

# News from Copenhagen

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## Assembly Leaders Prepare for Washington, DC



Convening in the Danish Parliament, the OSCE PA Expanded Bureau met on April 18 to prepare for the Assembly's Annual Session in Washington, DC. The Assembly's Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Officers of the three General Committees met under the Chairmanship of President Alcee L. Hastings. The Expanded Bureau was warmly welcomed by the Head of the Danish Delegation, Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, who expressed his hopes that the current crisis faced by the OSCE Governmental side would soon be overcome.

In his opening remarks, President Hastings noted the disturbing situation currently faced by the OSCE in Vienna. Considering the difficulties faced by the Organization, the focus of the upcoming Session in Washington, '30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead', is very timely. Mr. Hastings remarked that the OSCE region is increasingly faced by non-traditional security threats, which pose new challenges and require consideration of new approaches. He also lauded the OSCE's active work in combating intolerance, and noted the contribution that the Parliamentary Assembly is making in this regard.

Regarding future work, the President also spoke of a colloquium, being organized jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, to consider ways of strengthening the OSCE. Meeting in June, this colloquium will bring together OSCE experts, diplomats and politicians to complement the OSCE Eminent Person's Group appointed by the Chairman-in-Office.

The Expanded Bureau also heard a Special Report by Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) on recent developments in Kyrgyzstan, and on the results of the recent election observation there and in Moldova. In his report, Mr. Kiljunen offered a number of ideas on how the OSCE PA can support developments and democratization efforts in Kyrgyzstan.

The Rapporteurs of the three General Committees then presented their draft reports and resolutions for the upcoming Annual Session. Pieter DeCrem (Belgium), Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia), and Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), briefed on their reports and draft resolutions, which focus on the central theme for the Washington Session. Members extensively discussed

the draft reports, and provided feedback on their content to the Rapporteurs. The final drafts will be completed shortly and forwarded to all delegations.

The Assembly Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada), reported to the Expanded Bureau that the Assembly continues to function efficiently and within budget. He praised the International Secretariat's financial management by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and his Financial Assistant, Per-Henrik Dürr.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver gave an overview of current activities by the International Secretariat, mentioning the *News from Copenhagen* as a tool for staying up-to-date on Assembly activities. The Secretary General informed the Expanded Bureau that he had appointed Tina Schøn as Deputy Secretary General. He mentioned work by the International Secretariat on compiling a 'Members Directory' of all OSCE PA parliamentarians. The Expanded Bureau was also informed of preparations for upcoming activities of the Assembly.

Members were also briefed on the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives. Supplementary items on several of the issues addressed by these Members are expected to be presented at the Annual Session in July.

Members of the Expanded Bureau also discussed proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure, vigorously exchanging views on whether or not any changes should be considered.

