

General Overview

More than 300 parliamentarians representing OSCE's 55 participating States took part in the 11th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held from 6 to 10 July 2002 in Berlin's Reichstag building, seat of the German Federal Parliament. German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer addressed the Inaugural Session and paid tribute to the importance of the Assembly by stating:

"The OSCE has ceased to be a conference of governments a long time ago and has become an international organization which deeply penetrates our societies. Where governments come upon their limits, parliaments can often act with greater independence. During the ten years the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has existed it has shown how important impulses and support can be given to the work of the Organization...The Parliamentary Assembly has at its disposal a political potential which should be further utilized in the Organization."

The parliamentarians also heard welcoming remarks by the Speaker of the German Bundestag, Wolfgang Thierse and presentations by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office António Martins da Cruz, along with the OSCE

Secretary General Jan Kubis and the heads of the various OSCE Institutions. Following a well established tradition, all senior OSCE Officials took questions from the floor. A special Prize Ceremony was dedicated to Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet and Austrian Journalist Friedrich Orter, winners of the 7th OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy.

During meetings from 7-9 July the three General Committees of the Assembly considered reports and draft resolutions dealing with the political, economic and human rights aspects of the central theme of the Session: "Confronting terrorism: a global challenge in the 21st Century". On the final day of the Session, the Assembly unanimously adopted the Berlin Declaration, focusing on combating terrorism. The parliamentarians also adopted several resolutions addressing issues of priority concern in the OSCE area, ranging from the situation in Belarus to education programmes for Roma. At the closure of the Session, Mr. Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom) was elected for a one year term as the new President of the OSCE PA. He succeeds Mr. Adrian Severin, who had served the Assembly for the past two years. In addition three new Vice-Presidents were elected and key positions in the three General Committees were filled.



Meeting of the Standing Committee



The Standing Committee, which met before the opening of the Annual Session, adopted the 2002/2003 budget as presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Jerry Grafstein (Canada). It was decided to postpone a decision on seating the Belarussian Delegation until the Winter Meeting in February 2003. The Heads of Delegation heard reports about the latest OSCE PA activities, including the 2002 election monitoring mission in Ukraine, and the work of the Ad Hoc Committees on Transparency and Accountability and on Abkhazia. The Standing Committee was also informed about the upcoming

Conference on the Mediterranean in Spain (2-4 October 2002) and the proposed Trans-Asian Forum. The Standing Committee decided to refer an urgent matter regarding Abkhazia, presented by the Georgian Delegation, to the Plenary Session. An urgent item on gender issues was also forwarded to the Plenary Session. The Follow-Up Report on the Paris Declaration, produced by the International Secretariat, was also discussed and it was proposed that it should be an ongoing monitoring project for discussion at the Winter Meeting each year.





Opening Session

The Inaugural Plenary Session included welcoming remarks by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Adrian Severin, followed by addresses by the President of the German Bundestag, Mr. Wolfgang Thierse, German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, Mr. Joschka Fischer and by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Antonio Martins da Cruz, who took questions from the floor.

President Adrian Severin opened the Eleventh Annual Session by welcoming the members of the Parliamentary Assembly and extending the collective gratitude of the OSCE PA to the city of Berlin and the German Bundestag for their hospitality in hosting the event.

In his address, President Severin outlined his activities and political objectives as President of the OSCE PA. He stated that his main aims had been to promote the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, encourage a closer and more active relationship with the leadership of the governmental side of the OSCE, increase responsibilities on a number of political issues, and promote leadership in election monitoring missions. Additionally, he pointed out that, during his term of presidency, he had visited a substantial number of the participating States and all of the OSCE Field Missions.

Regarding the co-operation of the Assembly with the governmental dimension of the OSCE, the President emphasised that this relationship must be based on the principles of communication, consultation, co-ordination, co-operation and confidence. According to President Severin, it is within this spirit that the Assembly has been negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding between the two dimensions of the OSCE. On the role of national parlia-



ments, President Severin encouraged delegates to debate Assembly decisions in their own parliaments. President Severin ended by expressing gratitude to all those who had generously and fully supported him during the two terms of his presidency.

Mr. Wolfgang Thierse, President of the German Bundestag, welcomed the delegates and observers to the Annual Session and pointed out that the transition towards a united Germany was shaped and influenced in crucial ways by the Helsinki process. At the same time, he drew attention to the fact that during the 27 years since the Helsinki Final Act, the 55 OSCE participating States have moved a significant step closer to achieving the ultimate objective of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and social justice.

President Thierse continued by addressing the question of the Organization's future and referred to four important issues in this regard: enhancing the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE; improving co-operation with other European and international institutions; strengthening non-military aspects of security policy; and verifying the degree to which the CSCE/OSCE model can be transferred to other conflict regions. Specifically, a particular priority for the Parliamentary Assembly is to strengthen the OSCE's democratic legitimacy, and try to identify ways in which to make the Organization more effective and transparent without forfeiting the objective of including all participating States to the greatest extent possible.

Regarding the theme of the Eleventh Annual Session, President Thierse emphasized that the OSCE can make an important contribution to the prevention of terrorism through close cooperation with other international organiza-





tions, notably the United Nations. He stressed that keeping a balance between combating terrorism effectively and respecting the principles of freedom and democracy is an integral part of the role of the OSCE.

Finally, President Thierse introduced to the Assembly the Charter of the Duties of States, which was debated at the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of European Assemblies in Zagreb from 9 to 11 May 2002. He explained that the Charter is intended to establish a moral obligation to be undertaken voluntarily by States in order to respect and protect the core of human rights and fundamental values.

Mr. Joschka Fischer, German Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, opened his speech by stressing the importance of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Istanbul European Security Charter as documents that refer to the major developments which have transformed Europe during the past quarter of a century.

Mr. Fischer pointed out that the OSCE has set itself high reaching and ambitious standards with regard to human rights, the issue of minorities, the freedom of the media and the implementation of free and fair elections. In order to live up to these standards, he emphasised the necessity of persistent efforts and critical follow-up. In this respect, democratically elected Parliaments are fundamental for evaluating the development of democracy within a State, while simultaneously transmitting democratic norms and values into its society. Mr Fischer emphasized the importance of the Parliamentary Assembly within the OSCE and advocated further utilization of the Assembly's political potential in the Organization.

Regarding the issue of terrorism, Mr. Fischer stated that the root causes of the matter need to be addressed, such as political, religious and cultural oppression. This is where

the strength of the OSCE lies: in its comprehensive political approach coupled with high ambitions and standards. Human rights must not be compromised, however, and legal tools must be strengthened in this respect. Mr. Fischer also referred to the International Criminal Court, which Germany fully supports, and expressed his hope that all OSCE participating States would be equally supportive.

Finally, Mr. Fischer stressed the need for the OSCE to utilize the broad variety of instruments it has developed over the years to ensure peace and stability in the whole European region, and called upon the Parliamentarians to promote the Organisation in their respective countries so as to strengthen the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly.

H.E. António Martins da Cruz, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, summarized the initiatives of the Portuguese Chairmanship with particular reference to OSCE initiatives in the fight against terrorism. He highlighted the Bucharest Plan of Action and the Bishkek Programme of Action, as well as the appointment of a Senior Police Advisor and the establishment of an Action Against Terrorism Unit. Attention was also drawn to the appointment of a Personal Representative for Preventing and Combating Terrorism, Mr Jan Troejborg, and to four key areas that have been identified in the contribution of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism. These areas encompass border control, policing, anti-trafficking (drugs and small arms) and combating organised crime. The Chairman-in-Office acknowledged that the OSCE has a valuable contribution to make in the global fight against terrorism. Yet, at the same time, co-operation with other organizations and institutions must be an essential part in this process. From this point of view, the High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Combat of Terrorism held in Lisbon on 12 June 2002 was noted as an example of this co-operation. In accordance with the agreement on the need for appropriate follow-up to this meeting, Portugal has offered to host a second meeting in the same format next year. Additionally, the Chairmanship has also started work on the proposal for a Charter for Preventing and Combating Terrorism to be adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in December.

Mr. Martins da Cruz also elaborated on the co-operation with the Assembly. He recognized that the first Winter Meeting of the Assembly, which was held last February in Vienna, clearly revealed the Assembly's proactive role as a central Institution of the OSCE, and that the enhancement of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE is well underway. Reference was made to the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the governmental side and the parliamentary side of the Organization.





Second Plenary Session



During the Second Plenary Session on the Opening Day the parliamentarians heard presentations by various guest speakers, followed by the traditional panel of Senior OSCE Officials who took questions from the floor. The Second Plenary was concluded by the Prize Ceremony dedicated to the winners of the 2002 OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy. After the Plenary the Meeting of the Women Parliamentarians was held.

Guest Speakers

The Second Plenary Session was addressed by Mr. Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mr. Renzo Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament (EP), Mr. Wolfgang Behrendt, Vice-President of the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) and Ms. Outi Ojala, President of the Nordic Council. Topics addressed ranged from the role of parliaments in the fight against terrorism to the International Criminal Court as an important tool in this fight.

Senior OSCE Officials

The Second Plenary continued with addresses by senior OSCE Officials. **Mr. Jan Kubiš, Secretary General of the OSCE**, noted that since he last spoke

to the OSCE PA in February, there has been a marked improvement in the institutional management of the OSCE. He stated that the budget had been passed, allowing work and reforms to proceed. He drew attention to the special meeting of the Economic Forum on terrorism and highlighted the importance of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering. On the topic of reform within the OSCE, he pointed to the development of a new set of financial and staff regulations which he hoped would soon be approved by the Permanent Council. Mr. Kubiš expressed his wish to expand dialogue with partner states and to improve co-operation with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He declared that the Salzburg Retreat in February was one of the most important developments in the OSCE-OSCE PA relationship, and hoped that a draft Memorandum of Understanding would be signed. Subsequent to his presentation, Mr. Kubiš answered a number of questions from the plenary.

Mr. Gerard Stoudmann, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), expressed his sadness that this was his last address to the OSCE PA. On the subject



of the fight against terrorism, he emphasised that the credibility of the fight would be undermined if it was used as a pretext to tighten the grip on religious groups and NGOs. He noted that some countries are adopting national legislation and non-transparent court procedures that are seriously undermining human rights standards. Foreign nationals, opposition groups and NGOs are particularly susceptible to unfair treatment. There is a need for more, not less, respect for human rights in the aftermath of 11 September, he added.

Mr. Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), introduced his presentation with a profile of Dr. Joseph Goebbels, who misused radio and photography for political purposes in Nazi Germany, as the first prominent 'media terrorist'. He argued that there is a need to be decisive in fighting censorship and attacks on the media. He noted that the Office of the RFOM initially tried to refer to 'criminal terror' instead of the subjective term 'terrorism', but that the latter now has become an accepted international normative notion. He highlighted the "mobile.culture.container project" as a significant example and model for post-conflict rehabilitation. In the subsequent question and answer session, Mr. Duve called upon the Italian Berlusconi Government to deal with the problems of conflicts of interests on media issues, and criticized the state-level interference with the private media in Italy.



Mr. Rolf Ekeus, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), reported that it was important to identify inter-ethnic tensions to combat a divisive environment from which terrorism can transpire. He cautioned that xenophobic rhetoric is becoming part of the mainstream rather than the fringe. Mr. Ekeus underlined that anti-discrimination efforts were relevant and indeed vital across the OSCE region, and that the HCNM is willing to support legislative draft reform processes. He argued that integration of returning refugees and persons subject to population transfers is an important aspect of reconciliation initiatives.

Dr. Marcin Swiecicki, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, outlined the direct and indirect economic facets of terrorism. The direct aspects included the FATF on money laundering, which is based firmly on the forty recommendations made by the World Bank ten years ago. Mr. Swiecicki underscored that the indirect aspects were the lack of opportunities and options in a given area. He noted that a new divide in Europe was developing - between those countries which are catching up to EU standards, and those which are not. He maintained that EU enlargement will pay off and that without a root-cause approach, the fight against terrorism will be deficient.

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was held on the opening day of the Berlin Session and was chaired by Dr. Rita Süßmuth (Germany), Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Three speakers reported respectively on the gender issue in the OSCE PA, in the OSCE as a whole, and on the special consequences of terrorism for women. The final outcome of the meeting was that the gender issue should be brought to the Plenary for discussion in the future.

The Meeting was addressed by **Ms. Paula Kokkonen, OSCE PA Special Representative of the President on Gender Issues**. Ms. Kokkonen pointed out that the gender issue needs a permanent place on the agenda of the OSCE, and highlighted that participating parliaments should try to reach a better balance of sexes when appointing national delegations. She noted the progress that has been made in the OSCE on gender issues and presented the participants with a questionnaire on attitudes vis-à-vis gender equality in order to facilitate the gathering of information on gender developments on a regular basis.

The Gender Adviser at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Ms. Beatrix Attinger Colijn, reported on her work in the OSCE Secretariat in the context of the theme of this year's Annual Session. Ms. Colijn shared her concern about the way in which the gender issue have been placed in the background since the events of 11 September 2001. This, it was explained, is a worrying trend as the progress made in the gender sphere should be upheld. Ms Colijn concluded by pointing out that the gender imbalance in the OSCE, including the absence of women in high-level positions, is not in line with the values that the OSCE aims to promote.

Ms. Sonja Zimmermann, Gender Adviser at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), presented a summary of gender related work carried out by the ODIHR. She indicated that the ODIHR focuses on the promotion of the gender issue in the Caucuses and Central Asia, while it mainly has a sup-

porting role in South East Europe where it works in collaboration with other international organizations. In these regions, the ODIHR concentrates on legal development in relation to equal rights and opportunity legislation. It was also emphasized that the ODIHR aims to introduce a Gender Adviser in each of these regions, and also hopes to expand beyond these regions in the future.

The final speaker was special guest, **Ms. Citha Maass, Senior Research Associate at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs**. Ms. Maass stressed that the topic of gender related terrorism, though it may not be an entirely new concept, has not been examined very closely. She underlined that in the future analysis of this issue, it is important to focus on the twin problems of terrorism and violence coupled with the ways in which women suffer as a consequence. Ms. Maass looked at Afghanistan, Pakistan and India in order to provide examples. She concluded by stating that women must be empowered in all fields of economic, social and political rights. Furthermore, the only effective way to strengthen the support of women and the gender issue within societies is to reform the structure of the entire state so as to eliminate the use of intimidation, aggression and oppression against women.

In the ensuing discussion it was recognized that there should be a gender representative amongst the members of the Standing Committee, who would be responsible for including the gender issue in the Committee discussion. Female members of the OSCE PA were encouraged to run for a variety of positions within the Assembly, and it was also suggested that a working group should be set up in order to introduce a Prize for Gender Promotion in the OSCE. Finally, the recommendation was made to update the OSCE PA Report on the Gender Balance in the OSCE annually so that important information can be gathered for analysis.





The OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy

The Special Prize Ceremony, held during the Opening Day of the Berlin Session, included presentations by Assembly President, Mr. Adrian Severin, the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media, Mr. Freimut Duve and by Mr. Gert Weisskirchen, Chair of the Third General Committee. The Ceremony was concluded with acceptance speeches by the prize winners

President Adrian Severin opened the Prize Ceremony by expressing great pride in introducing the winners of the 2002 OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy - the seventh award to be presented since 1996. He thanked the donors - Bertelsmann from Germany, Bonnier Group from Sweden, Southam Inc. from Canada, Schibsted ASA of Norway and The George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation of Cyprus for backing the Prize. President Severin announced that, the Bureau had decided to award the Seventh Prize to the TV-journalists Friedrich Orter from Austria and Pavel Sheremet from Belarus.

Mr. Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, offered his congratulations to the winners and underlined the importance of freedom of the media. He highlighted the good work that can be channelled through the Prize, and cited the example of 1999 winner Christiane Amanpour, who donated the prize money to a project helping young journalists in Kosovo. However, Mr. Duve also drew the audience's attention to continuing and disturbing violations of freedom of the media in the OSCE region. In particular, he appealed to Russia to issue a pardon for Grigory Pasko, a journalist detained in a labour camp in Siberia.

Mr. Gert Weisskirchen, Chair of the 3rd Committee, introduced the 2002 winners and gave a brief overview of



their work. He noted that one was from Eastern Europe and the other from Western Europe, and that what unified them was their shared passion for their work and refusal to stay silent. Mr. Orter has reported on events in the Balkans and most recently in Afghanistan with comprehensive impartiality and in the midst of great danger. He has consistently insisted on proper and open reporting on Afghanistan and thus promoted OSCE values to a larger audience. As editor of the *Gazeta*, Mr. Sheremet is a well-known and respected journalist in Belarus. He has reported on allegations of corruption, misuse of power and the darker sides of Lukashenko's regime, and has thus been made a personal enemy of the President. Both journalists have reported under difficult conditions and overcome many obstacles to achieve their work, Mr. Weisskirchen concluded.

As the first of the Prize winners to speak, **Mr. Friedrich Orter** noted the significance and peculiarity of awarding two TV journalists rather than newspaper journalists. He argued that journalism, as an occupation, means to interpret human dignity, not to exploit it - and that providing information is a responsibility that should be taken seriously. He underlined that this is what drives journalists in the face of persecution and obstructivism. **Mr. Pavel Sheremet** began his acceptance speech by saying that a career in banking had been his dream as a young man. However, his expectations of a free and democratic Belarus had turned into disillusionment and fear, and he thus took a different path. He hoped for an end to the consistent attempts in Belarus to return to its totalitarian past. He noted with appreciation that a select few are continuing to demand answers and accountability, and thanked the audience for supporting his work.











General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Yiorgos Lillikas (Cyprus), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security (First Committee) dealt with a wide range of topics. The Committee received an introduction to the general theme of combating terrorism in an address by Ms. Brigitte Schulte, German Secretary of State for Defence. Ms. Schulte discussed the role of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism, as well as German participation in the anti-terror coalition. The Committee then debated the First Committee Draft Resolution and its amendments. Debate on this topic included discussion on participation in the International Criminal Court, the history of terrorism, and states' support for terrorists.

First Committee Report and Resolution

In introducing his Report and Resolution, Rapporteur Mr. van den Doel (the Netherlands) urged members to take a practical approach to the topic. He said that the Organisation should focus on the areas in which the OSCE has a comparative advantage, and not attempt to get involved in all aspects of combating terrorism. He had consciously avoided attempting to formulate a definition of terrorism, in order to enable the Draft Resolution to focus on concrete measures. Another issue on which he particularly urged action was regulating the export of dual-use goods, as yet, not an issue dealt with by the OSCE.

After much debate on the Draft Resolution and the proposed amendments, the Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Committee and subsequently by the Assembly. The Resolution calls for action by States to strengthen legislative measures to fight terrorism, and encourages international information exchanges to improve counter-terrorist measures. Recognizing the connection between crime and terrorism, the Resolution calls for strengthening security measures, including policing and border monitoring, as well as the protection of stocks of dangerous nuclear, biological and chemical materials. Greater arms control and export controls are encouraged. Other specific measures call for establishing contact with parliamentarians from the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the establishment of a trust fund to facilitate the fight against terrorism.

Supplementary Items

After a preliminary consideration of a proposed supplementary item on peace in the Middle East, the item was not moved, and discussion on the item did not take place. Members expressed their intention to raise the issue at a later date in order to improve the chances of reaching a broad consensus.

The Committee engaged in vigorous debate on the supplementary item on Belarus. This Resolution, as passed, calls on the Belarussian authorities to live up to their OSCE commitments, and urges Belarussian co-operation with the OSCE - particularly with the Advisory and Monitoring Group. During discussion, members stressed the need for a positive approach to the situation, while recognising Belarus' poor human rights record. The discussion, which included a representative from Belarus, saw strong statements, both for and against the Resolution.

The supplementary item on Moldova stresses the need for dialogue among the parties involved to achieve a resolution of the situation, and reconfirms the continued commitment of the OSCE PA to aid in these efforts. In passing the Resolution, the Committee appealed to the Transdniestrian leadership to co-operate with Russian authorities and the OSCE, and to release from prison the remaining members of the Ilascu Group. During discussion on the supplementary item, much attention was paid to the work of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Moldova, as well as other issues such as criminality and the territorial integrity of Moldova.

Election of Officers

The Committee meeting concluded with the election of the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Göran Lennmarker (Sweden)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Panyiotis Kammenos (Greece)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Clifford Lincoln (Canada)



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

The four sessions of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee) were chaired by Mr. Oleg Bilorus (Ukraine). Dr. Werner Müller, Minister of Economy of the Federal Republic of Germany, addressed the Committee and answered questions from the floor. The Rapporteur, Ms. Barbara Haering (Switzerland), presented her Report entitled "Preventing Terrorism: Challenges to the Economic Dimension of the OSCE", which was followed by a general debate. The final item on the Agenda entailed discussing the supplementary item on Southeast Europe.

Second Committee Report and Resolution

Dr. Werner Müller welcomed the success of the OSCE process, pointing out the importance of its economic dimension. He further stressed the role of Germany in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe through both its human and financial assistance, as well as its bilateral economic relations with OSCE participating States. During the subsequent question and answer session it was highlighted that economic development, reached through increased co-operation as opposed to development aid, could foster the democratization process in Southeast European countries.

Ms. Barbara Haering then presented her Report in which she addressed the economic causes of terrorism. Ms. Haering stressed the difficulties in finding a common definition for terrorism. She based her description of terrorist acts on three main features: the existence of a threat of systematic violence; organized perpetrators who co-operate according to a plan; and the pursuance of political, economic or social aims by these perpetrators. In her address, Ms. Haering further highlighted the eventuality of terrorist attacks on sensitive civil infrastructures such as telecommunication networks or transport facilities, and the necessity to develop measures for the protection of these sensitive spots from any threats. In order to deal with these threats, the Rapporteur stated that their root causes should be identified and combated. Because many of these threats are related

to economic disparities induced by globalization, it was further suggested that international actors should increase social and economic justice and equality. The Rapporteur of the Second Committee stressed that poverty, however, does not justify terrorism. Rather, it is one of the factors that should be tackled in order to prevent terrorism and the OSCE should therefore strengthen its economic dimension.

During the ensuing general debate, it was also agreed that the sources financing terrorism should be combated, primarily by fighting international money laundering.

Supplementary Items

Following the general debate on the Report and Draft Resolution, the Second Committee dealt with a supplementary item on Southeast Europe. The adopted Resolution on Southeast Europe highlights the problem of organized crime in the region, which is severely hampering peace and stability. The Resolution urges all countries in the region to make greater efforts to both enact and enforce laws punishing those responsible for enslaving women and children in the sex trade, as well as to protect and assist those victimized in this trade. The Resolution also calls upon the international community to remain actively engaged in the region while encouraging governments, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo, to assume greater responsibility for public affairs and administration.

Election of Officers

The Committee meeting concluded with the election of the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Oleg Bilorus (Ukraine)
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Monika Griefahn (Germany)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Leonid Ivachenko (Russia)



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

The four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (Third Committee) were chaired by Mr. Gert Weisskirchen (Germany). The Report and Draft Resolution were presented by the Committee Rapporteur, Mr. Svend Robinson (Canada). The Committee was addressed by the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Richard von Weizsäcker, who underlined the importance of combating the root causes of terrorism. He wished the parliamentarians success in strengthening the function of the Parliamentary Assembly, and expressed hope for a greater impact of its resolutions, which he viewed to be of great value to the development and maintenance of human rights and democracy.

Third Committee Report and Resolution

The Rapporteur presented the three themes considered in his Report. Firstly, he addressed the question concerning the definition of terrorism. Mr. Robinson pointed out that there is no universally accepted definition of terrorism. He underlined that terrorism can encompass the acts of both individuals and states. He also stressed that the definition of terrorism should focus not only on the objectives, but also on the means used by terrorists, which the Rapporteur deemed to be unacceptable whatever the motives. His Report recommended the definition of terrorism expert, Alex Schmidt, who defines acts of terrorism as a peacetime equivalent of war crimes. Secondly, the Rapporteur addressed the challenges presented to the OSCE post September 11. Mr. Robinson pointed out that some states have used the fight against terrorism as an excuse for the implementation of repressive legislation, as well as the undermining of fundamental human rights and civil liberties. The third part of the Report was dedicated to the methods needed to combat terrorism while preserving and strengthening human rights and civil liberties. In this respect, the Rapporteur stressed the role of prevention in particular. The Committee then voted on the draft resolution, which was later adopted by the Plenary.

The Resolution calls upon the OSCE participating States to ratify the conventions pertaining to human rights and arms control to which they are signatories. Additionally, the Resolution urges the participating States to honour their international commitments, and to ratify the statute for the International Criminal Court. Key parts of the Resolution rejects attempts by some governments to use the fight against terrorism as a means to undermine human rights and civil liberties; it emphasizes the need to work for gender equality by strengthening the role of women in PA delegations; it urges the participating States to address poverty, promote dialogue, tolerance and education; and it calls for enhanced co-operation with other inter-parliamentary organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Supplementary Items

The Committee also considered several Supplementary Items, which were later adopted by the Plenary. The title of the Supplementary Item on Trafficking in Women was amended, with the consent of the main sponsor, to "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children". The Item notes that trafficking affects all three dimensions of the OSCE, calls upon OSCE participating States to seek an end to all forms of trafficking in human beings, and urges them to ratify relevant international documents such as the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Item also requests OSCE participating States to adopt counter measures against trafficking in human beings and to adopt and implement relevant legislation.

The Supplementary Item on Anti-Semitic Violence condemns the escalation of anti-Semitic violence in the OSCE region, and calls upon participating States to ensure law enforcement through the investigation of anti-Semitic acts, the apprehension of perpetrators, and the initiation of appropriate criminal prosecutions and judicial proceedings. It also encourages delegates of the OSCE PA to condemn all manifestations of anti-Semitic violence.

The Supplementary Item on Human rights and the War on Terrorism points out that measures capable of restricting human rights and fundamental freedoms in response to terrorism must respect international law and relevant OSCE commitments. The Supplementary Item stresses that the prohibition against torture, cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment cannot be derogated under any circumstances, and emphasizes that there is no political justification for terrorism. Additionally, freedom of religion, conscience and belief should not be undermined under the pretext of "state security".

The Supplementary Item on Roma Education encourages the participating States to eradicate practices of segregation of Romany children in schooling; urges participating States to ensure that Roma are included in adult education and re-training programs; and recognizes the right of Roma to learn and to be educated in their mother tongue on an equal basis with other linguistic minorities. The item urges the OSCE participating States to ensure that their national laws and policies fully respect the rights of Roma, and, when necessary, promote anti-discriminatory legislation.

Election of Officers

The following new committee officers were elected:

Chair:	Mrs. Elena Mizulina (Russia)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Svend Robinson (Canada)
Rapporteur:	Ms Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands)

Third Plenary Session

The Third Plenary Session encompassed the report of the Treasurer, the report of the Secretary General and a General Debate during which delegates took the opportunity to address the Parliamentary Assembly on a variety of issues. The Session also dealt with an item for urgent procedure presented by Georgia under Rule 24 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, concerning current developments in Abkhazia.

Report of the Treasurer

OSCE PA Treasurer Jerahmiel Grafstein (Canada) presented his report for the first nine months of fiscal year 2001/2002 as well as the proposed budget for 2002/2003, as approved by the Standing Committee in its meeting on 6 July. With reference to the report of expenditures for the first nine months of the present fiscal year, Mr. Grafstein pointed out that the Assembly is functioning within the overall guidelines of the budget approved by the Standing Committee in Paris last year. Mr. Grafstein assured the Assembly that at the end of the present fiscal year the Assembly will have functioned within its approved budget. External auditors have also reported that the finances of the Assembly are in very good condition and that they are extremely well managed by the International Secretariat.

Pertaining to the budget submitted for the fiscal

year 2002/2003, Mr. Grafstein informed the Assembly that an overall increase of 9.79% had been agreed by the Standing Committee. This includes a cost of living/inflation increase, the costs associated with the newly established Winter Meeting, and the cost of establishing a sub-office of the International Secretariat in Vienna. Mr. Grafstein expressed confidence that this budget, is adequate to meet the basic needs of the Assembly and will provide the International Secretariat with the resources it needs to fulfil its objective. Mr. Grafstein reported that 98.38% of annual contributions had been paid and expressed thanks and praise for the job carried out by the International Secretariat. He concluded by pledging to continue to base the budget on the essential principles of frugality, proven need, measurable results, transparency and accountability.

Report of the Secretary General

OSCE PA Secretary General Oliver began by reporting that the International Secretariat continues to work well and efficiently in support of the expanded activities of the Assembly. Additionally, several new programmes and meetings have been inaugurated for the purpose of substantially increasing the activity level of the Assembly. Most significantly, the first Winter Meeting of the Assembly took place in February of this year and was generally viewed as a great success. Since the Paris Session last year, there have been three, rather than two, meetings of the Standing Committee of Heads of OSCE PA Delegations. Other activities initiated by the Assembly include the establishment of the Fall Conference and the organization of a series of visits to OSCE Field Missions by groups of parliamentarians, which have been very well received by the OSCE Missions themselves.

The Secretary General commended President Severin for his exceptionally hard work for the Assembly during his second term of Office. He pointed out that the President has paid bilateral visits to more than twenty OSCE participating States, and has attended numerous meetings of the OSCE and partner organizations. The Secretary General paid particular attention to the efforts of President Severin and the Ad hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability to improve the functioning of the Organization.

Mr. Oliver announced to the Assembly that a final decision had been made by the Standing Committee on July 6 to allow extra funding within the budget for the sub-office of the International Secretariat in Vienna, which will be set up for the purpose of liaison





with the OSCE governmental structures located there, particularly the OSCE Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat. The Secretary General stated that the sub-office has been welcomed by the Permanent Council, and will be implemented within the next few months. Furthermore, the Assembly was informed that the German Bundestag has offered to second Mr. Andreas Nothelle as the OSCE PA Permanent Representative in Vienna. Secretary General Oliver expressed his thanks to the German Bundestag for this kind and generous offer.

The Secretary General ensued by thanking the staff of the International Secretariat and in particular the Research Fellows for their contribution.

Secretary General Oliver concluded by thanking his colleagues, and the Members and Secretaries of Delegations for their dedication and participation in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly. He also extended his gratitude to the German Bundestag for their relentless efforts to accommodate the Assembly during its Eleventh Annual Session.

General Debate

During the general debate, which focussed on the fight against terrorism, and other timely subjects, it was emphasized that terrorism should not be allowed to flourish, and that one of the priorities of the OSCE PA should be to convince people that there is no place for terrorism in society. It was further indicated that a clear-cut definition of terrorism is imperative in the efforts to effectively combat terrorism. It was stressed that there is a need to focus on the roots, causes and means of terrorism.

Furthermore, the utmost importance of the respect for fundamental rights and freedoms must be acknowledged as unconditional and absolute. The role of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism was addressed by a number of delegates. It was generally agreed that the Organization must prioritize a structured and co-ordinated intervention in the fight against terrorism. This should entail a complementary and combined approach with other international organisations.

The Assembly also discussed the problems relating to human trafficking, especially in Southeast Europe, and the need to address the topic more seriously in the future; the infiltration of anti-Semitic violence in the OSCE region; the crisis in the Middle East and the way in which it should be approached; as well as the gender issue and the promising way in which it has been dealt with by the Assembly.

The final fifteen minutes of the Third Plenary Session were reserved for the discussion of an item of urgent procedure presented by Georgia concerning current developments in Abkhazia. The Georgian delegation presented their concerns to the Assembly with regard to Russian involvement in the region. The Russian delegation responded by stating that the Georgian allegations were unsupported and false. President Severin proceeded to conclude the Session by urging the Georgian and Russian delegates to discuss the matter directly, as the execution of bilateral discussion is imperative in this circumstance. After encouraging the respective delegates to proceed in this way, the President thanked those who participated in the general debate for their contribution.





Closing Session

During the Closing Plenary Session on 10 July the Chairs and Rapporteurs presented the Draft Resolutions and briefly summarized the debates in their respective Committees. The Plenary then approved the three Resolutions that comprise the Berlin Declaration, which was adopted unanimously.

After the Berlin Declaration was voted upon, the supplementary items were considered and voted on. These included draft resolutions considered in the Committees on Moldova; Southeast Europe; Roma Education; Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children; and Human Rights and the War on Terrorism, all of which were adopted unanimously. Two more draft resolutions were also passed, though not unanimously - one on Belarus and another on Anti-Semitic Violence in the OSCE Region. The Assembly then went on to consider the supplementary items sent directly to the Plenary for consideration: the draft resolution on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction, and the draft resolution on the Impact of Terrorism on Women. The Assembly carried both items unanimously.

The Plenary ensued with the discussion of an urgent item on the importance of gender equality issues within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The item recommends that the gender equality issue be included in the first plenary session of the upcoming Annual Session of the Assembly; proposes that the OSCE PA Report on the Gender Balance in the OSCE be presented and updated annually; and urges the creation of an annual Prize for one or more women who contribute significantly to the promotion of peace, security, protection of human rights, as well as conflict prevention and resolution in the OSCE area. The Assembly subsequently adopted the item of urgency unanimously.

Following the adoption of the Berlin Declaration and its supplementary items, Mr. Jerahmiel Grafstein, Treasurer of the Assembly, announced the results of the elections. The newly elected President of the Assembly, Mr. Bruce George, then addressed the Plenary to express his gratitude to the Assembly. He commended Mr. Adrian Severin for his hard work and advancement of OSCE goals. President George pledged that, as his successor, he would like to follow up on these achievements. He concluded by thanking all those who had voted for him and supported him during his participation as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Vice-President Dr. Rita Süßmuth congratulated the

newly elected President and Officers of the Assembly. She also expressed gratitude to Mr. Severin for the work he had accomplished during his two-year term. She placed emphasis on his efforts to give the Assembly better structure and to make it function more efficiently. Dr. Süßmuth concluded her presentation by presenting an engraved silver plate to outgoing President Severin on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. Severin thanked Dr. Süßmuth for her words and the Assembly for its support. The outgoing President stated that he felt he had done his best for the Assembly, and hoped that the future will be more generous with the expectations and aspirations of the Assembly. Mr. Severin acknowledged the success of the Eleventh Annual Session, and pointed out that the 55 countries participating in the Assembly, despite their diversity and differences, stand equal in their solidarity and unity. He praised and thanked the German Bundestag, particularly President Thierse and Dr. Süßmuth, for their enthusiasm and perfect organization. He further extended his gratitude to the Secretariat for its work and dedication. Finally, Mr Severin thanked all the parliamentarians for their commitment.

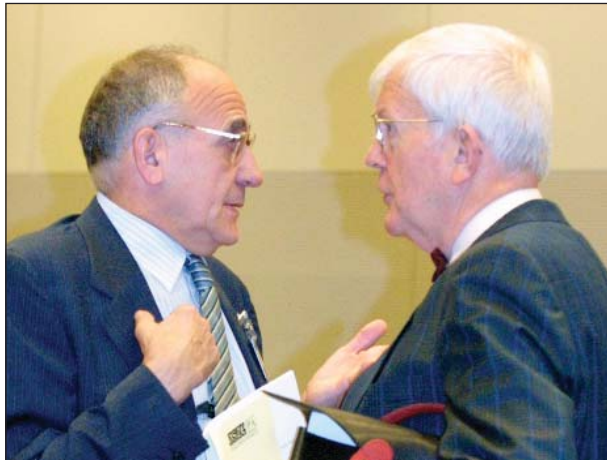
Election of Officers of the Assembly

President:

Mr. Bruce George, Chairman of the British House of Commons Defence Committee, was elected to a one-year term as the new President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. George has served the Assembly since 1992 subsequently as Committee Rapporteur, Committee Chair and Vice-President. He succeeds Mr. Adrian Severin who has served the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the past two years.

Vice-Presidents:

Three new Vice-Presidents of the Assembly were elected: Mrs. Barbara Haering (MP Switzerland), Mr. Ihor Ostash (MP Ukraine), and Mr. Gert Weisskirchen (MP Germany).





Programme

The Inaugural Ceremony and all other meetings of the Assembly's bodies took place in the premises of the Bundestag, Reichstag building, in Berlin.

Saturday, 6 July

09.00 - 10.45	Meeting of the Standing Committee
11.00 - 13.00	Inaugural Plenary Session: Call to order and opening remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Welcoming address by the President of the Bundestag; Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany; Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office followed by a question/answer session.
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 16.30	Second Plenary Session: Guest Speakers from the Parliamentary Assemblies; OSCE Panel Contributions by Senior OSCE Officials followed by a question/answer session Presentation of Prize for Journalism and Democracy
16.45 - 18.30	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
20.00	Reception hosted by the President of the Bundestag

Sunday, 7 July

Morning	Time reserved for meetings of political and regional groups
09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security Introduction of the Report and Draft Resolution by the Committee Rapporteur; Debate on the Report
09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment Introduction of the Report and Draft Resolution by the Committee Rapporteur; Debate on the Report
11.30 - 13.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions Introduction of the Report and Draft Resolution by the Committee Rapporteur; Debate on the Report
15.00	Excursion

Monday, 8 July

Morning	Time reserved for meetings of political and regional groups
09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions Debate (cont.); Consideration of amendments

09.30 - 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment Debate (cont.); Consideration of amendments
11.30 – 13.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security Debate (cont.); Consideration of amendments
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions Consideration of amendments
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science Technology and Environment Consideration of amendments
16.30 - 18.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security Consideration of amendments
20.00	Reception hosted by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Tuesday, 9 July

Morning	Time reserved for meetings of political and regional groups
09.00-11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions: Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; Election of the Committee Officers
09.00-11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; Election of the Committee Officers
11.30-13-30	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution; Election of the Committee Officers
13.30 - 15.00	Lunch break
15.00 - 18.00	Plenary Session Report by the Treasurer of the OSCE PA; Report by the Secretary General; General debate
18.00	Meeting of the Bureau
18.30	Meeting of the Drafting Committee
Evening	Time reserved for receptions by diplomatic missions

Wednesday, 10 July

Morning	Time reserved for meetings of political and regional groups
10.00 - 12.30	Plenary Session Consideration of Committee Resolutions Adoption of the Final Document Election of the Assembly Officers
12.30	Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly