



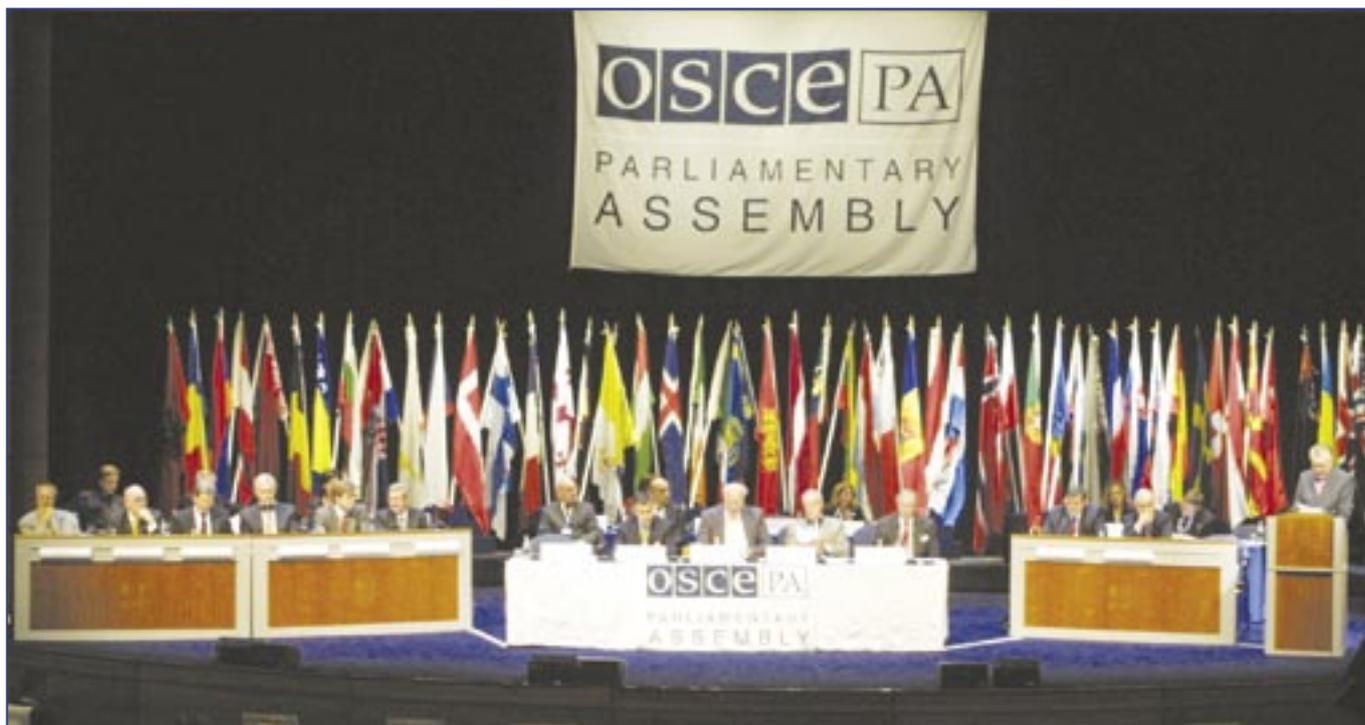
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Report
on the
13th Annual Session
in
Edinburgh

5 - 9 July 2004

Overview



From 5 – 9 July 2004 the 13th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE was held in Edinburgh. More than 300 parliamentarians from 52 OSCE Member States participated, as well as representatives from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Assembly of the Western European Union, Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Nordic Council. Also Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Algeria, Morocco, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia as well as Senior OSCE Officials, ambassadors from OSCE Capitals and numerous NGO's were present in Edinburgh. The central theme of the Edinburgh Session was "Co-operation and Partnership: Coping with New Security Threats".

The Inaugural Plenary Session on Monday 5 July was preceded by a Meeting of the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA which unanimously approved the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2004/2005 and allocated thirteen Supplementary Items to the three General Committees and to the Plenary for consideration. During the first day of the Session the parliamentarians heard presentations by outgoing PA President Bruce George, Leader of the House of Commons Peter Hain, OSCE Chairman-in-Office

Solomon Passy, Council of Europe PA President Peter Schieder, Nordic Council President Gabriel Romanus and OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis. The presentations of Passy and Kubis were followed by question/answer sessions. Prior to the Meeting of the Standing Committee Terry Davis, Head of the UK Delegation, and Tone Tingsgaard, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on Gender Issues, hosted a well attended working breakfast on Gender Issues.

During the three days following the Opening Session, the three General Committees of the Assembly considered reports and draft resolutions dealing with the Annual Session's central theme as well as draft resolutions on Supplementary Items. Numerous side meetings took place as well as meetings of the Ad Hoc Committees of the Assembly.

On Friday 9 July, the 13th Annual Session closed with the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration. Several additional documents were also adopted. The parliamentarians overwhelmingly approved resolutions which urge the OSCE to carry out necessary reforms of its consensus decision-making procedures, which often obstruct the work of the Organization. On the final day the Assembly elected US Congressman Alcee Hastings as its new President for a one year term. Other Assembly Officers were also elected.



Standing Committee



Prior to the Inaugural Plenary Session in Edinburgh, the Standing Committee of the Heads of OSCE PA Delegations gathered to hear reports on various Assembly activities, including the work of the Ad Hoc Committees and the election monitoring missions to Georgia, as well as preparations for the Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings and Mediterranean Forum, to be held from 29 September to 2 October 2004 in Rhodes, Greece. The Heads of Delegation also heard reports by the Treasurer and the Secretary General.

The OSCE PA Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada) reported that his meeting with KPMG, the Assembly's external auditors, had resulted in a very positive assessment of the financial management of PA funds. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the proposed budget for fiscal year 2004/2005, including an increase of 4% over last year's expenditures.

The OSCE PA Secretary General, R. Spencer Oliver,

gave an overview of the International Secretariat's activities. He emphasized that the Assembly has continued its dynamic growth and that, although the number of activities has been increasing, the International Secretariat has been operating within the bounds of the annual budget approved by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee discussed an amendment to Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure concerning the role of the Standing Committee when deciding about the supplementary items at the Annual Sessions. President Bruce George and other sponsors of the amendment argued that the proposed text was in line with the previous precedents and would remove the ambiguities. However, the amendment was rejected since it was opposed by representatives of France, Italy and Ukraine.

Before closing, the Standing Committee allocated the thirteen Supplementary Items to the three General Committees and to the Plenary for consideration.



Inaugural Plenary Session



The Inaugural Plenary Session on Monday 5 July included addresses by Bruce George, President of the OSCE PA, Peter Hain, Leader of the House of Commons and Solomon Passy, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Following his address, Mr. Passy took questions from the floor.

Bruce George President of the OSCE PA



President Bruce George welcomed the Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the Thirteenth Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Edinburgh and said that it was fortuitous that the final function during his Presidency should be in his own country, the United Kingdom.

He emphasized that the theme of the Edinburgh Session – “Co-operation and Partnership: Coping with New Security Threats” – was both timely and appropriate and that it coincided with the main efforts of the Bulgarian Chairmanship.

In his presentation, the President elaborated extensively on how he had sought to meet the commitments he gave to make both the Assembly and the OSCE more responsive to each other and to international events and to enhance their relevance in an increasingly institutionally competitive, unstable and dangerous environment. He emphasized that the main weakness of the OSCE continues to be its requirement for consensus which often obstructs the work of the Organization. “I have proposed what I call “variable geometry of voting” – sometimes consensus, consensus minus one, majority voting, two-thirds voting, as in our own Assembly”, said the President. He reminded the Assembly that in his recent address to the Permanent Council he had suggested that the Council take a very courageous approach to reform the OSCE. Among other proposals, he had suggested that it might be considered appropriate to make the job of the OSCE Secretary General a more political one, similar to the NATO Secretary General. He had also suggested the establishment of field or roaming mis-

sions in countries west of Vienna in order to obtain a balanced approach to the Organization's endeavours. Bruce George said: "I begin to sense a greater mood amongst the Permanent Council of the OSCE to consider some necessary and substantial changes. Time will see if I am being excessively optimistic". He furthermore underlined the need for closer co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and the Asian Partners, the importance of parliamentarians participating in election monitoring missions, the importance of taking further steps to ensure gender balance in the OSCE, the need to strengthen Field Missions as well as the importance of greater visibility of the OSCE among citizens.

Peter Hain **Leader of the House of Commons**



Peter Hain welcomed his fellow parliamentarians to Edinburgh, sometimes called "The Athens of the North", and paid tribute to outgoing President Bruce George who "has been a champion of the OSCE and of the Parliamentary Assembly for as long as I can remember".

He underlined that there are still challenges which the OSCE is better equipped to face than any other organization and focused on the question of what the OSCE should do in the years to come and what the role of the Parliamentary Assembly should be. First, the OSCE must continue to promote democracy and assist in improving the democratic process in its participating States. According to Mr. Hain, the Parliamentary Assembly has an important part to play here. "The delegates here today should make sure when they go home that they spread OSCE values; they should be in the vanguard of those pressing for change in countries where OSCE standards are threatened or violated". Mr. Hain continued by underlining that parliamentarians also have a special responsibility for acting as an interface between the people and the government, for being the advocate of their citizens, for ensuring that the issues that matter most to the public are being debated and that the decisions taken improve the qual-

ity of life for all and for exchanging experience and spreading best practice.

Second, the OSCE must continue to defend and promote human rights. Mr. Hain emphasized that human rights make humans rich and help to defeat the poverty and alienation in which terrorism can breed. "Parliaments can and should hold governments to account when they seem to forget that. And if people see that parliamentarians are standing up for their rights, they are more likely to become the sort of active and engaged citizenry on which a healthy democracy depends".

Third, the OSCE should help its participating States build the basis for economic prosperity, not by becoming a major aid donor, but by helping countries to strengthen the Rule of Law and good governance, thereby creating the conditions in which both foreign and domestic investment can grow.

Fourth, the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly should help participating States face the threats and challenges of the modern world, in particular terrorism and organized crime. Mr. Hain concluded by saying that perhaps the greatest contribution of the OSCE in dealing with all these problems is its work to promote tolerance and to fight against discrimination of all sorts.

Solomon Passy **OSCE Chairman-in-Office**



In his address to the Edinburgh Session, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy shared his impressions from the first half of the Bulgarian Chairmanship and looked ahead to the future. He said: "The Parliamentary Assembly has considerably strengthened its role as an important OSCE institution during the last decade.

The Bulgarian Chairmanship has identified further advancement of mutual political support and continuous interaction with the Parliamentary Assembly among its main priorities for 2004".

One of the main conclusions he drew from his visits to Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Moldova, Belarus and the Western Balkans was that the OSCE is in a

position to be an essential contributor to the reinforcement of a positive perspective for these regions and countries, and can stimulate the mobilization of their potentials to this end. Mr. Passy continued by saying that events earlier this year in Georgia and Kosovo demonstrated that the OSCE has a role to play by providing a concrete contribution to deescalating the situation and finding a peaceful outcome.

The OSCE furthermore made a difference in a number of other cases recently – in promoting dialogue and contributing to conflict resolution in Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh, in stimulating the release of prisoners in Azerbaijan, in the adoption of a moratorium on death penalty in Tajikistan, in supporting the return of refugees and IDPs, in re-possession of property in the Western Balkans, in securing financial support for the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and in resuming open dialogue with Belarus.

Regarding the future the C-i-O expressed his belief that the OSCE is in a state of flux and that the transformation process should start right away. “I am a politician like all of you here and I am convinced that we should try to humanize the Organization and bring it closer to the people and our constituencies, thereby better responding to their needs and expectations. I have the strong feeling that the OSCE is embedded in a sort of bureaucratic status quo which should be addressed with vision and political leadership”, he added. The Chairman-in-Office also noted that there were huge geographic imbalances in the distribution of the OSCE budget among different areas, with some 50 per cent of resources allocated to South Eastern Europe while only six percent was spent in Central Asia and 15 percent in the Caucasus. Minister Passy also said, “Unlike holders of similar posts in other international organizations, the political prerogatives of our Secretary General are too limited”. The Chairman-in-Office expressed the hope that OSCE foreign ministers would agree to transform the Organization when they meet for their annual Ministerial Council in Sofia in December, adding: “The transformation process requires the input of parliamentarians and foreign ministries, the interest of the press, and the awareness of the public. You, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, play a vital role in generating fresh initiatives and influencing decision-takers to use the OSCE to tackle contemporary challenges and to transform it to be better equipped in the future. We would welcome your ideas and dynamism to enhance the Organization so that it can live up to the expectations that we all hold for it”.

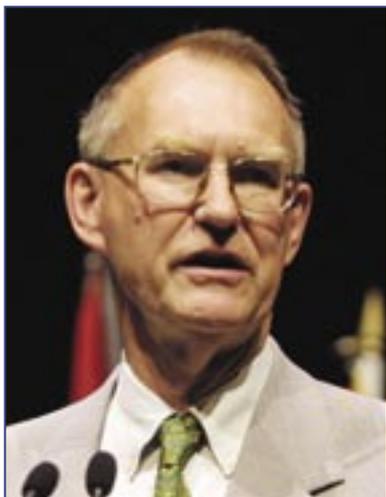
Peter Schieder **President of the Council of Europe PA**



Mr Peter Schieder, President of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), said that the increase in the number of inter-parliamentary bodies should be welcomed as it strengthens the parliamentary dimension in the face of growing internationalization of executive power. He spoke of the common duty to be aware of, and coordinate with, one another in order to avoid duplication. He said that the threats of terrorism, disease, migration, regional conflicts, organized crime and trafficking require faster and more resourceful responses. On the international level, governments in the name of expediency sometimes circumvent democratic procedures. While speedy, positive action should be welcomed, the resulting democratic deficit cannot be ignored. Without democracy international organizations become unpopular and ineffective. Thus parliamentarians can make a positive contribution. Efforts should be made to increase cooperation between the different international parliamentary bodies, utilizing a principle of comparative advantage. Schieder expressed his firm belief that cooperation increased chance of success in the fight against new threats. He said that without respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law there can be no security. In this context, all must redouble efforts to defend these principles, holding governments to account in order to ensure security for their citizens.

Gabriel Romanus **President of the Nordic Council**

Mr Gabriel Romanus, Nordic Council, said the Nordic countries have supported the OSCE and the Helsinki process from the very beginning. He recalled the early days of the Organization, when the CSCE was located within the arena of the cold war, and was characterized by a waste of intellectual energy; it was a closed society, with its own culture, visibly accomplishing very little. Marking the close of the cold war as the most positive development of our lifetime, he stressed that the OSCE now plays a very different role pro-



moting democracy, practical fieldwork, election monitoring, reporting on infringements of freedom of the media and violations of human rights. However, he said that there is still a lot to be done. He complimented the ability of the Assembly to consider reform as a necessary attitude in a choice between development and the graveyard. Recalling that law of social science that democracies do not fight each other, Romanus considered that promoting democracy must remain the primary peace-keeping measure. Although new threats do summon the need for good armies and police forces, this alone is not enough. Rather, attention must also be paid to the development of democracy and welfare policies. In conclusion, Romanus highlighted that majority rule must not be allowed to infringe on minority rights as the resulting frustrations are often the cause of new threats.

Jan Kubis OSCE Secretary General



In his address to the Assembly OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis summarized a number of important steps that have been taken recently to improve the management of the OSCE. The transformation to a Fund Management System has created more transparency and accountability.

The roll-out this year of the Integrated Management System (IRMA) will improve the Organization's ability to better implement the political decisions taken by participating States. Security management has been strengthened to increase awareness, address potential risks to staff and assets, and take all reasonable measures to ensure a secure working environment. Speaking about OSCE staff, the Secretary General could not

avoid but mention the gender balance: "We have no female Heads of Institution, no female directors and one female Head of Mission. This needs to change". The Secretary General continued by saying that he agreed with those who believe that the OSCE needs a shake up in its political management. "By having the Secretary General take a lead role in managing the day to day activities of the Organization, the Chairmanship would be free to concentrate on political and strategic initiatives and consensus-building. I see this as a win-win situation for improving the effectiveness of the OSCE. Mr. Kubis concluded by expressing his sincere thanks to the outgoing President of the OSCE PA, Bruce George. According to the Secretary General, Bruce George "managed to substantially improve our co-operation, made it more pragmatic and substantive. That is a profound change, although, in my opinion, more could and should be done in increasing its relevance, based on real dialogue and interaction".

Gender Issues

On 5 July, Special Representative on the Gender Issue Tone Tingsgaard reported to the Plenary, presenting the conclusions of the 2004 OSCE PA Gender Balance Report as well as her personal Action Plan for the OSCE PA. Ms. Tingsgaard expressed her regrets that no progress had been made with regard to gender equality in the OSCE and that in some respects the situation had even deteriorated. Ms. Tingsgaard called on Members of the OSCE PA to put pressure on their national governments to ensure that the gender



issue remained on the agenda of the OSCE and that the new OSCE Gender Action Plan be adopted and implemented in a timely manner. She again recommended that more women be promoted as candidates for high-level positions within the Organisation, and she strongly urged that those discriminatory measures which work against women candidates be removed. Ms. Tingsgaard voiced her concern about the decreased gender budget within the OSCE and urged OSCE PA delegations to encourage their governments to support an increase in the OSCE budget for the work of the Gender Advisor and the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. In addition, Ms. Tingsgaard again raised the issue of the unbalanced composition of many national OSCE PA Delegations and urged Heads of Delegations to help promote women for their respective Delegation. On a more positive note, she remarked that there had been an increase of women in the OSCE PA leadership. Yet, she stated that gender issues should also be mainstreamed and included in the reports of all three committees. Mrs. Tingsgaard requested that Members read her Action Plan for the OSCE PA and emphasized the need to implement it urgently. In the ensuing debate, Members of the OSCE PA expressed their support for the work of the Special Representative and

her proposals. Several Delegates stressed that in order to promote the gender issue, political will is needed, and parliamentarians have a very important role to play in this regard, both at the national level and through inter-parliamentary forums such as the OSCE PA. Some participants raised the issue of introducing quotas within the OSCE PA.

Prior to the opening of the 13th Annual Session Terry Davis, Head of the UK Delegation to the OSCE PA, and Tone Tingsgaard, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on Gender Issues, hosted a working breakfast on gender issues. Ms. Tingsgaard presented her own experience as a woman in politics and shared her ideas and plans for promoting the gender issue within the OSCE. She urged the OSCE PA delegations to encourage their governments to support women parliamentarians and assist them in identifying qualified female candidates. In light of the contribution of the OSCE PA to the UN Conference on women and political participation, Ms. Gaye Erbatır (Turkey) spoke about her experiences as a female member of the Turkish parliament. During the discussion, Members expressed their support for Ms. Tingsgaard's Plan. Other measures such as quotas were also discussed.





On the first Plenary of the Annual Session the Assembly considered a supplementary item on “Co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly” presented by Congressman Steny Hoyer of the US Delegation and Chair



of the Assembly’s Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE. The resolution, integrating proposed amendments by several delegations, was approved by the Assembly.

With this resolution the Assembly reiterates its previous recommendations that the OSCE carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its consensus decision-making procedure. The Resolution also calls for greater transparency in the process of decision-making in the OSCE as well as increased accountability in the process of implementation. The Assembly also calls on the OSCE to respond to its recommendations on the draft OSCE budget and recommends that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly response to the draft OSCE budget be discussed in the relevant organs of the Organisation. The Assembly furthermore calls on National OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegations to work to ensure that the Assembly’s Declarations are followed at the national level of parliaments as well as governments.

Finally the Resolution calls on the OSCE to upgrade the role of the Secretary General with a view to strengthening and enlarging his/her prerogatives, especially in the political sphere.



General Committee On Political Affairs And Security

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Göran Lenmarker (Sweden), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security (the First General Committee) discussed a wide range of topics included in the Rapporteur's draft resolution such as the fight against terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons, border protection, policing, the need for reform of the OSCE, gender equality and reducing reliance on seconded personnel. The following Supplementary Items were allocated by the Standing Committee to be debated and considered in the First General Committee: Measures to Promote Commitments by Non-State Actors to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Mines, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Peace in the Middle East- The Protection of the Holy Places of Jerusalem.

First Committee Report and Resolution

Introducing his Report and Resolution, Rapporteur Mr. Clifford Lincoln (Canada) stressed the continuing importance of the OSCE as the only regional security organization with a truly pan-European membership that also includes the United States, Canada and Central Asia. Mr. Lincoln highlighted the key role parliamentarians can play on the national level to encourage the governments of states, which have not yet done so, to ratify and accede to the 12 UN Protocols and Conventions on Terrorism. He also recommended that coop-

eration already existing among the police, and particularly border police, be expanded into other aspects of border protection. The Rapporteur urged for greater integration of civilian and military aspects of crisis response, underscoring the importance of the democratic control of armed

forces. In addition, he expressed concern for the stalemate resulting from secret consensus voting rules and urged reform of these rules, particularly in relation to administrative and personnel decisions. On the issue of staffing, Mr. Lincoln expressed regret at the lack of female representation at the higher levels of the OSCE, and called for a change in this. After a debate on the Draft Resolution and consideration of each of the proposed amendments, the Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Committee and subse-



quently by the Assembly. Condemning terrorism in all forms and manifestations, the Resolution refines the role of the parliamentary dimension and particularly that of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the struggle against terrorism. It also urges OSCE participating states to reconsider the consensus decision-making rule and calls for an immediate change in the decision making system in relation to administrative and personnel decisions of the OSCE. In addition, the Resolution expresses continued support for the OSCE field missions and, in this connection, urges the transfer of resources and personnel, as well as investment in the infrastructure of underfunded programmes.

Supplementary Items

Following the unanimous adoption of the Supplementary Item on Measures to Promote Commitments by Non-State Actors to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Mines, the Committee debated a resolution on the political situation in Ukraine, which was subsequently adopted. Supporting the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the Resolution calls for the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that opposition political forces have the opportunity to engage in the political process without fear of intimidation or persecution, and that the fundamental freedoms of assembly and association are not in any way limited. In addition, after hearing a report from the Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova on the situation concerning the Transdnistrian region, the First General Committee adopted a resolution on Moldova urging the parties in conflict, together with the OSCE, to resume serious negotiations in good faith in order to find a permanent solution to the problem concerning the status of the Transdnistrian region. Finally, the Committee adopted a resolution on Peace in the Middle East, The Protection of the Holy Places of Jerusalem, calling upon Israelis and Palestinians to resume negotiations as soon as possible to achieve a peace agreement ending war and terrorism and marking the beginning



of profound economic, civil and political development of both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, as well as the whole Middle-Eastern area.

In addition, the Committee held a debate on Belarus although the Supplementary Item on Belarus was withdrawn after a politically negotiated document was agreed upon by the Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Belarus and the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA. The Committee also heard a report on the situation in South Ossetia, Georgia, concerning the increase in tension in that area.

Election of Officers

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

Chair: Mr. Göran Lennmarker (Sweden)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)
Rapporteur: Mr. Pieter De Crem (Belgium)



General Committee On Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

The three sessions of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (Second Committee) were chaired by Congressman Benjamin Cardin (USA). The Rapporteur, Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation) presented his Report entitled "Co-operation and Partnership: Coping with New Security Threats", which was followed by a general debate. The Committee also debated two supplementary items on Kosovo and Economic Co-operation in the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension. The Committee also elected its three Officers for the coming year.

Second Committee Report and Resolution



Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko presented his report, which addressed the economic and environmental challenges to security in the OSCE area. Although the participating States of the OSCE have achieved significant successes in reaching their common goals, while countering threats and challenges from economic and environmental factors, concerns remain regarding, among other things, the state of the environment, the lopsided utilization of natural resources, and mismanagement in the elimination of hazardous wastes.

All of these issues directly affect the health of the population, its welfare, and the safe functioning of environmental systems. External factors associated with environmental safety, the consequences of pollution, ill-advised economic activities, together with problems of access to natural resources create pressures in the relations between OSCE participating States.

Economic integration has become an all-embracing process, unprecedented in the history of the world. The most important aspect of this process is the fact that for the first time an all-round and in-depth expansion of the West-



ern world is taking place, resulting in the voluntary sharing of the economic welfare of developed countries.

The rapporteur continued his presentation by referring to the need for further enhancement of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, as an integral part of the Organisation's comprehensive security approach. The development of the economic and environmental dimensions of the OSCE is an essential prerequisite for the Organisation's substantial contribution to the new security architecture in Europe. The Rapporteur welcomed the adoption at the last OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

The Rapporteur underlined the importance of transparency in economic processes. Transparency increases predictability and trust, which must function on the basis of adequate legislation and the rule of law. Transparency is also important for the exposure and legal prosecution of all forms of corruption and crime.

The need to further enhance sub-regional cooperation was one of the main points in the Report. Mr. Ivanchenko emphasized the need for OSCE participating States to render all-round assistance to the development of sub-regional cooperation in such fora as the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Council of the Baltic States, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. This cooperation must be directed toward



the formation of unified economic regions, both within the framework of sub-regional cooperation, and within the general framework conditions of the OSCE.

During the general debate the link between economic development and security and stability in the OSCE region was stressed.

Supplementary Items

The Second Committee dealt with three additional supplementary items in the form of draft resolutions.

The Resolution on Kosovo, presented by Mr. Giovanni Kessler (Italy) proposes measures to the political representatives of Kosovo for the restoration of a climate of dialogue and respect between its different ethnic communities. It also urges the member States of the OSCE to maintain an adequate military presence in Kosovo to prevent acts of violence, protect small threatened communities and safeguard the region's historical, artistic, and cultural heritage. Mr. Kessler, in his presentation to introduce this supplementary item, stressed the importance of promoting inter-parliamentary co-operation and dialogue with the Kosovo Assembly, the parliaments of South-Eastern Europe and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The Resolution on Economic Co-operation in the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension, presented by Mr. Jeremiah Grafstein (Canada), calls upon the OSCE participating States and the OSCE Mediterranean partners for co-operation to enter a comprehensive process of active dialogue aimed at mutual economic growth and modernisation and expanded trade among all the States of the OSCE region and their partners. Mr. Grafstein stressed the need to establish trade



links in order to reduce political tensions and increase co-operation. As an example of such practice he mentioned the positive outcome of trade co-operation among European States after World War II that led to the process of European integration.

Election of Officers

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

Chair: Mr. Benjamin Cardin (United States)
Vice-Chair: Ms. Maria Santos (Portugal)
Rapporteur: Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation)







General Committee On Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



The four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (Third Committee) were chaired by Mr. Svend Robinson (Canada), Acting Chair of the Third Committee. The Report and the Draft Resolution were presented by the Committee Rapporteur, Ms. Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands) and then debated by the Committee. The Committee also debated five supplementary items and elected officers for the coming year.

Third Committee Report and Resolution

In presenting her report, the Rapporteur, Ms. Albayrak, emphasised two issues of particular concern: “new” minorities and trafficking in human beings. She expressed the need to pay greater attention to the new minorities, which are increasingly populating the participating States of the OSCE. She noted that the history and formation of new minority groups as well as their place in society differ significantly from that of traditional national minorities. She called on the OSCE to therefore be vigilant of these differences and address the task of tackling the integration of minority groups. Mr. Rolf Ekeus, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, addressed the Third Committee, outlining the work he is undertaking

throughout the OSCE area in relation to the question of new minorities.

The Rapporteur also welcomed the appointment of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Helga Konrad. Ms. Konrad was present during the opening of the Third Committee and had the opportunity to outline her strategy for tackling the problem of trafficking in human beings.



Following a general debate on the report, the Committee discussed, debated and voted on the draft resolution, which was later adopted by the Plenary. The resolution emphasizes the need for the harmonization of national legislation in such areas as the protection of national minorities, trafficking in human beings and gender equality. It suggests that OSCE participating States ensure that national minorities are equally represented in national institutions. The resolution also encourages the OSCE to take the leading role in the regional efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and calls upon participating States





to take tangible measures to encourage the appointment of women to OSCE posts.

Supplementary Items

The Supplementary Item on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings reiterates the view that trafficking in human beings threatens the security of the OSCE region, undermines the rule of law, promotes corruption and also violates human rights and dignity. It urges all participating States to ensure that their national legislation provides adequate measures to combat trafficking in human beings, that it is characterized as a serious crime and that a framework for victim protection is provided. The Supplementary Item on Fulfilling OSCE Commitments regarding the Fight against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia calls upon the participating States to ensure that the appropriate government agencies have the legal authority and resources to fulfil

the commitments concerning the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, and in doing so, that they cooperate with non-governmental organisations. The Supplementary Item on Torture urges all participating States to sign and ratify the statutes of the International Criminal Court as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and that all possible measures are taken to cease acts of torture, inhuman treatment and punishment. The Supplementary Item on National Minorities expresses concern about the persistent problems that national minorities face in certain OSCE participating States and urges participat-



ing States to create appropriate conditions enabling them to express, preserve and develop their identity. The Third Committee also discussed a supplementary item on Serious Violation of Human Rights in Libya regarding the case of six Bulgarians and one Palestinian medical worker who have been arrested and face execution.

Election of Officers

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

- Chair:** Ms. Claudia Nolte (Germany)
- Vice-Chair:** Ms. Cecilia Wigström (Sweden)
- Rapporteur:** Ms. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)







Side Meetings



Round Table On Belarus

On 7 July, the Working Group on Belarus, chaired by Ms. Uta Zapf (Germany) organized a Round Table on “Free and Fair 2004 Parliamentary Elections in Belarus: the Important Role of the Media.” The event was open to all Assembly Members, about 30 of whom attended. Participants included the Members of the Working Group on Belarus, the Members of the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA, a representative from a coalition of opposition parties, independent journalists, and the OSCE Office in Minsk.

There was general agreement among the participants that the forthcoming parliamentary election scheduled for October 2004, if conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections, could serve as a step toward Belarus’ re-integration into European structures. It was noted that the media would play a crucial role in the election. The Members of the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA painted a picture whereby the media is slowly developing in the right direction in a satisfactory legislative environment. The opposition representative, on the other hand, gave examples of the pressure which independent media outlets face and described a viscous campaign to discredit opposition figures being conducted by the State media. Independent media representatives likewise pointed out the difficulties in keeping their newspapers afloat in the face of constant pressure in the form of debilitating libel suits and economic disadvantages vis-a-vis State-owned media. The Working Group on Belarus concluded that media developments would be closely followed and would be an integral part of the assessment of the conduct of the elections.

Mediterranean Meeting

During the Side meeting on Mediterranean issues, the various interlocutors shed light on some points concerning the partnership between the OSCE members States and the Mediterranean countries.

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Bruce George, pointed out that the OSCE and the PA currently tackle the Mediterranean issues with the utmost serious interest. As proof of this, he gave the current and the next OSCE Chairmanships to Bulgaria and Slovenia.

Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Chairman of the Mediterranean Contact Group, emphasized the different OSCE actions to involve the Mediterranean partners in the OSCE diplomacy on a more regular basis, as for example, in an exchange of views with, the Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the OSCE Economic Co-ordinator and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the ODIHR.

Elizabeth Abela, senior officer for the Mediterranean Contact Group in the international secretariat in Vienna





ria with the free and fair presidential election. He completed his statement by saying that the OSCE could be the right organisation to offer a model of improvement and development from an economic point of view and also on other progress issues. Mr Zahid Nawaz referred to the need of enhancing dialogue between the OSCE and the Muslim world.

The Tunisian delegation pointed out the importance of the UN cooperation fund, making the parallel between democratic and economic development. They said that this fund would be a way to hamper the radicalisation of the Muslim world. The Algerian, Moroccan and Israeli representatives expressed their readiness and optimism to continue the constructive dialogue.

declared, “the OSCE will intensify its co operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action” and explained the details of many other projects involving the Mediterranean area.

Mr. Michel Voisin, Head of the French Delegation, noted that parliamentarians were also concerned and had the willingness to be involved in such a dialogue with the Mediterranean partners. He expressed his contentment to see deep improvement in certain countries, such as in Morocco with the new family code and in Alge-







Second Plenary Session

Report of the Treasurer



OSCE PA Treasurer Jerry Grafstein (Canada) presented his report covering the first nine months of the fiscal year 2003/2004 as well as the budget for 2004/2005, as adopted by the Standing Committee on 5 July. Based on his full report, which was distributed to the Plenary, Mr. Grafstein concluded that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is in sound and favourable financial condition, operating within the overall framework of the budget adopted by the Standing Committee during the 2003 Annual Session in Rotterdam. The Treasurer underlined that the external auditors, KPMG, had confirmed their satisfaction with the way the International Secretariat maintains the financial records of the Assembly. Pertaining to the budget submitted for the fiscal year 2004/2005, The Treasurer informed the Assembly that an overall increase of 4% over last year's expenditures had been agreed upon by the Standing Committee. He explained that the increase takes into account higher costs due to increased activities and inflation. The Treasurer announced that 99.78% of the annual contributions for the fiscal year 2003/2004 was received "which is excellent and is probably one of the best years in terms of prompt receipt of contributions that we have had for many years and for which I thank Heads of Delegations."

The Treasurer concluded by thanking the German Bundestag and the Austrian Government for their generous contribution to the efficient and effective functioning of the Vienna Liaison Office. He also thanked the Dutch Government for seconding the Counsellor for Press and Public Affairs, and the Danish Government and Parliament for hosting the International Secretariat in Copenhagen and organizing and hosting the Expanded Bureau Meeting every spring.

Report of the Secretary General

Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported that the Assembly had continued its dynamic growth and that the International Secretariat continued to effectively function in the support of the activities of the Organization. The Assembly engaged in a wide range of field related activities and a large number of well-attended meetings, seminars and conferences. Since the Rotterdam Session, the Assembly has organized the Conference on Religion and the Mediterranean Forum and a Standing Committee Meeting in October of 2003, a Bureau Meeting in Maastricht in December, the Winter Meeting in Vienna in February 2004 and the Expanded Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen in April 2004. Mr. Oliver also reported that the International Secretariat has continued to work closely with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, as well as the other OSCE Institutions, on a broad range of OSCE activities. The presence of the Special Representative in Vienna has improved relations with the governmental side, although Ambassador Nothelle still does not have guaranteed access to all meetings, in particular the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance. The OSCE PA continued to interact with the governmental side through participation in the Ministerial Council and OSCE Ministerial Troika Meetings, other OSCE Troika Meetings, meetings of the "3+3" with the Council of Europe, the annual OSCE Economic Forum, the Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, OSCE Terrorism Conference, the OSCE ODIHR Human Dimension Meeting,



Regional Heads of Missions Meetings and the Public Affairs Roundtables. The Secretary General continued by giving an overview of the Presidential activities since the Rotterdam Session, the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and the election monitoring projects carried out by the Assembly. He encouraged the parliamentarians to regularly check the new OSCE PA Website which provides information on past, present and future

activities of the Assembly. Regarding the budget Mr. Oliver was pleased to report that the International Secretariat remained within the budgetary guidelines, despite an extensive schedule of meetings, particularly in the first half of 2004. He concluded by thanking the British hosts for their work in preparing the Annual Session and expressing his belief that the Edinburgh Session had been an outstanding success.



General Debate

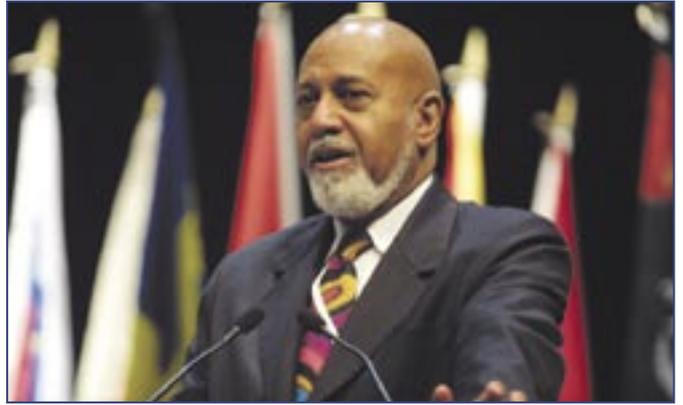
During the general debate, a wide-ranging number of subjects were raised. Common themes emerged around shared ideas that democracy must be respected in all capacities and that the concept of security must be as broad as possible. Many delegates insisted that the Assembly has an important role to play, and that small powers as well as large should play their part. Also voiced was the belief that all criticisms of the OSCE should be constructive, and suffixed with ideas for improvement.

Members of the Assembly agreed that the title of the conference reflected real challenges and a climate of global insecurity and emphasized the necessity of cooperative, comprehensive and effective responses. Several called for a well-articulated strategy aimed at strengthening cooperation on the basis of com-

parative advantages. This was considered especially important due to the fact that all OSCE citizens can be targets of terrorism. It was stated as imperative that all member states act as loyal members of the international community, cooperating to ensure the rule of law and human rights.

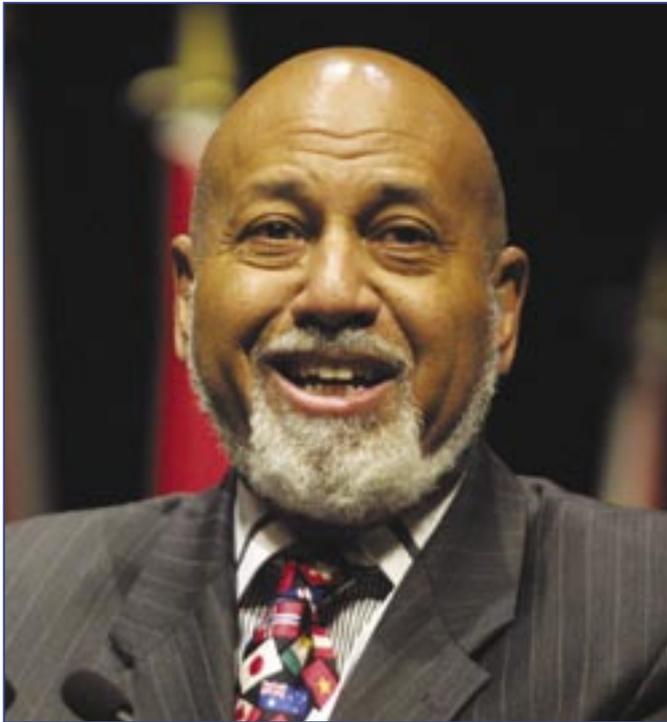
A number of delegates took the opportunity to bring the attention of the Assembly to the situation in their own countries. The Assembly heard about developments in Georgia, Ukraine and Cyprus among others.

Many speakers indicated that the OSCE must take the hard path of reform or suffer increasing irrelevance on the international stage. It was stressed that the OSCE needs a new doctrine, new vision, and more follow-ups on its resolutions.





Closing Plenary



During the Closing Plenary, an urgency item on Georgian Peacekeepers in South Ossetia was introduced by the Georgian Delegation. It was debated and then adopted following a vote.

The Chairs and Rapporteurs of the three General Committees then presented their Draft Resolutions and

summarized the debate in their respective Committees. The Plenary then voted for each of the three resolutions, which were overwhelmingly adopted. After the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration, each of the supplementary items, which had been dealt with in the Committees, was discussed and voted on. These supplementary items covered a wide variety of issues including: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; Fulfilling OSCE Commitments regarding the Fight Against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia; Torture; Measures to Promote Commitments by Non-State Actors to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines; National Minorities; Kosovo; Moldova; Ukraine; Economic Cooperation in the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension; Serious Violation of Human Rights in Libya; Peace in the Middle East: the Protection of Holy Places in Jerusalem. The one remaining supplementary item on Cooperation Between the OSCE and the OSCE PA had already been adopted by the Plenary earlier in the Session.

Following the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration and its supplementary items, President Bruce George announced the results of the elections. Vice-President Alcee Hastings (USA) was elected as President of the Assembly for a term of one year. Three Vice-Presidents were elected for a term of three years: Mr. Panos Kammenos (Greece); Mr. Giovanni Kessler (Italy); and Ms. Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands).









Programme

OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY Edinburgh, 5-9 July 2004

The Inaugural Ceremony and all other meetings of the Assembly's bodies will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC)

Sunday, 4 July

12.00 – 20.00 Registration desk will be open in the EICC
18:00 – 19.00 evening Delegation Secretaries Meeting
Time reserved for receptions by diplomatic missions

Monday, 5 July

08.00 – 09.15 Working breakfast on gender issues hosted by Terry Davis, Head of the UK Delegation, and Tone Tingsgaard, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on gender issues
09.30 - 12.30 Meeting of the Standing Committee
12.30 - 14.30 Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00 Inaugural Plenary Session:
- Call to order and opening remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Address(es) by Senior Official(s) of the Host Country
- Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, followed by a question/answer session.
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break
16.30 - 18.30 Plenary Session (cont.):
- Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies;
- Address by OSCE Secretary General
- Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on the gender issue followed by a debate.
- Consideration of Supplementary items
Evening Reception offered by the host country

Tuesday, 6 July

Morning Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.00 - 11.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
09.00 – 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee;
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
11.30 - 13.30 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee;
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur
- Debate
15.00 Excursion

Wednesday, 7 July

Morning Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.30 - 11.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
09.30 - 11.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
11.30 - 13.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Debate (cont.);
- Consideration of amendments.
13.00 - 14.30 Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00 General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- Consideration of amendments
14.30 - 16.00 General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
- Consideration of amendments
16.30 - 18.00 General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
- Consideration of amendments
Evening Reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent (by invitation only)

Thursday, 8 July

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

Friday, 9 July

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

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