

## Experts Meeting on the Future of the OSCE



On 5-6 June 2005, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs jointly held a colloquium for OSCE experts at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC. At the invitation of the Head of the Swiss Foundation and the President of the OSCE PA, 17 experts on OSCE matters, including Ministers, Ambassadors and Members of the OSCE PA, submitted written contributions which were subsequently discussed at the colloquium. The colloquium was part of a project, undertaken by the OSCE PA to support and give impetus to the work of the OSCE Eminent Persons Group appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel. The latter Group was mandated by the C-i-O to give new impetus to political dialogue and provide strategic vision for the Organization in the years to come.

Mr. Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE PA, chaired the meeting in Washington. The Head of the Swiss Foundation, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, was represented by Ambassador Theodore Winkler, Director of DCAF. In addition, the following experts participated in the colloquium:

Ambassador Jacques Andréani (France), Ambassador Franz Ceska (Austria), Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati (Hungary) and Congressman Steny Hoyer, Head of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability. Ambassador Ulrik Federspiel (Denmark) and Professor William Zartman (Johns Hopkins University) were present as observers. Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann and OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver served as Co-Rapporteurs assisted by Tina Schøn from the OSCE PA International Secretariat, and Nicolas Kaczorowski from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

The debate focused primarily on the current challenges faced by the OSCE. Numerous suggestions were presented on how to overcome these challenges and strengthen the Organization. The Co-Rapporteurs are currently preparing their report on the colloquium, which will be sent to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. It will also be submitted to the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability which will discuss the report before Committee Chairman Steny Hoyer addresses the Plenary during the upcoming Annual Session in Washington. The group may also meet again in the Autumn.

## Press briefing in Washington on the upcoming PA Annual Session

On 3 June, President Alcee Hastings and Secretary General Spencer Oliver held a press briefing for members of the foreign press based in Washington and New York. The aim of the briefing, which was held at the Foreign Press Centre, was to inform the media representatives about the upcoming Annual Session and to provide information about the Assembly as well as the programme, the preliminary list of participants and the Draft Resolutions of the three General Committees. Following the briefing, Congressman Hastings and Secretary General Oliver answered questions on a range of issues related to the work of the Assembly.

