

Message from the President

It is a great pleasure to welcome the Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the Twelfth Annual Session in Rotterdam. I would like to extend the collective gratitude of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the Dutch Parliament for its generous help in hosting our annual meeting and to the City of Rotterdam for its courteous and warm hospitality.

During this past year, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, has continued to promote parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE, and has facilitated inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation, providing a vital link between the governmental side of the OSCE and the elected representatives of the participating States. As in our Berlin Session last year - and in all previous Sessions - here in Rotterdam we will address major issues of concern to the OSCE and to all our citizens. The theme chosen for this Annual Session is both timely and challenging: The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe. The theme of this Session provides all of us with an opportunity for substantive debate on the future of European structures.

The OSCE is a very necessary organization for the tasks we face in the politico-security field of the 21st century. As we have all seen, the end of the East-West conflict did not lead to the hoped-for era of peace but rather to a fundamental change in the structure of conflicts in Europe and the world. Conflicts between nations have been on the decline, often replaced by supranational, intra-national and intra-regional conflicts - so-called 'low-intensity wars' such as terrorism and secessionist movements. States no longer hold absolute power, nor can they provide guaranteed security. Regional warlords, terrorists and mercenaries regrettably demonstrate to us the re-emergence of privatised conflicts. Other challenges have also arisen: migration flows, trafficking in human beings and drugs, attempts to proliferate Weapons of Mass Destruction - all these issues cannot be dealt with by nation-states alone in our globalizing world.

Through its basic yet still highly modern and comprehensive architecture, based on the three 'baskets' as a security framework, the OSCE must be ready to face changes and adjust to new conditions rapidly. Its conception of security integrates the areas of security, democracy and human rights, as well as economic and environmental

affairs and, as such, constitutes a timely and comprehensive understanding of security.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE can greatly contribute to the process of adapting the Organization to the new challenges by increasing public awareness of the OSCE and its activities. The Assembly will also continue its important work in supporting democratic reforms throughout the OSCE region. The various ad hoc committees of the Assembly and the visits to OSCE Field missions are part of our input in that process.

The Organization - in order to become more relevant to all our citizens - should devote itself more strongly to issues of common interest to all participating States, such as the fight against trafficking in human beings (a priority of the current Dutch Chairmanship), the smuggling of weapons and drugs, and the fight against terrorism - all of which directly effect the equal and indivisible security of all participating States.

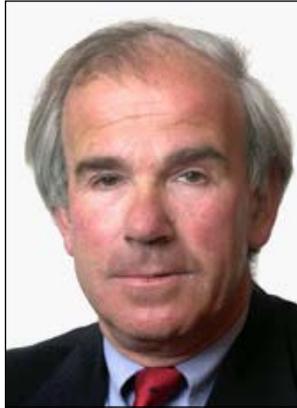
Most of the problems in the security field cannot be solved by military pre-emption. Instead, long-term values like democracy, the rule of law, the development of market economies, and education must be promoted in a multilateral framework. The OSCE is able to contribute to accomplishing these tasks, and reforms are underway, but it will not be successful unless policy makers on both sides of the Atlantic are prepared to make better use of the most effective regional security organization in Europe.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - as a unique link between citizens and governments - will continue to be a reliable partner, contributing to the success of the OSCE. Many challenges still lie ahead. I am confident that this Rotterdam Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be very productive in providing our input as parliamentarians to the OSCE.



Bruce George
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Welcome to Rotterdam



It is an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to Rotterdam.

The Dutch parliament participates in six inter-parliamentary assemblies of which the OSCE Assembly is the youngest. Since its founding in 1991, the Netherlands has been a member of this assembly and the Dutch delegation has always played an active part in it.

The Assembly brings together parliamentarians from more than 50 countries. Contact between parliamentarians is necessary in order to reach solutions to the problems with which societies are confronted, problems that more and more exceed national borders. That means that an approach on an international level is required. Organizations such as the OSCE can play a major role in finding solutions to these problems. On a parliamentary level the actions of these organizations have to be monitored. Therefore, international contacts of parliamentarians and forums such as the OSCE Assembly are of vital importance.

It is to be expected of the assembly that it implements the mandate to provide continuous democratic legitimacy and accountability to the OSCE. Accordingly, it should be relevant to what the OSCE is doing, address major issues of concern to the OSCE and help map out the path that the OSCE should take.

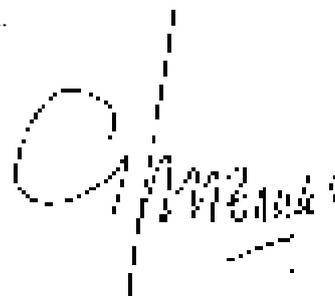
The OSCE Assembly has distinguished itself especially with regard to election monitoring. Election monitoring is a form of parliamentary solidarity. Consolidation of parliamentary democracy throughout Europe and beyond is in our common interest because it means consolidation of peace, stability and prosperity.

The session in Rotterdam is taking place at an interesting point in time. The expansion of the European Union and NATO does necessitate a new positioning, while the international developments of the past six months will somehow lead to a new balance of power. Both developments are important reasons for the members of this Assembly to put their heads together. The theme of the session in Rotterdam, namely 'The role of the OSCE in the new architecture of Europe', might therefore be right on target.

We wish you a fruitful session and a pleasant stay in Rotterdam.



Frans W. Weisglas
President of the House of Representatives



Gerrit Braks
President of the Senate

Message from the Chairman-in-Office

Welcome to the Netherlands.

Rotterdam is a fitting location for the Twelfth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: a city devastated by war that rose from the ashes and once more became an international meeting place for business, trade and diverse cultures. This achievement was driven by the powerful engine of its port and the determination of its people to pick up the pieces and rebuild their city and their community. Without forgetting the past, they faced the challenges of the future, in the firm conviction that conflict is not the way forward. In short, it is a most suitable venue for a meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in which 55 nations are united by their shared aspiration of security and stability for all their citizens.



In February I was a guest of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its winter meeting in Vienna. In my address I touched upon the expanding role of the Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE. Originally set up to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, the Parliamentary Assembly has grown into an esteemed member of the OSCE family. The main theme of this year's Annual Session is 'The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe'. Since last year's decisions to enlarge the EU and NATO, the political environment in the OSCE region has changed drastically. Half of the OSCE members are becoming part of the inner world of the EU. An overlapping, but not identical group will soon join the expanding NATO. And even those on the outside are being brought into the orbit of the EU and NATO in one way or another, through stabilisation and association agreements or Partnership for Peace arrangements.

Are there still problems that require an organisation like the OSCE? Unfortunately the answer has to be yes. Although we have made progress in some areas over the last decade, the conflicts simmering and sometimes boiling over into violence in different parts of the OSCE region are strong reminders of the tasks ahead. Moreover, the solid democratic standards we have set ourselves in the Helsinki commitments need to be defended rigorously. Moreover, several new threats are facing our region. These threats often transcend purely political or military boundaries. Increasingly, they are fuelled by crime and non-state actors. Terrorism, trafficking in human beings, small arms and drugs, the tensions arising from the presence of new minorities and the growing economic discrepancy between one part of the OSCE region and the rest – are

striking examples. The OSCE is particularly well placed to address threats of this kind, thanks to its established concept of comprehensive security. This Organisation recognises that security is more than arms control, conflict prevention, crisis management and sorting out political differences.

Without due regard to human rights, economic development and environmental concerns, no sustainable security and no lasting peace can be achieved.

However well placed the OSCE may be to deal with these new varieties of threat, it is plain to see that it cannot succeed on its own. The decision taken by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Oporto last December to develop a strategy to address threats to security and stability in the 21st century is therefore a timely one. This strategy will help to clearly define the different roles that the OSCE and other organisations should play in addressing these threats. In short, it will enable the international community as a whole to do a more powerful, resourceful and efficient job of providing security for the citizens of the region.

In short, my conclusion is that alongside some old, unresolved challenges there are huge new challenges emerging, already on our doorstep. They can only be met by an organisation like the OSCE, acting in all three of its dimensions; the politico-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension and the human dimension. Which brings me to your role – the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its members. As elected representatives of the citizens of the OSCE participating States you have a direct stake in the future security and stability of the region. My role as the CiO and yours as the Parliamentary Assembly may differ from time to time, but we share a common goal: human security for all in the OSCE region. Together we can make it happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jaap de Hoop Scheffer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer
OSCE Chairman-in-Office

Report from the Secretary General

The past year has been one of the most active and productive in the history of the Parliamentary Assembly. While continuing to pursue our traditional agenda of regular meetings, election monitoring projects, the work of Special Representatives and ad hoc committees, and participation in the activities of the governmental side of the OSCE, we have added new areas of responsibility and co-operation. We have developed a system of Mission visits by delegations of parliamentarians which have increased the interaction between OSCE field activities and OSCE parliamentarians, providing additional support and visibility for the important work carried out by those Missions. We have established a Liaison Office in Vienna, and have successfully organised the second Annual Winter Meeting, which was attended by more than two hundred and fifty parliamentarians and included a very interesting and intense exchange of views on the situation in Iraq. We joined with the Swiss Parliament to hold a very successful third OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sub-Regional Economic Co-operation in Bern and have worked hard to organise a Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Kazakhstan, including participation from Asian OSCE partner parliaments. Most importantly, we have worked hard to improve the relationship and interaction with the governmental structures of the OSCE.



The International Secretariat has continued to support all of these activities in an efficient manner and within the annual budget approved by the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation. The opening of our Liaison Office has increased the permanent staff from fourteen to sixteen. The International Research Fellowship Programme continues to provide important additional support for all OSCE Parliamentary Assembly activities, as well as providing additional language capability within the International Secretariat. National delegations are informed about all Parliamentary Assembly activities through our regular internal publication, *News from Copenhagen*, which is now published on a weekly basis throughout most of the year. In addition, the Secretariat produces various reports and illustrated brochures which chronicle and summarise work undertaken at Parliamentary Assembly meetings and in the field.

The effort to improve relations with the governmental side was led by the the ad hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, chaired by US Congressman Steny Hoyer, and was supported by the substantial efforts of President Bruce George to work more closely with the OSCE Chairmanship. Accomplishments included the presentation of the proposed OSCE budget to the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation in Madrid last October, the presentation of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

recommendations to the Permanent Council by President Bruce George in early September, and the opening of the Liaison Office in Vienna. President George addressed the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Porto last December, pledging better co-operation and further promoting OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recommendations, including the need for the governmental side to consider revision of the unanimous consensus decision making procedure followed by the Permanent Council in Vienna. There is still, of course, room for more improvement in relations with the governmental side of the OSCE, and the Assembly is making every effort to increase the co-operation and interaction between the OSCE's elected politicians and its governmental officials.

The Session in Rotterdam will be followed by a Fall Conference and Mediterranean Forum in Rome in October, a meeting of the Bureau at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in the Netherlands in December, and the third Annual Winter Meeting in February. Next year the Assembly Annual Session will meet in Edinburgh and Greece will host the Fall Conference/Mediterranean Forum.

In 2005, Norway is expected to host the next meeting on sub-regional economic co-operation and the United States will host the Fourteenth Annual Session in Washington. Our President is expected to maintain an active schedule of bilateral visits and participation in high-level OSCE meetings, including meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Troika. Election monitoring and Mission visits will also be high on the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly agenda during the coming year, as well as active co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, particularly in the Parliamentary Stability Pact Troika, which the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will chair next year.

Finally, let me say how proud I am of the very professional and highly competent members of the staff of the International Secretariat. Their skill and experience continues to provide excellent support for the OSCE parliamentarians who actively participate in the work of the Assembly. We all look forward to continuing to serve the Assembly and the OSCE in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Spencer Oliver'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

R. Spencer Oliver
Secretary General

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



A Unique OSCE Institution

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly gathers over 300 parliamentarians from the OSCE participating States with the aim of promoting parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE and facilitating inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation. The Assembly occupies a unique place in the structure of the OSCE by providing a vital link between the governmental side of the OSCE and parliamentarians from the OSCE countries.

Parliaments of all OSCE States are entitled to be represented in the Parliamentary Assembly, which comprises 317 representatives. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the European Parliament, and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS all have observer status in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Short History

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was established by the leaders of the Parliaments of all States signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe. The Charter of Paris, signed by the Heads of State or Government of 34 states meeting in Paris in

November 1990, stated:

“Recognizing the important role parliamentarians can play in the CSCE process, we call for greater parliamentary involvement in the CSCE, in particular through the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly, involving members of parliaments from all participating States. To this end, we urge that contacts be pursued at parliamentary level to discuss the field of activities, working methods and rules of procedure of such a CSCE parliamentary structure, drawing on existing experience and work already undertaken in this field.”

At the invitation of the Spanish Cortes, leading parliamentarians from all CSCE signatory countries gathered in Madrid in early April 1991 to establish the modalities of a CSCE Parliamentary Assembly as requested by their respective Heads of State or Government.

The Madrid meeting, attended by parliamentary leaders from all CSCE States, encountered several challenges from the very beginning due to the wide variety of views among the 34 delegations. These included whether to maintain the consensus procedure used by the governmental CSCE, the determination of the frequency of Assembly meetings, the role and number of committees, and the number of votes to be assigned to each parliament. Compromises were eventu-

ally reached, and a document, the Madrid Declaration, was adopted by consensus.

The Madrid Declaration set forth the basic rules of procedure, working methods, size, mandate, and distribution of votes for the first official meeting of the CSCE Assembly, scheduled for Budapest in July 1992. The Declaration also called for the Assembly to meet once a year, at a time when most parliaments would be out of session, enabling leaders and key members of the various parliaments to attend.

At the Budapest Session, the Assembly decided to establish a small permanent secretariat and to appoint a Director, now Secretary General, with two Deputies. The International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities.

The Parliamentary Assembly's Objectives

The Assembly's primary task is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an increasingly important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may also pursue other important objectives that are stated in the preamble of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;

- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations and co-operation between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and Seminars designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election monitoring programme;
- Special parliamentary missions to areas of latent or active crisis.

Assembly Bodies

The main elements of the Parliamentary Assembly





are the Plenary Assembly, the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation, the Bureau, the Expanded Bureau, and the three General Committees. The Standing Committee and the Bureau prepare the work of the Assembly between Sessions, ensuring the efficient operation of the Assembly. The three General Committees correspond to the three main baskets of the Helsinki Final Act: the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security; the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

The Standing Committee makes decisions according to the principle of “consensus-minus-one”. The Bureau, the General Committees and the Assembly Plenary take decisions by majority vote.

Annual Sessions

One of the most important events in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calendar is the Annual Session held in the beginning of July. During each Annual Session the Assembly Plenary adopts a Final Declaration addressing contemporary issues within the fields of Political Affairs, Economic Development and Human Rights. The Final Declarations contain specific calls on participating States to adhere to their OSCE commitments as well as recommendations on strengthening OSCE institutional structures. Annual Sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have taken place in Budapest (1992), Helsinki (1993), Vienna (1994), Ottawa (1995), Stockholm (1996), Warsaw (1997), Copenhagen (1998), St. Petersburg (1999), Bucharest (2000), Paris (2001), and Berlin (2002). Rotterdam will host the 2003 Session, Edinburgh will follow as the host for 2004, and Washington for 2005.

Winter Meetings

In February 2001 the Standing Committee approved the holding of an annual OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna. The Winter Meetings allow the three General Committees to have additional discussions and debates amongst themselves as well as to be briefed by high-

level OSCE Officials who have responsibilities related to the work of each of the three General Committees. The Winter Meeting also serves as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three General Committee Rapporteurs and to discuss their draft reports for the Annual Session. Winter Meetings have now been held in February 2002 and 2003. In both of these cases, parliamentary interest in the event far exceeded initial expectations. The Winter Meeting is the second largest event in the OSCE PA calendar, topped only by the Annual Session.

Presidents

At each Annual Session, the Assembly elects the President of the Parliamentary Assembly who acts as the highest representative of the Assembly and presides over the meetings of the Assembly.

The first President of the Assembly was the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Ilkka Suominen, who was elected at the 1992 Budapest Session. He led the first OSCE election monitoring delegation to Russia in 1993 and became the first President to address an OSCE Ministerial Meeting. The President of the Belgian Senate Frank Swaelen, was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Vienna Session in 1994. He was the first President to address an OSCE Summit and initiated the first series of bilateral Presidential visits, including visits to OSCE field missions. In 1996 Javier Rupérez, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Parliament, became President of the Assembly. He was the first President to participate in meetings of the Troika. Mrs. Helle Degn, Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament, was elected President of the Assembly during the 1998 Copenhagen Session. She continued the work of her predecessors, significantly increasing the visibility of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by visiting all OSCE Institutions and numerous field missions. Mr. Adrian Severin, a former Foreign Minister of Romania, was elected President during the 2000 and was the first President of the Assembly from the Central and Eastern European region. Mr. Severin made a particular effort at reaffirming institutional dialogue within the OSCE to enhance the contribution of parliamentarians

to OSCE's role in preventing local conflicts.

Mr. Bruce George, Chair of the Defence Committee in the British House of Commons, was elected President at the 2002 Berlin Annual Session. Since his election President George has strongly emphasized the enhanced co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the OSCE, thus furthering the effectiveness of the Organization.

Interaction with other OSCE Institutions



In 1991, at its Berlin Meeting, the CSCE Ministerial Council welcomed the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly and stated that the Ministers looked forward to the "collective expression" of the views of the Parliamentary Assembly on security and co-operation in Europe as well as on the future development of the CSCE. The next year, at its Prague Meeting, the CSCE took a direct step towards active dialogue by announcing that the Chairman-in-Office would be prepared to make himself available to report to the Assembly on the work of the CSCE, to answer parliamentarians' questions in this regard and to take note of parliamentarians' views for subsequent transmission to the Ministerial Council. It has since become a tradition for the Chairman-in-Office to address the Parliamentary Assembly and answer direct questions from the floor. The CSCE-OSCE Summits in Helsinki (1992), Budapest (1994) and Istanbul (1999) reaffirmed the participating States' interest in the active participation of parliamentarians in the OSCE process and mandated the Chairman-in-Office to maintain close contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly, to draw its recommendations to the attention of the Permanent Council and to inform the parliamentarians of OSCE activities.

Although the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has its own independent budget and may take unilateral, independent initiatives, it has developed regular and for-

malized high-level interaction with the other OSCE Institutions. The Assembly is represented at every level of official OSCE meetings and maintains a close working relationship with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Troika, the OSCE Secretary General, as well as the other OSCE Institutions in Vienna, Prague, Warsaw and The Hague. All decisions and reports from the Assembly's Annual Sessions, visits and election monitoring projects are transmitted to the Chairman-in-Office and to the other OSCE Institutions. The President of the Assembly presents the annual OSCE PA Declarations to the Permanent Council and receives comments from national OSCE Delegations. The Parliamentary Assembly participates in the OSCE's senior and Permanent Councils, OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings, as well as the OSCE Summits. In addition, leaders of other OSCE Institutions are periodically invited to speak and answer questions at the Assembly's Standing Committee Meetings, Winter Meetings and Annual Sessions. During the 2002 Autumn Conference in Madrid, the OSCE Secretary General briefed the Standing Committee on next year's proposed OSCE budget for the first time, providing the Assembly with an opportunity to give comments on the draft budget to the OSCE. In order to further strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the OSCE and the OSCE PA, the OSCE PA Secretary General opened a Liaison Office in Vienna. The Special Representative of the OSCE PA to the OSCE participates in Permanent Council Meetings and other formal as well as informal OSCE meetings of interest to the Assembly.

Budget

The Assembly's budget covers most of the organizational and staff expenses relating to the Annual Session, Winter Meeting, Standing Committee and Bureau Meetings. Missions, official visits and the election monitoring programme, as well as the costs of the International Secretariat's staff salaries, travel and office maintenance are also included in the annual budget. Host Parliaments of the Annual Sessions have all contributed significantly by providing considerable support to these regular events, ensuring their success and contributing substantive cost savings. The Danish Folketing has very generously provided excellent office facilities free of charge for the Assembly's International Secretariat, and the Netherlands and Germany have seconded our Press Counsellor in Copenhagen and our Ambassador in Vienna, respectively.



Officers of the Assembly

The Officers of the Assembly, also known as the Bureau, consists of the President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the President Emeritus. The Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee are carried out, as well as ensuring the efficient operation of the Assembly between meetings of the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes decisions by majority vote.

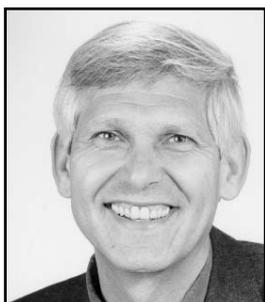


Mr. Bruce George (United Kingdom)

was elected President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Berlin after having served three year as a Vice-President. He has served as Chairman of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security after having been the Committee Rapporteur for two terms. First elected to Parliament in 1974, he is Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee and a former editor of Jane's NATO Handbook. An academic by profession, he has also been an active leader in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Ms. Nino Burjanadze (Georgia)

was elected Vice-President at the Session in Bucharest. She served two terms as Rapporteur of the Third Committee. She is a former legal expert for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and in the International Affairs Commission of the Parliament in 1994-1995. She was elected member of the Georgian Parliament in 1995 and has served as President of the Georgian Parliament since 2001. She is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Tbilisi State University.

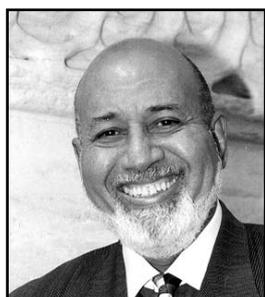


Mr. Gert Weisskirchen (Germany)

was elected Vice-President at the Annual Session in Berlin after having served as Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions since February 1998. As a Professor of Applied Cultural Studies, he has held teaching positions at Humboldt University in Berlin and the Potsdam Polytechnic. A Social Democrat, he has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1976 where he has served on numerous committees focusing on educational and international issues.

Ms. Barbara Haering (Switzerland)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Berlin, having served as Second Committee Rapporteur since July 1999. A member of Parliament since 1990, Ms. Haering serves on the Defence Committees and she has served as President of the Committee on Science, Education and Culture. Ms. Haering sits on the Governing Board of the University of Zürich. Since 1998 she has been managing partner of a private consultancy in the field of sustainable development and new public management.



Mr. Alcee Hastings (USA)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2001 Annual Session in Paris after having served as both Chair and Vice-Chair of the First General Committee, as well as two terms as Committee Rapporteur. First elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992, he has been re-elected four times. He is a member of the powerful House Rules Committee, and a senior member of the Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Hastings is also Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Select Committee on Election Reform, and is Vice-Chairman of the Florida Delegation. As an attorney, judge and civil rights activist, he has championed the rights of minorities, women and the elderly.

Mr Ahmet Tan (Turkey)*

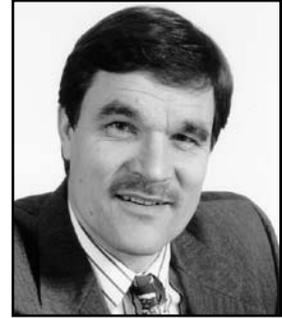
was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2001 Annual Session in Paris. A former Minister and current member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Tan has a distinguished career as a political journalist for leading Turkish newspapers and television stations. A political scientist by background, Mr. Tan serves on the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE and the Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia and has been an active participant in numerous OSCE election observation missions.



* Mr. Ahmet Tan is no longer a member of his national parliament, and therefore has ceased to be a Vice-President of the Assembly.

Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2001 Annual Session in Paris after having previously served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the First Committee. A former director of the Institute of Development Studies, Helsinki University 1986-95, and transition policy coordinator for UNDP (New York) 1993-94, he has written several books on international relations. He was elected to Parliament in 1995. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE PA.



Mr. Ihor Ostash (Ukraine)

was elected as Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 1999 St. Petersburg Session for a three-year term. He serves as a member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. A scholar who has held several senior academic positions, he has been a member of the Ukraine Parliament since 1994. He is Co-Leader of the parliamentary faction "Reforms-Congress" and has served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Parliament of Ukraine.

Mr. Gennady Seleznev (Russia)

was re-elected as Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for another three-year term in Bucharest. He worked for nearly 20 years as the Editor-in-Chief of several Russian newspapers including *Smena*, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* and *Pravda*. He was elected to the State Duma in December 1993 and since January 1996, he has served as the Chairman of the State Duma.

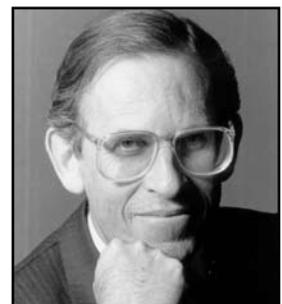


Mrs. Rita Süßmuth (Germany)*

was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2000 Annual Session in Bucharest. Ms. Süßmuth served first as Rapporteur and later as Chair of the Second Committee. She was appointed Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo in spring 2000. Ms. Süßmuth has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1987, has served as Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health, and held the Presidency of the Bundestag from 1988 to 1998. A Professor of Education at Dortmund University for more than twenty years, she holds honorary doctorates from a number of Universities around the world.

Mr. Jerry Grafstein (Canada)

was elected Treasurer of the Assembly at the Annual Session in Paris after having served two terms as Vice-Chair of the Second Committee from 1998 -2000. He was appointed Senator in 1984, while continuing his law practice in corporate and communications law. In 1966 he founded and edited the *Journal of Liberal Thought* and is a co-founder of a range of media companies in Canada, South America, Europe and elsewhere. He has written and edited numerous articles, papers and books on various topics within communications and politics.



Mr. Adrian Severin (Romania)

is President Emeritus having served two one-year terms as President of the Assembly from July 2000-July 2002. Mr. Severin has been a Member of the Parliament of Romania since 1990, and was formerly Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Severin has also served as Chair of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Belarus. Since finishing his term as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Severin has become a member of the Romanian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He has also represented the Romanian Parliament at the Brussels Conference working on a Constitution for Europe.

* Mrs. Rita Süßmuth is no longer a member of her national parliament, and therefore has ceased to be a Vice-President of the Assembly.

The General Committees

One of the most important aspects of the work of the Annual Session is the deliberation that takes place in the three General Committees. Following the Madrid Declaration, three committees were established along the lines of the three main “baskets” or sections of the Helsinki Final Act: The General Committee on Political Affairs and Security also known as the First Committee; the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment also known as the Second Committee; and the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions also known as the Third Committee. The Rapporteur of each Committee is responsible for preparing a report and a draft resolution to be presented to the

Committee. Furthermore, other speakers may also be invited to address the Committees. After debate and discussion, a draft resolution is adopted by each Committee for presentation to the Annual Plenary Session of the Assembly, which is then included in the Final Declaration.

The Staff of the International Secretariat receives invaluable assistance from the British House of Commons, adding experience and expertise to the General Committees, the plenary sessions, and the drafting Committees. In addition, International Research Fellows at the International Secretariat have also provided invaluable research assistance to the Committee Rapporteurs.

Officers of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Mr. Göran Lenmarker (Sweden)

was elected Chair of the First Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin having previously served as Committee Vice-Chair. Mr. Lenmarker has been a Member of the Swedish Parliament since 1992 and has since 1995 served as Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Formerly a member of the Swedish delegations to the European Union and EFTA, he has also been Adviser to the Minister of Health, and Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Lenmarker is an Assistant Chairman of the International Democrat Union and Member of the Board of the European Democrat Union.

Mr. Panayotis Kammenos (Greece)

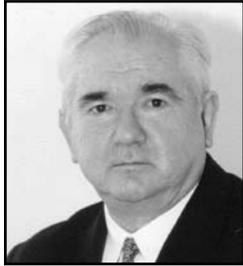
was elected Vice-Chair of the First Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin. Prior to being elected to Parliament, Mr. Kammenos acted as secretary of the Greek Parliament for three consecutive years. In Parliament, he has been an active member of the Permanent Committees on Public Administration - Public Order and Justice, and on National Defence and External Affairs. He has been a member of the Greek delegation to the OSCE PA since 1999.



Mr. Clifford Lincoln (Canada)

was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin. Mr. Lincoln has been a Member of Parliament since 1993. He has served as a Member of the Quebec National Assembly and was appointed to the Quebec Cabinet as Minister of the Environment. Mr. Lincoln also served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment. Clifford Lincoln is currently Chairman of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and he has Chaired the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage since 1996.

Officers of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Mr. Oleg Bilorus (Ukraine)

was elected Chair of the Second Committee at the Annual Session in Paris, having served two terms as Vice-Chair. A diplomat and an economist, he started his diplomatic career in 1979 and was Ambassador to the USA from 1992 to 1995. A member of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, he has pursued his academic career first as Vice-President of the National Economic University and then as Director of the International Institute of Management of Ukraine and Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations. Since 1999 he has been the President of the International Institute of Globalistics.

Mrs. Monika Griefahn (Germany)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Second Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin. Mrs. Griefahn has a long history in environmental protection, and was a Co-Founder and Executive Director of Greenpeace Germany. She served for eight years as the Minister for Environmental Affairs in Lower Saxony before being elected to the German Parliament. She is also the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Media.



Dr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia)

was elected Rapporteur of the Second Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin. An economist and Professor of Management, Dr. Ivanchenko has had over 60 articles on federate interbudgetary relations and regional policy published. Previously Mayor of Rostov-on-Don City, he has been elected to legislative authorities in the Russian Federation since 1985. Dr. Ivanchenko is also the Head of the Management Chair of the Rostov Institute.

Officers of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Mrs. Elena Mizulina (Russia)

was elected Chair of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin having previously served as both Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. A Professor of Law and author of more than 50 publications she was elected to the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament in 1993. Since 1995 she has been a member of the State Duma and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Legislation. She has been a member of the Russian delegation to the OSCE PA since 1994.



Mr. Svend Robinson (Canada)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin after having served as Committee Rapporteur. Mr. Robinson has been a Member of the House of Commons since 1979. A strong advocate and expert of Human Rights, Mr. Robinson has served on many Parliamentary Committees including the historic Special Joint Committee on the Constitution, the Human Rights Committee, and the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was named an honorary director of both the British Columbia and Ottawa Civil Liberties Associations, and of Lawyers against Apartheid. In 1995, he became the first recipient of the Edith Adamson Award for Leadership in Issues of Conscience.

Dr. Nebahat Albayrak (the Netherlands)

was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Berlin. Dr. Albayrak has a long history of involvement in minority-related affairs. She worked for several years in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate for Co-ordination of Integration Policy of Minorities at the Ministry of Internal Affairs before being elected to parliament in 1998. She is currently the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.



Assembly Declarations

Декларации Ассамблей

Первая ежегодная сессия в Будапеште, 1992

Будапешт стал местом проведения первой ежегодной сессии Парламентской ассамблеи СБСЕ в июле 1992 года. Ассамблея приняла Будапештскую декларацию, в которой рассматривались вопросы европейской безопасности, поддержания мира, сотрудничества в области окружающей среды, прав человека и урегулирования кризиса на территории бывшей Югославии. Декларация также призвала парламенты и парламентариев СБСЕ более активно участвовать в предотвращении, урегулировании и разрешении конфликтов:

«в случае возникновения напряженности в регионе необходимо организовывать многосторонние встречи парламентариев заинтересованных стран для нахождения демократических и мирных решений»



Кроме того, все национальные парламенты приглашались участвовать каждый год в заседании или в дебатах, посвященных развитию сотрудничества в рамках СБСЕ. Будапештская декларация также рекомендовала СБСЕ направить наблюдателей, включая парламентариев, принимающих активное участие в ее деятельности, в Косово и Воеводину, а также другие кризисные регионы для того, чтобы контролировать защиту прав меньшинств. На сессии в Будапеште было решено принять приглашение парламента (Фолькетинга) Дании о размещении международного секретариата ПА СБСЕ в Копенгагене, Дания.

Вторая ежегодная сессия в Хельсинки, 1993

«Задачей Ассамблеи является доводить взгляды и предложения избранных демократическим путем парламентов и парламентариев до сведения правительств стран СБСЕ. Не менее важным представляется, чтобы в каждом национальном парламенте были депутаты, которые знают и понимают СБСЕ и могут поддерживать ее политику и деятельность и оказывать на них влияние.»

бывший Председатель ПА СБСЕ Илкка Суоминен



Вторая ежегодная сессия Парламентской ассамблеи СБСЕ проходила с 6 по 9 июля 1993 года в Хельсинки. Отдельный раздел Хельсинкской декларации, посвященный кризису в бывшей республике Югославии, свидетельствовал о важности данной проблемы. Помимо этого, декларация призвала учредить Комитет безопасности СБСЕ, а также отойти от принципа консенсуса или «консенсуса минус один» при принятии решений. Ассамблея подчеркнула свое намерение сделать наблюдение за выборами своей приоритетной задачей. Было выражено пожелание, чтобы представители Парламентской ассамблеи участвовали в миссиях ОБСЕ, направляемых в места потенциальных конфликтов и политических трений. Хельсинкская декларация обратилась к парламентам государств-участников СБСЕ с призывом активизировать свои усилия по поддержке процесса трансформации в странах Центральной и Восточной Европы и бывшем Советском Союзе. В Хельсинки было принято решение провести во время следующей сессии Ассамблеи встречу женщин-парламентариев.





Третья ежегодная сессия в Вене, 1994

В июле 1994 года третья ежегодная сессия Ассамблеи состоялась в Вене по приглашению парламента Австрии.



В очередной раз декларация, принятая в Вене, содержала раздел о кризисе в бывшей Югославии. Другие вопросы, рассмотренные в декларации, касались разработки кодекса поведения в сфере политической и военной безопасности, трагедии в Чернобыле, Международного трибунала по военным преступлениям, а также ситуации с правами человека в Турции. Кроме того, в Венской декларации содержалась просьба к участникам Встречи СБСЕ на высшем уровне в Будапеште рассмотреть вопрос о создании официальной процедуры рассмотрения резолюций и рекомендаций ПА СБСЕ в целях дальнейшего развития сотрудничества между Ассамблеей СБСЕ и СБСЕ. Одновременно Ассамблея призвала парламенты рассмотреть возможность выработки формальной процедуры по рассмотрению резолюций, принятых Парламентской ассамблеей СБСЕ. Ассамблея вновь призвала к изменению правила консенсуса в СБСЕ с тем, чтобы сделать процедуру принятия решений в СБСЕ более быстрой и эффективной

Четвертая ежегодная сессия в Оттаве, 1995



«Наши избиратели каждый вечер видят по телевизору смерть и разрушения. Ежедневно они читают о политической нестабильности, попытках переворота, преступлениях и ужасных условиях существования в государствах-членах ОБСЕ. Во многих европейских городах им приходится сталкиваться с беженцами и их семьями, испытавшими на себе все тяготы войны и экономические лишения. Как парламентарии мы должны сделать все возможное для поддержки и активизации усилий ОБСЕ по решению этих серьезных проблем и по предупреждению новых кризисов в будущем».

бывший Председатель ПА ОБСЕ Франк Свален

Четвертая ежегодная сессия Ассамблеи, проводившаяся по приглашению канадского парламента в Оттаве 4-8 июля 1995 года, стала первой сессией на североамериканской континенте. В Оттавской декларации содержится ряд резолюций и рекомендаций, касающихся деятельности ОБСЕ в отношении бывшей Югославии, Балтийского региона, Нагорного Карабаха, Чечни и Молдовы. Ассамблея подчеркнула необходимость укрепления роли институтов ОБСЕ и призвала к разработке критериев приостановления членства государства-участника в случае «вопиющего невыполнения решений и обязательств по отношению к ОБСЕ».



Оттавская декларация содержала призыв к ОБСЕ и государствам-участникам внимательно изучить процедуру принятия решения на основе правила приблизительного консенсуса.



Кроме того, Ассамблея призвала государства-участники обеспечивать равные права всем людям как гражданам, а не в силу их принадлежности к той или иной национальной или этнической группе. Было подчеркнуто, что все граждане должны пользоваться равным уважением и вниманием в том, что касается административных и законодательных решений. Ассамблея также активно поддержала учреждение Международного уголовного суда, который мог бы привлекать обвиняемых в военных преступлениях лиц к ответственности за их действия на основании международных конвенций и других актов в области гуманитарного права.

Оттавская декларация также призвала ОБСЕ осуществлять наблюдение за выборами в первую очередь с помощью Парламентской ассамблеи ОБСЕ.

Пятая ежегодная сессия в Стокгольме, 1996



В ходе пятой ежегодной сессии, состоявшейся в Стокгольме с 5 по 9 июля 1996 года, особое внимание было уделено обсуждению модели всеобъемлющей безопасности для Европы XXI века. В заключительной декларации Парламентская ассамблея вновь выразила поддержку широкой концепции безопасности, подчеркнув, в частности, важность экономической стабилизации и устойчивого развития с учетом состояния окружающей среды для обеспечения безопасности. Ассамблея призвала к созданию единого европейского пространства безопасности, в котором могли бы быть выполнены существующие обязательства в рамках ОБСЕ. Для того чтобы обеспечить реализацию данных обязательств ОБСЕ, в декларации подчеркивается необходимость развития и укрепления таких направлений, как превентивная дипломатия, предотвращение конфликтов и постконфликтное восстановление.

«ОБСЕ нуждается в вас как представителях вашей страны для того, чтобы помочь в решении стоящих перед нами задач: наблюдении за выборами, за ситуацией с соблюдением прав человека и переходом к демократии».

«Присущим ей образом, используя средства, имеющиеся в распоряжении, Ассамблея поддерживает ОБСЕ и ее ценности, делая их и саму организацию доступными обществу. Ваша конструктивная критика ОБСЕ и ее деятельности есть и всегда будет вкладом, благоприятствующим реализации предназначения ОБСЕ и ее постоянного совершенствования».

**бывший Действующий
председатель ОБСЕ, Флавио Котти**



В заключительной декларации выражена озабоченность по поводу конфликтов в регионе ОБСЕ и содержится призыв к правительствам организовывать и поощрять кампании, направленные на повышение терпимости и борьбу с ксенофобией и расизмом. Кроме того, в соответствии с предложениями, высказанными на предыдущих сессиях, Ассамблея призвала ввести принцип «приблизительного консенсуса» для улучшения процедуры принятия решений в ОБСЕ. На сессии Ассамблеи в Стокгольме также был принят проект Кодекса поведения по политико-демократическим аспектам сотрудничества. В Кодексе признается возросшая взаимозависимость государств и подчеркивается, что международные конфликты должны разрешаться исключительно мирными политическими средствами. В развитие своих отношений с правительственным крылом ОБСЕ, Ассамблея выразила удовлетворение в связи с тем, что на встрече Совета министров ОБСЕ в Будапеште в декабре 1995 года был отмечен тот вклад, который вносят дискуссии Парламентской ассамблеи в работу Постоянного совета. В декларации содержалась просьба к Действующему председателю информировать Парламентскую ассамблею о политических шагах, предпринятых в результате её дискуссий и резолюций.

Шестая ежегодная сессия в Варшаве, 1997



Внимание участников шестой ежегодной сессии, которая состоялась в Варшаве с 5 по 8 июля 1997 года, было сосредоточено на выполнении обязательств, принятых в рамках СБСЕ и ОБСЕ, включая хельсинкский Заключительный акт, Парижскую хартию, документы саммитов в Будапеште и Лиссабоне. На ней была принята декларация, содержащая три основные резолюции, которые соответствуют трем главным «корзинам» хельсинкского Заключительного акта.

«Активные члены парламента, в качестве представителей своих народов, позвонят создать для работы ОБСЕ фундамент, прочность которого будет закреплена согласием наших сограждан».

бывший Председатель ПА ОБСЕ Хавьер Руперес





«В наших усилиях, направленных на повышение уважения к обязательствам ОБСЕ, рекомендации Парламентской Ассамблеи стимулируют Датского Председателя на расширение контактов и сотрудничества между Парламентской Ассамблеей и другими структурами ОБСЕ».

**бывший Действующий
председатель ОБСЕ Нильс Хельвег
Петерсен**

В резолюции по политическим вопросам и безопасности особое внимание было уделено соблюдению принципов территориальной целостности и нерушимости государственных границ. В резолюции по экономическим вопросам, науке, технологии и окружающей среде подчеркивается важность развития экономического сотрудничества и оказания содействия странам, осуществляющим переход к рыночной экономике. В резолюции по демократии, правам человека и гуманитарным вопросам отмечается важность средств массовой информации в демократическом государстве и подчеркивается, что независимые, выражающие различные мнения, и свободные средства массовой информации могут играть огромную роль в разрешении существующих конфликтов. Кроме того, на ежегодной сессии Ассамблеи в 1997 году была принята резолюция, касающаяся систематического изнасилования в условиях вооруженного конфликта.

Седьмая ежегодная сессия в Копенгагене, 1998

Седьмая ежегодная сессия Ассамблеи, проходившая с 7 по 10 июля 1998 года

в Копенгагене, была посвящена структурам, институтам и перспективам ОБСЕ. Ассамблея приняла Копенгагенскую декларацию, в которой признаётся, что для большей эффективности



выполнения принципов и обязательств, принятых в рамках ОБСЕ, необходимо усовершенствовать уже существующие инструменты ОБСЕ и рационально использовать имеющиеся ресурсы. Ассамблея вновь решительно высказалась за пересмотр механизма принятия решений в ОБСЕ и настоятельно призвала Совет министров ОБСЕ «рассмотреть вопрос о распространении действия нынешнего механизма принятия решений на основе «консенсус минус один» на другие случаи, такие, как утверждение бюджетов, развертывание миссий и подбор кандидатур на высшие руководящие должности».



Principal Assembly Activities

Winter Meeting

On 20 and 21 February 2003, more than 250 parliamentarians from 48 OSCE participating States met in the OSCE premises in Vienna to discuss current international developments and to be briefed by senior representatives of the OSCE Governmental side.

The Winter Meeting also served as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three General Committee Rapporteurs, Mr. Clifford Lincoln, Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko and Ms. Nebahat Albayrak and to discuss their draft reports on “The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe”, which is the theme of the upcoming OSCE PA Annual Session in July in Rotterdam. On the first day of the two-day Winter Meeting the parliamentarians heard welcoming remarks by the President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Thomas Klestil, followed by an address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Netherlands Foreign Minister Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. In his address, the C-I-O urged parliamentarians to use their influence to help reinforce democratic structures and institutions throughout the OSCE region. “Your wisdom and insights are needed on many levels. If there is nothing that can replace experience, there is certainly nothing that can replace parliamentary

experience. In many OSCE regions a reinforcement of democratic structures and institutions is urgently needed. That is something that cannot be achieved through government alone. It requires parliamentary action as well”, said the C-I-O, who also expressed the hope of the Dutch Chairmanship to involve the Parliamentary Assembly in positioning the 55-nation security Organization in a constantly changing security landscape. According to the C-I-O the PA contributes to preventing the OSCE from existing in a void and floating freely with no connection to the peoples of its fifty-five participating States: “Their voices can and should be heard through you”. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer concluded by emphasizing that “the parliamentary dimension is essential to the OSCE and to the overall effectiveness of its role”. Delegates also heard presentations by OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis and other Senior OSCE Officials in the fields of Politico-Military Affairs, Economic Development and Human Rights. All presentations were followed by question / answer sessions.

A separate brochure on
this event is available

Standing Committee Meetings





The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee met in Madrid on 2 October 2002. The parliamentarians were briefed by the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Jan Kubis, on the proposed 2003 OSCE budget. It was the first time in the history of the Assembly that such a briefing took place. The Secretary General noted that the briefing was a positive outcome of the work of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability. Ambassador Kubis also emphasized that the proposed 2003 OSCE budget was distributed to the OSCE participating States and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly simultaneously. The OSCE Secretary General took questions from the floor after presenting the main trends in the proposed budget. President Bruce George expressed the appreciation of the Assembly for the briefing by the Secretary General.

The Standing Committee also met on 20 February 2003 in Vienna, prior to the Winter Meeting. Standing Committee Delegates heard welcoming remarks by the Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Dr. Andreas Khol. OSCE PA President Bruce George presented a summary of his activities of the past six months. He stressed that one of the main achievements during the first six months of his presidency has been improved co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the OSCE. The Treasurer of the Assembly, Mr. Jerry Grafstein, informed Members about the positive annual assessment from the KPMG External Auditors. He commended the Secretary General for the good financial management of the Secretariat, and expressed his appreciation that the Assembly's expenses are kept within budget.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver gave an overview of the activities of the Assembly's International Secretariat since the Berlin Annual Session. He emphasized that at the request of Berlin participants, the International Secretariat had produced an extensive follow-up report to the

Assembly's Annual Declarations, including comprehensive answers from National Delegations to a questionnaire. In addition, Mr. Oliver noted the substantial growth of PA activities, now including two annual meetings, an autumn conference, three meetings of the Standing Committee each year, the ongoing work of five ad hoc committees, four Special Representatives, and continuing leadership in election monitoring projects as well as frequent visits to field missions.

The Standing Committee also heard presentations by the Chairs of the five Ad Hoc Committees of the Assembly on Transparency and Accountability, Belarus, Kosovo, Moldova and Abkhazia respectively. Congressman Steny Hoyer (United States), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability reported that as a consequence of the efforts of the Committee, stronger co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been achieved. He emphasized the importance of the new practice of receiving feedback from the OSCE governmental side on the Assembly's Annual Declarations, as well as the annual briefing by the OSCE Secretary General on the draft budget. He also stressed the important role of the new OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna.

After a debate in the Standing Committee on the issue of representation of the Belarussian National Assembly Delegation to the OSCE PA, the Belarussian Delegation was re-seated in the Assembly. The Standing Committee also approved an amendment to Rule 24 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure with regard to the procedure for raising questions of urgency. President Bruce George announced to the Standing Committee that Greece had offered to host the OSCE PA Fall Conference in 2004.

Eighth OSCE PA Topical Conference in Madrid

Expanded Bureau Meeting



Meeting in the Danish Parliament on 24-25 April 2003, the Expanded Bureau discussed Reports and Draft Resolutions of the General Committees in view of the upcoming Annual Session in Rotterdam. The Expanded Bureau also heard activity reports from the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General. President George indicated that he was pleased with the general improvement of the working relations with the governmental side of the OSCE, particularly with the Dutch Chair-in-Office, but he expressed serious concerns about current obstacles preventing the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna from functioning as an important link between the parliamentary and the governmental dimensions of the OSCE. In his report to the Expanded Bureau Treasurer Jerry Grafstein emphasized that the Assembly is in excellent financial shape and had strong praise for the management of the Assembly's finances by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and his team. The PA continues to operate within its budget and, as the external KPMG auditors have pointed out, the financial procedures followed are of a high standard. Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported on the activities of the Assembly and on the work of the International Secretariat.

In addition, reports were presented on preparations for the Sub-Regional Conference in Bern (14-16 May), the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Kazakhstan (7-9 June), the Rotterdam Annual Session (5-9 July), and the Fall Conference on Religion and Mediterranean Forum to be held from 9 to 12 October in Italy. The

parliamentarians were also informed about the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committees.

The Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Frank Van Beuningen, briefed the Expanded Bureau on the activities of the Dutch OSCE Chairmanship, followed by an extensive question and answer session.

President Bruce George and the International Secretariat reported that preparations for the 13th Annual Session, to be held in Edinburgh, are going very well. At the Expanded Bureau Meeting, OSCE PA Vice-President Alcee Hastings conveyed an invitation of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA to host the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Washington, in July 2005. The decision was taken to accept the invitation.





On 3-4 October 2002, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held a Conference, hosted by the Spanish Parliament in Madrid, dedicated to ensuring peace, democracy and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. Close to 150 parliamentarians took part in the Conference, representing over 40 countries, including parliamentarians from Mediterranean Partner States. During the two-day Conference, much attention was devoted to examining past and present international initiatives on the Mediterranean, as well as to migration flows and democratic development in the region. A need for greater on-going dialogue on Mediterranean issues was a recurring theme raised during the Conference. The proposal that the model set during the Madrid Conference would be continued in an annual Mediterranean Forum was positively received by the participants. The OSCE PA Conference in Madrid was the eighth in a series designed to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on important topics related to OSCE commitments and values. Previous Seminars and Conferences were held in Tbilisi (1995 and 1999), Vienna (1997), Tashkent (1997), Antalya (2000), Limassol (2000), and Sintra (2001).

A separate brochure on this event is available.

Presidential Activities

Mr. Bruce George, MP from the United Kingdom and Chairman of the Defence Committee of the House of Commons, was elected as the sixth President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 11th Annual Session held in Berlin in July 2002. Mr. George has been an active member of the OSCE PA since the 1992 Annual Session in Budapest and has held a wide variety of positions within the organization, including that of Chairman of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security and Vice-President. From 1997 until his election as President, he was Head of the UK



Delegation to the Assembly.

During the past year Mr. George, with the support of the International Secretariat, has been very active in strengthening the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as a key institution for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation. As the highest political representative of the Assembly the President has addressed the OSCE Permanent Council, participated in the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto, Ministerial Troika meetings, and has paid bilateral visits to Lisbon, the Hague, and Sofia (Portugal, the Netherlands and Bulgaria form the current Troika of the OSCE). President George was the first OSCE PA President to officially visit the OSCE Headquarters in Vienna, where he held meetings with the Secretary General and was briefed by senior officials of the Secretariat.

Paying special attention to the parliamentary dimension of international co-operation, President George has participated and contributed to several parliamentary fora, such as the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. He has also paid an official visit to the Headquarters of the Nordic Council.

Highlighting the importance of security in Asia and the Mediterranean to security in the OSCE area as a whole, Mr. George has paid special attention during his Presidency to relations between the OSCE PA and the parliaments of the Mediterranean and Asian Partners. President George has paid official visits to various OSCE Mediterranean and Asian countries including Italy, Greece, and Kazakhstan.

President George has also reflected his personal academic interest in security issues during his presidency of the Assembly. Mr. George has contributed an article on the political influence of the Assembly in the OSCE to the Helsinki Monitor, delivered lectures at the SIOI (Rome), and participated in important security conferences such as the EU Conference on Conflict Prevention, in August in Helsingborg, Sweden.

The President has encouraged the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians to the Organization's role in preventing local conflicts and assisting in the restoration of peace to those areas devastated by conflicts, while promoting democracy and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the OSCE region. President George actively contributed as a keynote speaker to the joint OSCE PA - CPC Conferences on Democratic Control of the Armed Forces and Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct in Belgrade and Kiev. He also took part in the Parliamentary Seminar on Federalism held in Moldova last May.

"I would propose the idea of establishing OSCE information offices in all participating States of the OSCE", said the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Bruce George in his address to the OSCE Ministerial Council on 6 December 2002 in Porto. According to the President these information offices, similar to those the EU

Participation in the Tenth OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting



has established in its member and applicant countries, would have the double objective of increasing the visibility of the OSCE and reducing the apparent 'stigma' of some member States that host OSCE offices or missions. The Assembly President noted that very few people in OSCE countries know what the OSCE is or what the OSCE stands for and what it is doing. *"And not only at the level of our common citizens, but at a higher political level in our capitals, the OSCE does not seem to be given very much attention - if at all,"* he said.

In his address President George also examined the role of the OSCE in view of NATO and European Union enlargement. According to the President the enlargement of both organizations will extend even further the already large common space of democratic stability on the European continent. *"The OSCE, as the only pan-European security Organization, has a crucial and unique role to play in enhancing overall security within and among states,"* said Bruce George. He also announced that the upcoming Annual Session of the Assembly in July 2003 in Rotterdam will deal with this theme. Concerning the role of the OSCE in the new European security architecture President Bruce George emphasized that the OSCE must continue to reform and adapt its mechanisms and procedures with a view to upholding its efficiency and credibility. *"Other institutions are adapting to the changing circumstances and we, in the OSCE, are engaged in that same process. It appears to me it is a question of adapting or progressively fading away. This adaptation process requires imagination, resolve, and recognition of the difficulties of securing consensus. It*

requires difficult decisions to be made. We must not confuse activity with achievement," Bruce George said. In this respect the Assembly President also emphasized that the OSCE's internal working processes demand patience. *"The requirement for consensus, paradoxically is both a strength and a weakness in the OSCE. The search for a common denominator can reinforce at times the sense of an OSCE community and improve prospects for implementation. However, I am more than conscious of the difficulties of securing agreement on key or even less crucial issues. Consensus has its price. If that price is the absence of taking the right and necessary decisions or to postpone the right decisions, or to dilute the right decisions, one may wonder if the price to be paid is too high".*

On co-operation with the governmental side of the OSCE President George emphasized the constant readiness of the Parliamentary Assembly to be supportive. *"In recent years our level of activity has dramatically increased in support of the OSCE. What you are doing, we are here to assist. We look to you for your support in helping us to do more. We are on the same side and we can do more operating together than being mistrustful towards each other".*

Ad Hoc Committees

The Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may appoint Ad Hoc Committees or Working Groups, sometimes called Democracy Teams or Parliamentary Teams, to address particular issues of concern.

The OSCE PA, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly sometimes

work together as a Parliamentary Troika to address issues of common concern to the three institutions. The Parliamentary Troika on Albania and the recently established Parliamentary Troika on Belarus are examples of this type of co-operation.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus was appointed in October 1998 in order to assist in the development of democracy in Belarus and facilitate national reconciliation. The main aim of the Working Group has been to facilitate dialogue between the Government and opposition of Belarus in an attempt to promote free and fair election processes and aid in the development of democracy. The Group has visited Belarus several times this year, and reported its findings to the Standing Committee at the Winter Meeting in February. In all of its meetings, the Group has stressed the importance of participation in the OSCE process and the need to find peaceful, inclusive solutions to the country's various political problems.

Parliamentary Team on Moldova

The Parliamentary Team on Moldova was established in early 2000. The Team's mandate calls on it to promote peace, stability and the rule of law in Moldova, while affirming the unity of the State, by engaging in and promoting dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the Moldovan population. Resolving the status of Transdniestria is a particular priority of the Parliamentary Team. To this end, the Team held a seminar on federalism in May 2003 to consider different modes of federalism and their applicability to Moldova.

Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo

The Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo was established during the January 2000 Standing Committee meeting in Vienna. The Committee's primary aim is to assist in building civic society by promoting dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the population in Kosovo. During the last year the Committee has visited the area in order to assist in the process of democratization, in particular by offering support to parliamentary committees within the Kosovo Assembly, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Kosovo.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Abkhazia

During the Standing Committee meeting in Vienna

in February 2001, it was decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Abkhazia to promote the creation of a political framework which could facilitate reconciliation and resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia. The Group has met with Georgian officials, and has been actively working to arrange a meeting with representatives from Abkhazia.

Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE

In July 2001 the OSCE PA Standing Committee established the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE. Its aim is to promote the implementation of the Parliamentary Assembly's policies on strengthening the OSCE parliamentary dimension and, in particular, to enhance transparency and accountability in the OSCE. The Committee met several times in 2002 to explore ways of improving interaction with the OSCE governmental side; the establishment of an OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna, and the briefing by the OSCE Secretary General on the proposed OSCE budget are examples of the positive work being done by the Committee.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed a particularly active programme for monitoring elections in the OSCE area. The presence of parliamentary observers at elections during transitional periods emphasizes the importance of legislatures as institutions that must provide a balance to executive authority. Due to the fact that parliamentarians are themselves directly elected public officials, local and international media often greatly value their observations.

In 1997 a Co-operation Agreement between the



Election Monitoring



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was signed, defining the respective roles of the two Institutions in election observation missions. The ODIHR is responsible for arranging Needs Assessment Missions, long-term observation and establishing an OSCE Co-ordination Office prior to elections. Long-term observers are sent into the field several weeks before an election, so that the OSCE can properly evaluate developments leading up to the election. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's role is to deploy parliamentarians, primarily as short-term observers, and to provide political leadership to the OSCE monitoring operation.

The Co-operation Agreement states that the OSCE Chairman-in-Office may designate a political figure as a Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE Observation Mission. Normally, this person, who also acts as a Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, will be the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly or an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Senior Official. The Special Co-ordinator works closely with the ODIHR on-site Co-ordinator of the election monitor-

ing mission who assists the parliamentary delegation with critical logistical support. The Special Co-ordinator delivers the OSCE Post-Election Statement in conjunction with other appropriate officials.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has also developed close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in monitoring elections. Since the programme began, more than 1400 parliamentarians from over forty countries have provided their expertise to the OSCE in the field of election monitoring.

Since the Annual Session in Berlin the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has sent parliamentarians to observe elections in the FYR of Macedonia, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Armenia.

The parliamentary elections in the FYR of Macedonia, held on 15 September 2002, were observed by a Mission led by OSCE PA Vice President Kimmo Kiljunen, who acted as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The observation mission included over 40 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA, as well as parliamentarians from the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The OSCE PA

"There is no better way of staffing OSCE observation missions than by those who know the ropes, who have fought elections themselves. I am well aware that these missions are often time consuming, but I do not think the OSCE can do without you on these missions in the future."

Chairman-in-Office Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting

Delegation concluded that the citizens of the FYR of Macedonia had achieved a successful electoral process that could represent a major step towards restoring stability and democracy in the country.

More than 25 parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as parliamentarians from the Council of Europe and the European parliament monitored the general elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina on 6 October 2002. The Mission was led by Mr. Peter De Crem, member of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE PA, who acted as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. In delivering the post-election statement, Mr. De Crem concluded that the elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina marked important progress toward the consolidation of democracy and the strengthening of rule of law.

The OSCE PA also sent a delegation of parliamentarians from six different countries to observe the parliamentary elections in Armenia, held on May 25 2003. The Mission was headed by Giovanni Kessler, member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, who acted as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and worked in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. In delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the Delegation, Mr. Kessler concluded that the elections showed an improvement over previous elections in meeting international standards, but also remarked on the clear lack of voter confidence in the electoral process.

Visits to OSCE Field Missions

The initiative to organize regular field visits of parliamentarians to OSCE Field Missions became

operational in late 2001. These visits enable parliamentarians to observe the activities of the OSCE in the field and to support the important work of the Missions. Since the beginning of the programme some one hundred parliamentarians have visited OSCE presences in eleven countries. OSCE PA Delegations were led by British MP Andrew Mackinlay (Latvia and Estonia, December 2001), Romanian MP Mihai Stanisoara (Ukraine, January 2002), Dutch MP Elizabeth Meijer (Uzbekistan, April 2002), Swedish MP Tone Tingsgaard (Armenia and Georgia, May 2002; Azerbaijan, November 2002), Finnish MP Paula Kokkonen (Kyrgyzstan, December 2002), OSCE PA Vice-President Rita Süssmuth (Croatia, February 2003), Slovenian MP Roberto Battelli (Albania, March 2003), and Swedish MP Göran Lenmarker (FYR of Macedonia, April 2003). All OSCE presences in the field welcomed the opportunity to introduce Members of Parliament to field work and were appreciative of the support of the OSCE PA for the efforts undertaken by the Missions.



Parliamentary Seminar on Federalism in Moldova



From 12-13 May 2003, the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, organized a two-day seminar devoted to the theme of federalism. Significantly, the first day of the Seminar took place in Chisinau and continued on the second day in Tiraspol. The Seminar was designed to contribute to the current efforts underway to create a federal State in an attempt to resolve the decade-old dispute regarding the status of the Transdnistrian region of Moldova. Among the more than 60 participants in the Seminar were parliamentarians from Moldova and representatives of the Transdnistrian Supreme Soviet as well as the chief negotiators from both sides.

The Seminar provided an opportunity for representatives of the two sides to hear about European experiences of federalism from representatives of the parliaments of Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. The Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, as well as the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Moldova, experts and officials from the European Union and the Venice Commission addressed the Seminar, which was chaired by Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (MP, Finland), Vice President of the OSCE PA and Chair of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova.

In opening the two-day event, OSCE PA President Bruce George referred to the difficult task of drafting a new constitution for Moldova on a federal basis: "It is vital that in this critical moment for your country the elected political leaders recognize their responsibilities," he said. "This may include taking difficult decisions and making compromises in order to secure a better future for the country and its people."

Mr. George also addressed the two sides' representatives in the recently formed Joint Constitutional Committee (JCC), created to draft a new federal constitution for the country, who also took part in the Seminar. "The international community has provided the impetus in this process, but ultimately the new constitution for Moldova must come from within the country and reflect the interests of all its citizens," he told them.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Kiljunen highlighted the overall success of the event, noting in particular the significance of the participation of legislators from both the Parliament of Moldova and the Transdnistrian Supreme Soviet, the inclusion of opposition representatives in the Moldovan delegation, the participation of international organisations and the presence of the media. This event was seen to have been well-timed to coincide with the beginning of the work of the JCC and the Parliamentary Team on Moldova intends to follow up on progress with a visit in the early autumn.



Bern Conference on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

After discussions from 14-15 May 2003 in the Swiss Parliament in Bern, more than 80 parliamentarians from 30 OSCE participating States adopted the Bern Declaration on Promoting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the OSCE area. The Declaration calls upon OSCE participating States to create legal and regulatory environments favourable to the development of SMEs along with attractive taxation systems and guaranteed access to various infrastructures.

The Bern Declaration urges the OSCE to raise awareness by making parliaments and governments more sensitive to the interplay between economic factors and security in the OSCE region. Recognizing the importance of SMEs as a backbone and driving force for a sustainable economy, the parliamentarians called upon governments of the OSCE to provide technical assistance services on legal, tax and licensing requirements, as well as access to information on market data and trade and investment opportunities. The Bern Declaration also appeals to the OSCE to identify areas and sectors under development and in need of reconstruction in order to bring them to the attention of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations with the resources to assist SMEs.

The Bern Conference, chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Barbara Haering and organized at the invitation of the Swiss Parliament and the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was addressed by prominent officials including Bruce George, President

of the OSCE PA; Yves Christen, President of the Swiss National Council; Micheline Calmy-Rey, Foreign Minister of Switzerland; Samuel Schmid, Defence Minister of Switzerland; Gian-Reto Plattner, President of the Swiss Council of States and Marcin Swiecicki, OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities.

In his address, President George emphasized the increasing contribution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in economic matters. "As parliamentarians we are aware of the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in our economies" said President George, who continued by stating that "our common focus is to urge policymakers to assess and co-ordinate their actions at local, national, and international level, in ensuring an environment that is conducive to entrepreneurship, as well as to develop policies that facilitate the start-up and growth of SMEs in the OSCE area". Vice-President Barbara Haering stressed in her concluding remarks that the Bern Conference is not an end to the parliamentary promotion of SMEs in the OSCE area. On the contrary, the recommendations of the Bern Conference will be followed up by the Second Committee of the OSCE PA.

The Conference in Bern was the third conference organized by the OSCE PA in the field of sub-regional economic co-operation following those held in Monaco (1997) and Nantes (1999). The next conference will be held in Norway in 2005.



OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy



One of the events attracting much attention at the second OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting in Vienna on February 20-21 2003 was the award ceremony for the OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy. This year the Prize was granted to Anna Politkovskaya, a distinguished journalist with the independent Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*. Ms. Politkovskaya gained international recognition for her extensive and balanced reporting in Chechnya, drawing attention to human rights abuses in the region.

The President of the OSCE PA, Mr. Bruce George, stated that “granting her this honour is a strong statement of the Parliamentary Assembly in support of courageous and professional journalism, for human rights and freedom of the media”.

The OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy was established by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1996 and has become an important instrument in raising awareness on media freedom issues worldwide. The Prize is awarded annually at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna to journalists who, through their work, have promoted the OSCE principles on human rights and democracy.

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly chooses the winner of the Prize from a list of nominees submitted by Delegations and selected by the Prize Committee, which is composed of the President of the Assembly, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarians

Questions, as well as a representative of the International Secretariat.

The Donors are also represented in the Prize Committee, where they have one collective vote, and may also put forward candidates for the Prize. The Annual Prize awarded amounts to \$20,000 US. The funding for the Prize comes from private donations, organizations or foundations associated with the field of journalism and the media in various OSCE participating States.

Past winners:

1996	Mr. Adam Michnik
1997	Reporters sans frontières
1998	Mr. Timothy Garton Ash
1999	Ms. Christine Amanpour
2000	Mr. Andrei Babitsky
2001	Mr. José López de Lacalle and Mr. Georgiy Gongadze
2002	Dr. Friederich Orter and Mr. Pavel Sheremet

The Donors are Bertelsmann AG (Germany), Bonnier Group (Sweden), and Schibsted ASA (Norway).

A separate brochure on
this event is available

The International Secretariat

A decision was made at the First Annual Session in Budapest to accept the invitation of the Danish Folketing to locate the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen. The Committee of Heads of Delegation (also referred to as the Standing Committee) met in Copenhagen in January of 1993 to approve the Bureau's choice of a Director and to adopt formal Rules of Procedure for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and a budget for its Secretariat.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved R. Spencer Oliver of the United States as the Assembly's first Director. The Director (now Secretary General) chose two senior Deputies, Pentti Väänänen of Finland and Vitaly Evseyev of Russia, who were also approved unanimously by the Committee. The Standing Committee has twice unanimously re-elected Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver to new five-year terms.

The Danish Folketing, as a gift to the Assembly, provides premises, near the Danish Parliament, and equipment for the Assembly's use, making the Danish Parliament the single largest contributor to the budget of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Danish Government signed a headquarters agreement with the Assembly, providing for full international diplomatic privileges and immunities on the same level as other diplomatic missions in Denmark.

The primary responsibility of the International Secretariat is to organize the Annual Session of the Assembly as well as the Winter Meeting, meetings of the Standing Committee, the Bureau and the Expanded

Bureau. It also serves as a central communications link between the OSCE parliamentary delegations, other OSCE Institutions and the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Secretariat maintains the records of Parliamentary Assembly activities and programmes carried out since it was established in 1993, including the minutes of all official meetings. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen, along with Financial Assistant Per-Henrik Dürr, are responsible for the financial affairs and administration of the Assembly under the guidance and oversight of the Treasurer. Independent audits by outside auditors from KPMG are carried out on at least an annual basis. Expenditures have consistently remained within the annual approved budget since the International Secretariat was established in 1993.

The Secretariat provides support to the President, the Bureau, the Officers of the three General Committees and the ad hoc Committees. The Staff of the Secretariat also organizes special missions and visits, as well as election observation projects. Senior staff have participated in meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and the Ministerial Troika and frequently represent the Assembly at other meetings and forums.

In January 2003, the International Secretariat opened a Liaison Office in Vienna, headed by a Special Representative, to facilitate communication with the OSCE structures in Vienna.



Mr. R. Spencer Oliver, (United States) Secretary General has overall responsibility for managing the affairs of the

Assembly and for the International Secretariat, in preparing, co-ordinating and supporting all the activities of the Assembly and its Officers. He formerly served as Staff Director of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Chief Counsel of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. Congress. He also served in senior diplomatic posts for the U.S. in CSCE activities between 1977 and 1985.



Mr. Pentti Väänänen, (Finland) is the Deputy Secretary General with responsibility for financial matters, election

monitoring activities and the Rules of Procedure. He has responsibility for the Balkans, and the Baltic countries. He is Head of the Gender Unit and is responsible for working with the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (Third Committee). He has served in senior international posts as well as Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Finland.



Mr. Vitaly Evseyev, (Russian Federation) is the Deputy Secretary General with primary responsibility for organizing the meetings of the

Assembly, including the Annual Session, meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau, and various conferences and seminars. In addition, he is responsible for working with the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee). A former diplomat and senior official in the Russian Parliament, he also served in the United Nations and as Assistant Secretary General of the IPU.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, (Germany) seconded by the Bundestag as the Special Representative of the OSCE PA in Vienna, is primarily responsible for facilitating communication between the PA and the governmental structures of the OSCE in Vienna. He maintains contacts with officials in the OSCE structures in Vienna, ensuring an adequate information flow. He is a constitutional lawyer who has worked at the German Bundestag for more than 18 years.



Ms. Tina Schön, (Denmark) is the Programme Officer with primary responsibility for the Caucasus, including the Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia, and participates in election monitoring projects in the area. She serves as the Gender Adviser in the International Secretariat and is responsible for directing the research staff, as well as providing staff support for the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability



Mr. Gustavo Pallares, (Spain) is the Presidential Adviser and co-ordinates the activities of the Assembly President and works with Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev on matters related to the Second Committee. He also has responsibility for Mediterranean questions.



Mr. Paul LeGendre, (United States) Programme Officer, is primarily responsible for Central Asia and other countries in the geographical area of the former Soviet Union. He co-ordinates the work of the Working Group on Belarus and also assists Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen with the Parliamentary Team on Moldova and on matters related to the Third Committee.



Mr. Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer, (United Kingdom / Denmark) Programme Officer, assists Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen on Balkan matters including the Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo. He is also responsible for assisting the bureau of the First Committee.



Mr. Kurt Andersen, (Denmark) General Services Officer, is responsible for physical arrangements of all Assembly meetings and of reproduction and distribution of all documents to the Bureau, Standing Committee, other OSCE Institutions and the press.



Mr. Jan Jooren, (the Netherlands) seconded as the Counsellor for Press and Public Affairs by the Dutch government, is responsible for press and publicity related to the Assembly's activities including the OSCE PA's internal newsletter "*News from Copenhagen*" and other publications. He is a career information officer in the Dutch civil service and has previously served both in the Parliament and in the Prime Minister's Office, from which he was seconded to the Parliamentary Assembly



Mr. Per-Henrik Dürr, (Denmark) Financial Assistant, maintains the books and financial records of the Assembly. Working with the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General for Finance, he ensures that all expenditures are properly authorized and vouchered. He also works with the firm KPMG Jespersen, the Assembly's external auditors.



Ms. Almuth Janisch, (Germany) Conference Co-ordinator, assists Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev in organizing all Assembly meetings, including logistics and all other details related to the organization of the Annual Sessions, meetings of the Bureau, Standing Committee and various conferences and seminars.



Mrs. Connie Mathiesen, (Denmark) Senior Secretary, is responsible for maintaining the files and the records of the Assembly. She distributes all correspondence which comes to the International Secretariat and co-ordinates the flow of information between and among the staff members.



Ms. Pia C. Rasmussen, (Denmark) IT Supporter, maintains the computers for all members of the staff, and maintains the internal computer network. She also assists Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen with scheduling and correspondence.



Ms. Sophie Richardson, (United Kingdom) is the Assistant to the Secretary General and is responsible for the coordination of the Secretary General's schedule, correspondence and liaison with OSCE Institutions. She also screens and recruits the Research Assistants.



Ms. Kathrin Volz, (Germany) Liaison Officer, and former Research Fellow at the International Secretariat, is responsible for assisting the Special Representative. She maintains working contacts with the OSCE Secretariat, and monitors the documents and working papers produced by the OSCE structures in Vienna.

The International Research Fellowship Programme



The establishment of the International Research Fellowship Programme was approved by the Standing Committee at its July 1994 meeting in Vienna and started in early 1995 with two Fellows. Since the very beginning, the Programme has been an important and valuable asset to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and there are now eight to ten Research Fellows at the International Secretariat at all times.

The Fellowship Programme provides the International Secretariat with extensive language capability and enables it to produce high-quality research. At the same time, young people from all over the OSCE area have the opportunity to work in an international organization and become familiar with the parliamentary dimension of international relations.

Research Fellows are recruited from graduate students of political science, law and international affairs from universities in the OSCE countries. Research Fellowships are normally granted for six months, but in exceptional cases, some Fellows have extended for a longer period. Since the inception of the Programme, more than one hundred-and-twenty Fellows from twenty-one countries have worked in the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. Ms. Tina Schön and Ms. Sophie Richardson, former Research Fellows themselves, are in charge of co-ordinating the Research Fellowship Programme.

All Fellows work in close co-operation with the permanent staff in all areas of OSCE PA activity. Each year, two Research Fellows are assigned to assist the senior staff member and the Rapporteur of each of the General Committees in the preparation of reports and draft resolutions for the Annual Session. In addition, Fellows write reference papers, prepare background material for speeches or presentations and produce briefing papers for presidential visits, field mission visits and election monitoring missions. They are also involved in the logistical organization of the Assembly's meetings and seminars. Fellows are periodically assigned to assist Ad hoc Committees and Special Representatives that have been appointed by the President and the Standing Committee for special purposes and they also follow and report to the permanent staff on OSCE Field Activities. Moreover, the Fellows assist with the development of OSCE PA publications, including reports, brochures, and maintenance of the website.

Each Research Fellow brings new ideas to the work of the International Secretariat and their presence greatly increases the multi-national character of the Secretariat.

After finishing their assignments at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, most Fellows move ahead into careers in their governments, in the OSCE or in other international organizations. Many of them have undertaken challenging assignments in OSCE field missions, in particular in the Balkans.