

# News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 121

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

5 October 2004

## C-i-O Passy and PA President Hastings meet in Sofia

On 3 October 2004 Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, paid a short visit to Sofia on the invitation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy. "We agreed with Mr. Hastings to appoint the Italian parliamentarian Giovanni Kessler a deputy of Mrs. Barbara Haering, who will lead the Election Observation Mission for the US elections", Solomon Passy announced. Other main subjects of discussion were the work of the OSCE, the Bulgarian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia, which will take place on 6th and 7th December 2004. OSCE PA President Hastings said he was very much impressed by the work of the Bulgarian OSCE Chairmanship. "Mr. Passy did a terrific job as an OSCE Chairman-in-Office and all Bulgarians should be proud with the remarkable results of his efforts", the US Congressman said.

OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Barbara Haering and Giovanni Kessler will pay a preliminary visit to the United States from 6 to 11 October. Programme Officer Tina Schøn and Press Councillor Jan Jooren will also participate in this visit. After the visit decisions will be taken about the deployment locations for the OSCE parliamentarians.



## OSCE PA Autumn Meetings in Rhodes

More than 130 parliamentarians from 43 participating States took part in the 2004 OSCE PA Fall Meetings, which were held in Rhodes, Greece, from 29 September - 1 October 2004. The two-day Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings consisted of a series of presentations and discussions focusing on trafficking in human beings as a security challenge, trafficking as a new form of slavery and international strategies in the fight against trafficking.

The Conference was addressed by prominent officials including Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE PA, Anna Benaki, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament and Panos Kammenos, Head of the Hellenic Delegation to the OSCE PA and Vice-President of the OSCE PA. The Conference was also addressed by senior OSCE officials and expert speakers including Helga Konrad, OSCE Special Representative on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, Marcin Swiecicki, OSCE Co-ordinator of OSCE

Economic and Environmental Activities, and Marjan Wijers, President of the EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean (1 October), consisted of a series of presentations and discussions focussing on fighting terrorism in the Mediterranean and economic security, trade and co-operation in the Mediterranean. Prominent speakers

included former PA President Bruce George, Special Representative for the Mediterranean, Jan Kubis, Secretary General of the OSCE and Janez Lenarcic, Chairman of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group.

*The International Secretariat is preparing a summary report on the Rhodes Fall Meetings, which will be available soon.*



## OSCE PA Standing Committee hears reports from OSCE Secretary General and PA Treasurer

In conjunction with the Fall Conference in Rhodes, the Assembly's Standing Committee discussed the general activities of the Assembly and followed up on the Assembly's Edinburgh Declaration. The Committee was briefed by OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis on the proposed OSCE Budget 2005, after which Members of the Committee put questions. The new PA Working Group on the Budget

also met for the first time and agreed to thoroughly review the OSCE Budget proposal and prepare comments for the Permanent Council.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Treasurer Jerry Grafstein reported on PA activities and indicated that the Assembly will have worked within its annual approved budget for the twelfth consecutive fiscal year.