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## Parliamentarians Debate Fight Against Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe



From left to right: Dr. Erhard Busek, Mr. Tony Lloyd, Professor Ognian Gerdjikov, Mr. Adrian Severin, Mr. Solomon Passy and Mr. Ignasi Guardans.

A Parliamentary Conference on “Fight Against Organized Crime in South Eastern Europe” took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 11-12 November 2004. The Conference was held under the auspices of the “Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact” and it was co-hosted by the OSCE PA and the Bulgarian Parliament.

Adrian Severin (Romania), former President of the OSCE PA, addressed the opening session as the Personal Representative of President Alcee L. Hastings. Other speakers at the opening session were Professor Ognian Gerdjikov, Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament, Solomon Passy, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Tony Lloyd (UK), Vice-President of the PA of the Council of Europe, Ignasi Guardans (Spain), Member of the European Parliament and Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact.

Giovanni Kessler (Italy), Vice-Presi-

dent of the OSCE PA, introduced the theme of the “Fight Against Organized Crime – National Legislation and Challenges to Legislators”. Other representatives of the OSCE PA included Arta Dade, Head of the Albanian Delegation, who spoke on the “Fight against Organized Crime – International Cooperation”, Hugo Coveliers, Head of the Belgian Delegation, who spoke on the “Fight Against Corruption” and Tosho Peikov, Head of the Bulgarian Delegation.

The conference agreed on a joint declaration, which was introduced by Adrian Severin at the closing session. (Full text available on the OSCE PA website) In the declaration the participants of the Conference call for increased cooperation in the fight against organized crime in South Eastern Europe. They express their support to the efforts of the Stability Pact and appeal to all States concerned to ratify the relevant international conventions. In

particular, the declaration emphasizes the responsibilities of legislators and calls for harmonization of national legislation and effective parliamentary overights of the executive.

The declaration also deals with the future activities of the Troika. It calls for the parliaments of South Eastern Europe to intensify their regional cooperation and take a more active role in the parliamentary dimension to the Stability Pact. It also suggests that meetings of specialized parliamentary committees of Parliaments of South Eastern Europe take place in order to tackle common issues.

The Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact is composed of three parliamentary institutions: OSCE PA, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. In 2004 the OSCE PA holds the rotating chairmanship. In 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will be in the Chair.



Giovanni Kessler



Arta Dade



Hugo Coveliers



Adrian Severin