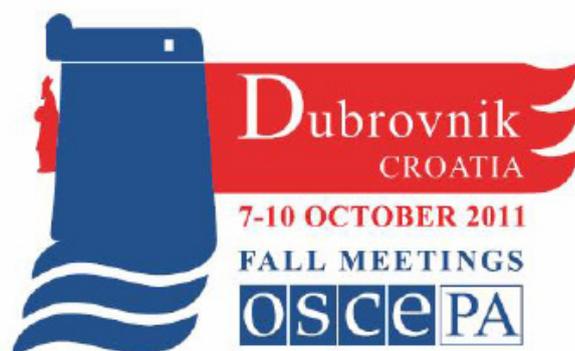


# REPORT

## OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 2011 FALL MEETINGS

DUBROVNIK

7-10 OCTOBER 2011



# REPORT ON THE 2011 FALL MEETINGS OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



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## Summary



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly holds a set of Fall Meetings every year to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on important topics related to OSCE commitments. The Meetings include a conference on a topical issue, a session of the Assembly's Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations and typically also a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum. Previous Fall Meetings have been held in Portoroz, Malta, Sveti-Stefan, Rhodes, Rome, Toronto, Athens and Palermo.

More than 200 parliamentarians from across the OSCE region met in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 7-10 October to discuss progress in South East Europe, co-operation in the Mediterranean region, and conflict resolution efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group. The OSCE PA's 2011 Fall Meetings also included a meeting of the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations on 9 October.

Speaking at the Fall Meetings were OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou, Head of Croatia's Delegation to the OSCE PA Tonino Picula, Croatian President Ivo Josipovic, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, and Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebic, among others.

"This region is now showing that freedom, security and prosperity are not values that stop at any borders," said President Efthymiou on the opening day. "They are the common ideals that live inside us all and shared commitments that we as parliamentarians, diplomats and government leaders must always work to renew."

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier spoke at the Mediterranean Forum and briefed the Standing Committee on the proposed OSCE budget for 2012, which he expected to be adopted in a timely fashion.

For the first time all seven heads of OSCE field presences in South East Europe provided a joint briefing to the Assembly, in a session chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on South-East Europe Roberto Battelli.

At the Mediterranean Forum on 9 October with representatives present from Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, participants discussed the need for parliaments and governments to speak out on human rights issues. Focus was also placed on the role of women in

North African politics and the need for progress toward a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians.

The special presentation on "The Role of the OSCE in Conflict Resolution: Nagorno-Karabakh" was moderated by the OSCE PA's Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Assembly President Emeritus Joao Soares. Keynote speakers for the discussion included the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group -- Amb. Robert Bradke (United States), Amb. Igor Popov (Russian Federation), Bernard Fassier (France) -- and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, Amb. Andrzej Kasprzyk.

In his capacity as Treasurer, Roberto Battelli reported to the Standing Committee that the PA is in good financial health and operating under budget. It has received a preliminary positive assessment for the fiscal year by outside independent professional auditors, Battelli said.

PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver informed the Standing Committee of the work of the International Secretariat including preparation for upcoming election observation missions. Standing Committee delegates also heard from Assembly Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committees about their ongoing activities.

With dozens of registered election observers present, the Fall Meetings also provided an opportunity for Members to discuss the election observation missions to Tunisia and Kyrgyzstan. The heads of these election observation missions, OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Riccardo Migliori and Walburga Habsburg Douglas, briefed Members on their recent pre-election visits to Tunisia and Kyrgyzstan, respectively.

## Opening Session



President Petros Efthymiou

Assembly President Petros Efthymiou opened the meetings by expressing gratitude to the government of Croatia, the Parliament, the city of Dubrovnik and the Croatian Delegation to the PA for their hospitality in hosting the 2011 Fall Meetings. He also gave particular recognition to the heads of the regional OSCE field operations who were participating in the meetings.

The President said that Croatia and its neighbours see desires fulfilled by governments and citizens who know first-hand the benefits of co-operation. Mr. Efthymiou acknowledged the remarkable success stories of the region, pointing to the fact that thousands of people have returned to their pre-war homes in Croatia and elsewhere thanks largely to governmental and OSCE efforts on refugee return.

Hundreds of war criminals, he said, have been convicted, and in Serbia, more than a hundred professional public procurement agents are now bringing a new level of trust and accountability to government contracting thanks to a new OSCE-sponsored certification process aimed at rooting out corruption.

### **Luka Bebić, President of the Croatian Parliament**

President Bebić noted that with its history as a city at a crossroads of civilizations, Dubrovnik offers an ideal environment for dialogue. He pointed out that the meeting has been organized at an historic moment for Croatia, which is on the verge of signing an accession agreement with the European Union.



Luka Bebić, President of the Croatian Parliament

Croatia, he emphasized, has a special interest in long-term stabilization in South East Europe and establishing lasting peace in the region.

Bebić also took the opportunity to praise the OSCE for its contribution in the region. The field operations, in particular, have been instrumental in helping return refugees to their homes, fighting against corruption, and combating trafficking in human beings. Parliamentary diplomacy has also been an important engine for change throughout the region, he said.

He closed by calling on all countries of South East Europe to implement the reforms necessary for the region as a whole to fully integrate into European structures. He expressed confidence that the Fall Meetings' discussions would help guarantee that this progress continues.

### **Tonino Picula, Head of the Croatian Delegation to the OSCE PA**

Tonino Picula welcomed participants to Dubrovnik, saying that the city "opens its doors again to the world, as it has done so many times in its history, ready to bring together people of different cultures, traditions, and mindsets."

Picula said that multilateral and regional organizations, including the OSCE, need to "seriously reconsider their activities." Multilateral diplomacy, he said, cannot meet expectations if the multicultural concept is not respected in each individual society.

The Parliamentary Assembly, he said, has the capacity of facilitating the search for solutions within the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Without the co-operation of direct rep-

## Opening Session



Jadranka Kosor, Prime Minister of Croatia



Ivo Josipovic, President of Croatia

representatives of the citizens, success is not possible, he said, highlighting that no other security organization has such a proactive parliamentary dimension as OSCE.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, he said, will continue to reaffirm its relevance by building upon its positive legacy, contributing to the resolution, or, even better, to the prevention of conflicts.

In welcoming the parliamentarians to Dubrovnik, Picula reminded participants to “respect the ancient inscription on the Rector’s Palace in Dubrovnik: Obliti privatorum publica curdte, or Leave behind your private interests and promote public interests.”

### **Jadranka Kosor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia**

In her welcoming address, Prime Minister Kosor noted that by choosing Croatia as the host country for the 2011 Fall Meetings, the Parliamentary Assembly has shown how much it appreciates the constructive role that Croatia has played in applying and promoting OSCE standards and principles. She expressed her pleasure that the PA has devoted this meeting to the challenges, opportunities and perspectives of South East Europe.

“This part of Europe,” she said “is undergoing a significant transformation and is treading forwards in spite of challenges such as the global and European financial crisis. It is precisely this Organization of which you are a part that is to a large extent deserving for this transformation and democratic stabilization.”

The contribution the OSCE has made to international security, she said, is great and irreplaceable. The Organization’s flexibility and capacity for dealing with new challenges, as well as its comprehensive approach to security is the best guarantee for preventing and managing conflicts. Croatia, the Prime Minister pointed out, recognizes the essential role that the Parliamentary Assembly has played in promoting the “Helsinki spirit.”

### **Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of Croatia**

President Josipovic stated that for the Republic of Croatia, the OSCE is one of the most important platforms for dialogue on European and global security. The interchange between the parliamentary and operational dimension of OSCE, he said, provides an extremely important contribution to this dialogue.

In underscoring the meetings’ theme, he said “We are indeed faced with ‘challenges, opportunities and perspectives in the Southeast Europe region’, which are vital elements for peace and security in Europe.”

He noted that so far, all the processes promoted by OSCE in this region have been focused on the rehabilitation of the consequences of the war in this region, reconciliation, reintegration, and assistance in the development of democracy in each individual state. He therefore praised the Assembly’s decision to discuss the future of the peoples in this region and the challenges with which they are faced. “Their future,” he said, “is also the future of Europe.”





## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session One



Chairing the meeting, OSCE PA Treasurer Roberto Battelli, who has been serving as Special Representative on South East Europe since 2006, welcomed the focus that politicians were placing on the opportunities and perspectives of this region rather than just its challenges, noting that just over decade ago South East Europe was embroiled in terrible conflicts.

He added that if this roundtable referenced a number of these challenges and concerns, it does not mean we should lose sight of all the positive developments and achievements that we have witnessed over this past decade. In this context, Mr. Battelli expressed his conviction that this progress would have been impossible without the presence of the OSCE in the region.

“When we talk about the OSCE,” he said, “and in particular about its governmental structures, we are not just talking about an anonymous organization which pours money into development projects from a safe distance in Vienna – no, for the people in the region the OSCE is a very concrete factor on the ground, and they identify it with concrete names and faces.”

Mr. Battelli continued by listing the virtues that the Heads of field operations in South East Europe have demonstrated: a huge amount of empathy, the ability to refrain from patronizing, sensitivity and discretion, all while steadily assisting “in pushing the cart in the right direction.”

The chair then introduced the panel of seven Heads of OSCE field offices, for their first ever joint briefing of the PA.

### **Ambassador Sarunas Adomavicius, Head of Mission of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro**

Amb. Adomavicius reported on the positive developments in Montenegro, developments which he expected to lead to the opening of negotiations with the European Union. At the same time, however, organized crime and corruption remain pressing issues, he said.

The Montenegrin Ministry of Justice created a special investigations team to combat this phenomenon. Compared to the situation some years ago, the situation is much improved, Adomavicius said, but more remains to be done. Another challenge, he said, is the 16,000 refugees still in the country. The country has been applying a new strategy in order to resolve the issue of displaced persons, the ambassador reported.

### **Ambassador Eugen Wollfarth, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania**

Underlining that events in early 2011, which led to fatal clashes, demonstrated that foreign assistance is not a “one organization show,” Amb. Wollfarth said that in order to be successful, the OSCE also had to act jointly with the European Union and the United States. Part of the OSCE Presence in Albania’s work was engaging in shuttle diplomacy between the camps. According to Wollfarth, it will be decisive for the country to find a way for it to stand united in its efforts to make further progress towards European integration.

Focusing on gender equality in positions of political leadership, Amb. Wollfarth underlined

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session One



Werner Almhofer and Fletcher Burton



Enrique Horcajada and Eugen Wollfarth

that Albania had made progress in this regard and that Albania's PA delegation present in the room was all female.

Of course, he said, the promotion of good governance and the fight against corruption remain high on the agenda. Other challenges included the large amount of ammunition still stored in the country. On the positive side, Albania has done well in its fight against human trafficking.

### **Ambassador Fletcher Burton, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Amb. Burton noted that the OSCE was mentioned in the first sentence of the Dayton peace agreement which ended the war in Bosnia in 1995. The mission is now approaching its 16th anniversary. The OSCE, he pointed out, is the only international organization in the country with 14 field offices. Amb. Burton pointed out though that in times of shrinking resources, the enhanced EU presence is vital.

The challenges in the country are significant as a reconfiguration of national institutions, all of which are a result of Dayton, is needed.

The Ambassador noted that the gender balance among the staff, 85 per cent of whom are BiH nationals, is 50/50.

### **Ambassador Dimitrios Kypreos, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia**

Amb. Kypreos reported that his activities focus on institution-building, which includes close co-operation with the Serbian Parliament. The mission is also involved with issues of

national minorities and rule of law, especially judicial reform. Kypreos also underlined the importance of close co-operation of international actors, mentioning in particular the Council of Europe. The mission consists of two regional offices whose activities are crucial in conflict prevention and early warning. The mission has recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, which was attended by President Boris Tadic and high-level representatives of the OSCE.

### **Ambassador Werner Almhofer, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo**

Heading the OSCE's biggest field mission in terms of personnel and finances, Amb. Almhofer reported that his mission's 608 staff members from 35 participating States are conducting activities such as police training, supervision of elections, assistance in setting up political parties and building civil society – despite having its budget cut by 25 per cent.

A particular challenge for the mission is that they must work in a status-neutral manner, meaning that they should not be seen as recognizing Kosovo as an independent State, nor as a province of Serbia. With most OSCE participating States recognizing Kosovo's independence, but a strong minority viewing it as part of Serbia, the mission is mandated to continue strengthening Kosovo's institutions without providing recognition of its independence.

The OSCE is involved in the broader debate on election improvement, in particular after shortfalls in the last election.

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session One

### **Ambassador Ralf Breth, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje**

Amb. Breth noted that it would facilitate the mission's work if MPs who are visiting the country would more strongly emphasize with host officials the importance of the work done by the OSCE in the field. The work of the Mission to Skopje addresses issues of good governance and rule of law, consolidation of democratic institutions, reducing corruption, integration of non-majority communities, and the process of fostering accountability and transparency in the decision-making process.

The mission's 170 staff members utilize a variety of tools, including training and study visits, the production of training material in many fields, and court trial monitoring.

### **Ambassador Enrique Horcajada, Head of the Office in Zagreb**

Amb. Horcajada said that Croatia had made such important steps forward that downsizing and eventually closing the Office was now warranted, an issue that would be under discussion again at the end of the year. He also took up the issue of human trafficking, which continues to be a challenge in the region, with Croatia in particular becoming a country of destination for human trafficking victims.

### **Discussion**

In the ensuing lively debate, altogether 17 PA members from 14 countries and one observer from the European Parliament took the floor. Several focused mainly on the issue of human trafficking, others referred to the plight of refugees. Other speakers addressed the problems related to the Mission in Kosovo's status neutrality, KFOR-OSCE co-operation, land reform, the situation of women, assimilation of minorities, the situation of the Roma, and issues of organized crime, in particular connected to witness protection and the failure of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) to be effective in this area.



Robert Aderholt



Rabiyat Aslanova

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session Two



**R**iccardo Migliori, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, opened the second session of the conference, entitled “The State of Play: Economic Co-operation Between Countries in South-East Europe.”

### **Vladimir Gligorov, Professor at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies**

Prof. Gligorov gave a presentation on regional co-operation in the context of the current financial crisis. He noted that South East Europe heavily depends on foreign financial investment, thus producing persistent external imbalances and negative effects on the labour market, and restraining monetary and fiscal policies. As a result, the region is threatened by a low-growth recovery if not a prolonged stagnation. He argued that outside investments are relatively low because of the small size of the South East European markets.

Despite the enlargement of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), economies of scale failed to be established because of pervasive barriers to investment, which include political and economic hurdles and high risks, Gligorov said.

Moreover, Gligorov underlined persistent intraregional trade imbalances – with notable surpluses run by Croatia and Serbia – that threaten the stability of CEFTA. He explained that the region’s depressed labour market was a key problem and deplored the lack of regional co-operation in that matter. He



observed that the ongoing economic crisis has rendered the social situation explosive. Finally, Prof. Gligorov called for a policy dialogue mechanism to prevent regional co-operation from unwinding.

### **Ljerka Puljić, Executive Vice-President, Agrokor Group**

Ljerka Puljić offered an alternative view by giving the example of Agrokor, a Croatia-based farming and food company that has become a business leader in South East Europe. As such, Agrokor confirms that there is potential for successful economic co-operation within the region. Ms. Puljić explained that since the Balkan markets range from four to eight million people – a size comparable to a single major city in Western Europe – it is difficult for local companies to be competitive unless they grow regionally. Working toward that goal, Agrokor has aimed at adopting best practices and has made significant investments throughout the region.

Mrs. Puljić argued that only the expansion of production, as opposed to the development of exports, can bring economies of scale. She explained it was natural for local companies to invest in South East European markets because the region was once a unified market under Yugoslavia and because the region’s economies are complementary.

Nevertheless, Agrokor is also trying to increase competitiveness and expand exports outside of the South East European markets.

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session Two



Finally, Mrs. Puljić underlined that despite many barriers to investment, it is possible to overcome political obstacles and economic protectionism by embracing openness and transparency with local authorities. She also called on regional companies to pressure their governments to promote economic opportunities rather than political obstruction.

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

Goran Svilanović reported on the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. He stated that over the past year, the OSCE had advanced co-operation in terms of cross-border transportation, trade and investment, the fight against organized crime and trafficking, as well as in environmental matters.

He emphasized the importance of good governance and transparency as fundamental elements of economic growth, democracy, security and stability. Moreover, his Office has stepped up efforts to promote regional dialogue and ensure energy security, sustainability and transparency.

Mr. Svilanović explained that economic co-operation goes hand in hand with efforts to promote sustainable growth, which require a balance of social, economic, and environmental considerations both in public and private decision-making processes. In South East Europe, his Office is actively engaged in implementing the “UN Convention

on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters,” which links environmental rights and human rights and offers the proper tools for the OSCE to promote environmental governance.

Finally, Mr. Svilanović underlined the need for closer co-operation between parliamentarians and the OSCE, especially due to the role of MPs with regards to treaty ratifications, the endorsement of development agendas, the allocation of resources, and the drafting of national legislation.

### **Discussion**

In the following discussion, Members shared their views on energy co-operation and called on the OSCE to embrace a more active role to co-ordinate South East European energy policies. Some Members encouraged the adoption of a new energy framework both stimulating green energy investments and reducing dependence on external markets.

Other Members also mentioned the need to remove commercial and investment barriers and integrate the region’s transportation network to attract foreign investment and enable sustainable growth. Some said that ongoing conflicts, in particular between Kosovo and Serbia, render the region too risky for foreign investors. Others said that the EU is economically able but politically unwilling to bring South East Europe out of its current economic crisis.

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session Three



Wieslaw Tarka, Tina Schoen, Walburga Habsburg Douglas and Hidajet Biscevic

Chairing the third session, Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas opened by stressing the role of the OSCE in developments in South East Europe, a region where countries recently at war now share EU membership aspirations. She reflected on the role of the OSCE as a step on the ladder towards democracy, peace and stability, underlining that the OSCE would still have an important role to play in the region.

### **Paul Vandoren, Head of the EU Delegation to Croatia**

In his presentation, Amb. Vandoren highlighted the actions the EU has taken in providing financial and political support for the stabilization and development of South East Europe. He described the details of the accession process with particular reference to Croatia, as EU-Croatia accession negotiations had successfully concluded on 30 June 2011. Indeed, Croatia could in the future act as a “bridge-builder” to aspiring candidate countries in South East Europe, he said.

The Ambassador cited reconciliation as a key priority, saying that countries in the region need to work together to find a sustainable solution for refugees. Increased co-operation was needed with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), as well as greater efforts by national courts to prosecute war criminals.

National parties must also rise above ideological differences and be united in their commit-

ment to accession in order to gain the full trust of the EU and its Members, he said.

Mr. Vandoren commended the Croatian government’s recent parliamentary declaration on the promotion of European values in South East Europe. He noted the progress made by Serbia regarding its co-operation with the ICTY and its relations with Kosovo. He also highlighted several steps that needed to be taken by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Montenegro in progressing towards EU candidacy.

### **Wieslaw Tarka, Ambassador of Poland to Croatia**

Addressing the parliamentarians half-way through the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU, Ambassador Tarka defended the strengths of the European project and its role as a model for South East European countries seeking stability. He noted the many challenges facing the Euro-Atlantic area, including public debt, energy security, migration and border control, increased competition from other regions, and instability in the Middle East and North Africa. However, he said, the problems of today must not distract the EU from its future goals.

The Polish Presidency has been committed to maintaining the Union’s “openness” through the EU’s enlargement and neighbourhood policies. Ambassador Tarka emphasized that for South East European countries, “there is no other effective way to provide oneself with stability and development ... but the European

## Conference on Regional Development in South East Europe: Session Three



Croatian OSCE PA delegation: Tonino Picula, Frano Matusic, Romana Jerkovic, Mario Zubovic

way.” Furthermore, Croatia’s upcoming accession reflects that “the EU remains an attractive political project.”

Amb. Tarka highlighted the Visegrad group, encompassing the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as a model for “lasting and fruitful co-operation” in South East Europe. He also emphasized the need for political elites to avoid “policies based on national resentment” and for societies in the region to clearly demonstrate their willingness to take on reforms.

### **Hidajet Bišćević, Secretary General of the Regional Co-operation Council**

Secretary General Bišćević presented the steps he viewed as vital towards achieving “irreversible geopolitical stability and democratic uniformity” in the Western Balkans. He expressed his regret that, 20 years after the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia, the countries of the Western Balkans had still not fully achieved integration into the Euro-Atlantic security framework.

The Secretary General described the potential enlargement of the EU and NATO into South East Europe as “an investment into the security of Europe,” filling a volatile “strategic vacuum in the region.” He noted the success of Croatia in securing membership into these two bodies and expressed hope for the aspirations of other countries in the region. In order to achieve these objectives, he said, politicians need to immediately settle foreign policy disputes and embrace

a spirit of inclusiveness and co-operation, prioritizing long-term regional stability over short-term political goals.

Mr. Bišćević outlined four prerequisites for achieving geopolitical and democratic stability. First, he emphasized the need for a deep transformation of social patterns and political culture in South East Europe. Second, national governments should restore the people’s faith in public institutions. Third, economic development should be pursued through functional co-operation between countries, notably in the sectors of infrastructure, transport, and energy transport routes. Finally, the region should aim to become more self-reliant in providing for its own security and political stability in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, respectively.

### **Discussion**

In the ensuing debate, Members discussed the consequences of the Lisbon Treaty and the current economic crisis for the enlargement of the EU. Several participants stressed that while the push for membership and the reform process should come from the aspiring countries themselves, the EU needs to find a way to overcome its current internal problems and the economic crisis. Parliamentarians from a number of EU countries shared best practices focusing on the EU not only as an economic project, but as a community of values requiring rule of law, respect for human rights and implementation of democratic procedures.

## Special Presentation on “The Role of the OSCE in Conflict Resolution: Nagorno-Karabakh”



Joao Soares confers with the Co-Chairs before their presentation

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group made a special presentation on “The Role of the OSCE in Conflict Resolution: Nagorno-Karabakh” on 8 October. The special presentation was chaired by OSCE PA President Emeritus and Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Joao Soares.

In their presentation to parliamentarians, the Amb. Robert Bradke (United States), Amb. Igor Popov (Russian Federation), Bernard Fassier (France) outlined the progress of the OSCE Minsk Group in settling the protracted conflict and preventing any further escalation of violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Co-Chairs called on the parties to agree on a set of basic principles to form the foundation of a lasting settlement, incorporating the main principles from the Helsinki Final Act. They also recalled the statements made by their respective Heads of State at the last three G8 summits, in which they expressed the six holistic and non-negotiable elements that must be accepted by all parties towards an eventual settlement. The Co-Chairs emphasized that direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with mediation by the Minsk Group, was the only way to provide a meaningful solution to the conflict.

Following the presentations by the Co-Chairs, Amb. Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, provided an overview of his work in monitoring the line of contact. He described his mandate as essentially to be “the eyes and

ears of the Chairman-in-Office and the Co-Chairs when they are not in the region.” Outside of supporting the CiO and the Co-Chairs, Amb. Kasprzyk said he is mandated to support the parties, including through confidence-building measures to help mitigate mistrust, prejudice and hatred in order to help the sides realize “that peace is desirable and possible.”

Another important aspect of his mandate reporting, Meeting regularly with representatives of the parties at the level of minister and head of state, Amb. Kasprzyk endeavours to ensure that the Chairman-in-Office and Co-Chairs have up-to-the minute information on the dynamics likely to have an impact on the negotiations.

Following these keynote speeches, delegates from Armenia and Azerbaijan were also given an equal opportunity to speak, in which both sides expressed their continuing desire to find a fair settlement and bring about peace.

In the ensuing discussion, parliamentarians from throughout the OSCE region expressed their support for the work of the Minsk Group and their support for the Assembly to play a positive role in building confidence amongst the parties through parliamentary diplomacy. They highlighted the difficulties in interpreting international law and insisted that the top priority was to avoid war.

Both the PA President and the Special Representative were congratulated on their initiative in organizing the special presentation and MPs welcomed the constructive tone both parties in the conflict showed during the discussion.





## Mediterranean Forum



Meeting under the theme of “Making the Mediterranean a Safer Place: Creating an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice,” delegations from five Mediterranean Partners joined colleagues from 52 participating States for the OSCE PA’s Mediterranean Forum on 9 October.

### Opening remarks by Tonino Picula

OSCE PA Vice-President and Head of the Croatian Delegation Tonino Picula opened the Mediterranean Forum by noting that since the 2010 Forum in Palermo, the PA has been active all year long with the OSCE Partner countries. He referred to the debate on events in the Mediterranean held during the Winter Meeting in Vienna and the discussions and outcome of the Belgrade Annual Session.

Vice-President Picula described the tumult which began in Tunisia and has reverberated throughout the Mediterranean region as an event of historic magnitude comparable with the fall of communism twenty years ago.

Mr. Picula highlighted that the Assembly is currently engaging with Tunisia in a way that has never been done before, most notably by sending a full observation mission led by Vice-President Riccardo Migliori to monitor the elections to the National Constituent Assembly.

### Address by President Petros Efthymiou

President Efthymiou welcomed representatives from Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia to the Forum, adding that the upcoming

election observation in Tunisia shows the strong emphasis parliamentarians place on building partnerships, directed toward common goals, in the Mediterranean.

The President stressed that supporting freedom of expression means embracing new technology, keeping internet access open, and turning away from the repression of the past. In the field of security, he called for continuing bilateral dialogue and ensuring that OSCE security work in the southern Mediterranean is based on international co-operation aimed at eliminating the social and economic causes of instability, reinforcing democratization, and restoring inter-cultural dialogue.

President Efthymiou concluded by saying that the Mediterranean region is a special place with its own unique dynamics and security challenges. Therefore, the OSCE model of co-operative security should be proposed to but not imposed on the region.

### Keynote address by Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General of the OSCE

Ambassador Zannier briefed Members of the Assembly on the modalities of the OSCE’s engagement with its Mediterranean partners. He highlighted that the flexibility of its mechanisms as well as its inclusive membership puts the OSCE in a good position to contribute to making the Mediterranean a safer place in areas such as building democratic institutions, election support, media freedom, police reform, good governance and fighting corruption.

Mr. Zannier said that we have learned from

## Mediterranean Forum



Predrag Matvejevic

our own experience that democratic transitions are long-term processes, which can suffer from delays and setbacks, and that progress will require the joint effort of all sectors of society and the continuous support of the international community. In this regard he underlined that parliamentarians can play a useful role, notably by building awareness of the OSCE's values and experience.

**Keynote address by Eoin O'Leary,  
Ambassador of Ireland to the OSCE and  
Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the  
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation**

Ambassador O'Leary briefed participants on recent developments in the OSCE Mediterranean dimension. He outlined the historic engagement with the Mediterranean Partnership and the continuing interest of OSCE participating States, highlighting the work of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on confidence- and security-building measures, targeted exchanges of best practices in this field, assessment of environmental security challenges, migration issues, tolerance and non-discrimination.

**Keynote address by Predrag Matvejević,  
writer and expert in Mediterranean issues**

Mr. Matvejević began by acknowledging that the whole Mediterranean region is encountering difficulties, both in the north and in the south. He warned that the European Union is paying too little attention to the Mediterranean and that



Abderrezak Bouhara

the international initiatives that have flourished since the 1990s have not borne fruit. Listing some of the problems faced by the region, such as environmental degradation, poor organization, unlawful construction, corruption, migration from hinterland to the coast and illegal migration, Mr. Matvejević called for a renaissance of the Mediterranean inspired by the concepts of tolerance and mutual acceptance in opposition to all the divisions that are often too easily embraced by people living so close together.

**Discussion**

Parliamentary delegations from Algeria and Morocco as well as diplomats from Israel and Tunisia contributed to the debate and briefed participants on recent developments in their respective countries.

Abderrezak Bouhara reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to engage with the OSCE PA and the importance it attaches to meaningful dialogue. Abed Chkail discussed the continuing efforts of King Mohammed VI of Morocco to move his country further down the path of democratization and modernization.

Other participants called for closer co-operation with Mediterranean countries in order to promote democracy and strengthen international engagement in the region. Members also discussed the need for governments to speak out on human rights issues, expressed support for the role of women in North African politics, and urged timely progress toward a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians.

## Standing Committee



The Standing Committee consists of the 56 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, the Fall Meetings and the Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

President Petros Efthymiou opened the meeting of the Standing Committee, providing a brief overview of his work since the July 2011 Annual Session. He reported on his Presidential visit to Ukraine, as well as his speech on Mediterranean dialogue before the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Barcelona.

Assembly Treasurer Roberto Battelli issued an update on Assembly finances, reporting that the Assembly continues to function within the approved budget. Outside independent professional auditors have given a preliminary positive assessment for the fiscal year, Battelli reported. He thanked the Secretary General and Secretariat staff for their efficient and cost-effective management.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported on the ongoing work of the Secretariat, including preparation for upcoming observation missions in Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation. He reminded Members of the PA's Research Fellowship programme which provides university graduates work experience, while providing the Secretariat with important research and linguistic capacity.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier gave a comprehensive overview of the draft OSCE budget that he would present to the OSCE Permanent Council. He reported that he would be requesting a one per cent increase in the overall budget. The Secretary General recognized that there could be difficulties in gaining approval for such an increase, given austerity measures in many countries, but underlined that the additional resources are necessary to sustain the capability of the OSCE.

In the field of election observation, Vice-President Riccardo Migliori informed Members on the OSCE PA observation mission to Tunisia. He underlined the commitment of the PA to democracy in Tunisia and noted fruitful contacts with

the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas reported on the observation mission to Kyrgyzstan. She underlined the efforts of Kyrgyzstan to ensure free and fair elections and increased co-operation with the OSCE. She also noted the PA's close co-operation with the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

President Efthymiou reported on the OSCE PA observation mission to Russia. He expected full co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and stated that the OSCE PA will not accept restrictions on its observation mission.

Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas reported on the activities of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova. She noted that important developments since the July 2011 Annual Session had led to the resumption of the official 5+2 negotiations. However, she said it was regrettable that the Moldovan political stalemate renders parliamentary dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol impossible.

The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Dr. Hedy Fry, announced her intention to set up an informal advisory committee within the OSCE PA to assist women in the OSCE region. The Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli, gave an account of his field visit to Albania and Montenegro to promote cross-border co-operation.

The Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Joao Soares, The Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Joao Soares, announced plans for a future visit to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. He also underlined the importance of the upcoming OSCE PA Economic Conference that will be held in Batumi, Georgia in May 2012. The Special Representative for Migration, Kathleen Ferrier, underlined the work of the OSCE to develop efficient and sustainable migration management policies.





Philippe Nobile



The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly, and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and has a permanent staff of 18, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.

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Spencer Oliver



Deputy Secretary  
General  
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Gustavo Pallares



Special  
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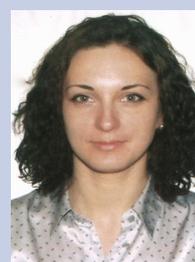
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The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is the parliamentary dimension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The primary task of the 320 member Assembly is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, has grown into a very active and esteemed member of the OSCE family.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

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

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

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



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