence Assembly.

Pascal Allizard (France)

was elected Vice-President at the OSCE PA's 27th Annual Session in Berlin. He has been a member of the Parliamentary Assembly since 2014 and since 2017 has served as Special Representative on





Officers of the Assembly

Mediterranean Affairs. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and as Deputy Head of the French Delegation. In the French Senate, he serves as Vice-President of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and the Armed Forces, as Rapporteur on Defence Budget, as member of the European Affairs Committee and as President of the France-Pakistan Friendship Group.

Peter Bowness (United Kingdom)

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE PA at the Helsinki Annual Session in 2015 and re-elected in Berlin. As a member of the House of Lords, he serves on the European Union Energy and Environment Sub-Committee and has



been a member of the European Union Select Committee, among other assignments. He has been a member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007 and serves as Chair of the OSCE PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Working Practices.

Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden)



was elected Vice-President in 2017 after serving two years as the Rapporteur for the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. First entering the Swedish parliament (Riksdag) in 1999, Cederfelt served as an Alternate Member of

the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA from 2010 to 2014 and since 2014 as Deputy Head of the Delegation. In her national parliament, Cederfelt has served as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs since 2014. She has also served as Chair of the National Board of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and Treasurer of the PGA Executive Board since 2011.

Victor Paul Dobre (Romania)



was elected to a oneyear term as Vice-President at the OSCE PA's 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi and re-elected in Minsk. A member of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies since 2000, Dobre has served on the Romanian Delega-

tion to the OSCE PA since 2009. In his national parliament, Dobre serves as Chairman of the Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning.

Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)



was elected Vice-President in Tbilisi. He previously served for three years as Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. A member of his national parliament since 2005, Guliyev currently sits on the Permanent

Committee on State Building and is a member of several working groups promoting Azerbaijan's bilateral relations with various countries. Since 2008, he has also served as Chair of the Council on State Support to NGOs. Guliyev has been a member of Azerbaijan's OSCE PA Delegation since 2005.

Kari Henriksen (Norway)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 27th Annual Session in Berlin. Having been involved in the Parliamentary Assembly since 2009, Henriksen advocates for building a vigorous, forceful, gender-bal-



anced, open and effective organization. In the



Officers of the Assembly

Norwegian Storting she serves on the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs, and has previously been on the Standing Committee on Justice, the Election Committee, and the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs. From 2007-2009, she served as State Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Care Services. Henriksen was a health care professional before entering politics. She is a member of the Labour Party.

Isabel Santos (Portugal)



was elected Vice-President in 2016, after having previously served three terms as Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Santos was a member of Portuguese Parliament from 2005

to 2009 and resumed her service in parliament in 2011. In parliament, she serves on the Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and the Committee on Agriculture and the Sea. As Chair of the Third Committee she was particularly active, leading delegations and fact-finding missions to Kazakhstan and Guantanamo Bay, as well as to refugee camps in Rome, Lampedusa, Catania, Czech Republic, and Serbia.

Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria)

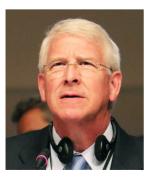
was elected Vice-President in Berlin after serving one year as Rapporteur of the First Committee. In Bulgaria, Vigenin was Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2013-2014. Vigenin has served as a member of the Foreign Policy Com-



mittee and the European Affairs and Oversight of European Funds Committee in the National Assembly of Bulgaria. He was previously a member of the European Parliament and was elected as the first EP Chair of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in 2011. He served from 2016 to 2018 as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on the South Caucasus. He also serves as Deputy Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to the OSCE PA.

Roger Wicker (United States)

was elected Vice-President in 2017 after serving as Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security since November 2014. Wicker currently serves as the Chair of the Commission on Security and



Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission). Within the U.S. Senate he is a member of the Armed Services Committee; the Budget Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Rules Committee. He serves as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet.





General Committee Officers



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

Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland)



was elected Chair of the First Committee in 2017 and re-elected in Berlin. He joined the Swiss Council of States in 1999 and is a member of the Christian Democrat Group representing the canton of Ticino. Within the Council of States he

serves as President of the Delegation to Maintain Relations with the Italian Parliament and as President of the Drafting Committee for Italian. He is a member of the Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He has served as Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration following its inception in 2016. He is also the Deputy Head of Switzerland's Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Sofio Katsarava (Georgia)



was elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security in Berlin after serving one year as Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment. Elected to her national parliament in

2016, she serves on the Committee on European Integration and serves as Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee. She is Head of the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE PA and is also a member of parliamentary delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Alan Farrell (Ireland)



was elected Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security in Berlin. He has been Head of the Irish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly since 2013. In the Irish Parliament he is Chair of the Children

and Youth Affairs Committee and serves on the Public Accounts Committee. He has previously served on the Justice, Equality and Defence Parliamentary Committee and the Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform Parliamentary Committee. He is a member of the Fine Gael Party and represents North Dublin.



General Committee Officers



Second General Committee

Nilza de Sena (Portugal)



was elected Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment in 2016, and has been re-elected twice. A Member of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA 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.

Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Second Committee at the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi and re-elected in Minsk and in Berlin. Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Gerasymov has a background in the private sector, serving as



Deputy Director, Director and General Director of Ukrainian Marketing Group. In 2014, he was

elected to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament), where he serves as a member of the Committee on National Security and Defence, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Military-Industrial and Military-Technical Co-operation of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Security and Defence Affairs.

Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania)



was elected Rapporteur of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment in Berlin. She has been a member of the Albanian Parliament for the Socialist Party since

2017. With a background in academia and civil society, in 2013 she became Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, a position she held until 2017. She was also Municipality councillor of Tirana city, representing the socialist party from 2015 to 2017. In 2016 she was part of the General Assembly of the Socialist Party.





General Committee Officers



Third General Committee

Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland)



was elected Chair of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 2018 Annual Session in Berlin. She has been a member of the Swiss National Council since 2003 for the Social-Democratic Party and of the Financial Oversight Delega-

tion of the Swiss Parliament since 2018. Kiener Nellen joined the Committee on Finance in 2003 and served as its President from 2010 to 2011 and from 2016 to 2017. She was also part of the Committee on Legal Affairs from 2011 to 2015 and of the Committee on Courts from 2007 to 2011. Kiener Nellen is the Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and has a legal background with a specialization in human rights, constitutional and criminal law.

Michael Georg Link (Germany)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 2018 Annual Session in Berlin. He is a member of the German Parliament for the Free Democratic Party, serving on



the European Affairs and the Budget Committee of the Bundestag. He previously served as Minister of State for Europe in the German government, where he was responsible for OSCE, EU, Council of Europe and NATO affairs. From 2014 to 2017 he was the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni (Cyprus)

was elected Rapporteur of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi and reelected in Minsk and Berlin. He has been a Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus since 2006. In



the House of Representatives, Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni serves as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Educational Affairs and Culture. He is also a Member of the Committee on Refugees-Enclaved, Missing and Adversely Affected Persons. Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni has previously served on his parliament's Committee on the Environment; the Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry, and Tourism; the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs; the Committee on Internal Affairs, and the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was also a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union from 2003 to 2004.













































































Secretary General Roberto Montella

he 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 Roberto Montella, and has a permanent staff of 19, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev



Special Representative Andreas Nothelle



Chief of the Executive Office Andreas Baker



Head of Document Services Dana Bjerregaard



Liaison Officer and Advisor Marco Bonabello



Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office Marc Carillet



Programme Officer Farimah Daftary



Executive Assistant Anna Di Domenico



Executive Assistant to the Vienna Liaison Office Tim Knoblau



Head of Conference Services
Odile Lelarge



Senior Advisor (consultant) Kurt Lerras



Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani



Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry



Chief ICT Stephen Paul



Presidential Advisor Loic Poulain



Head of Administration for Election Observation Iryna Sabashuk



Chief of Administration and Finance Marieta Samac



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.



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

International Secretariat Tordenskjoldsgade 1 1055 Copenhagen K Denmark

Telephone: +45 33 37 80 40 Telefax: +45 33 37 80 30 E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk Internet: www.oscepa.org