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 Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Marcin Swieczki, 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 focusing 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.

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.

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