



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Report

on the

14th Annual Session

in

Washington, DC



Overview



From July 1-5 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE gathered in Washington, DC for its 14th Annual Session. Parliamentarians from 51 OSCE states, as well as Mediterranean Partner States, met to discuss current international security, economic, environmental and human rights issues, and subsequently passed the Washington Declaration, with recommendations within these fields. In honour of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the Session focused on the theme '30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead'.

The Heads of Delegations first met on the morning of July 1 in the Standing Committee, prior to the official inauguration of the Annual Session. The Standing Committee approved the budget for the coming fiscal year, and took the decision to re-appoint the Secretary General of the Assembly. Reports by the President, Treasurer, and Ad Hoc Committees were given, as well as reports on recent election observation activities.

The Inaugural Plenary Session of the Assembly heard welcoming addresses by the President of the Assembly, US Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, Speaker of the US House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dmitrij Rupel. The

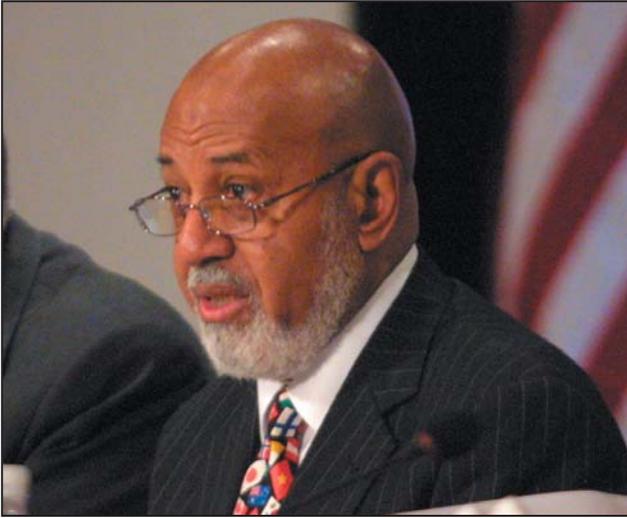
Session continued with addresses by the Head of the US Delegation Senator Sam Brownback, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Paez Sergio, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, and OSCE PA Special Representative on the Gender Issue, Vice-President Tone Tingsgård.

In a special ceremony during the Plenary Session on the first day, President Hastings presented the tenth annual OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy to Ukraine Television Channel Five.

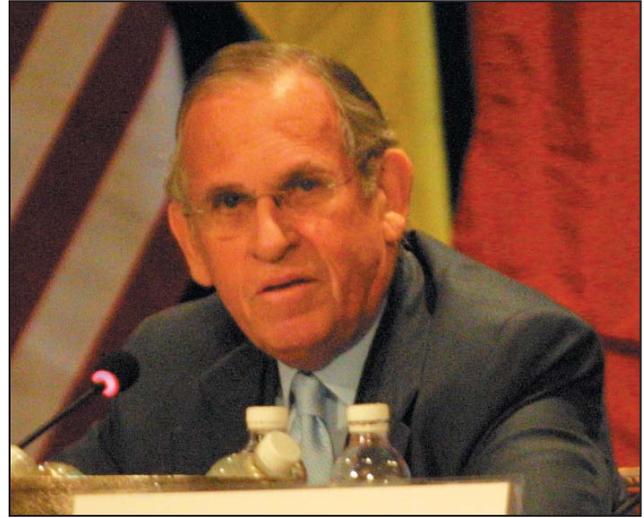
During the three following days, the three General Committees of the Assembly considered reports and draft resolutions dealing with the Annual Session's central theme, as well as supplementary resolutions on specific topics. Numerous side meetings took place throughout the Session, as well as meetings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

On the final day of the Session, the Assembly met in plenary to adopt the Washington Declaration and additional documents. The parliamentarians also overwhelmingly approved an item of urgency calling for prompt implementation of recommendations on reforming the OSCE. Before adjourning, the Assembly also re-elected President Alcee L. Hastings for another one-year term, and Treasurer Jerry Grafstein for another two years, as well as other officers of the Assembly.

Standing Committee Meeting



OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings welcomed the Heads of Delegations to the meeting of the Standing Committee, and gave a short outline of his and of the Assembly's activities since February, when the Standing Committee last met. Congressman Hastings told Members that he had conveyed the OSCE PA report on the colloquium on 'The Future of the OSCE' to the Chairman-in-Office. Members in this colloquium agreed that the OSCE remains a valuable organization, and they further agreed that the crisis in the OSCE is primarily political in nature. President Hastings stated that if re-elected as President of the Assembly, he intended to continue working to ensure that the PA is a reliable partner contributing to the success of the OSCE. He further hoped to continue providing leadership for election observation, strengthen dialogue between parliamentarians, and increase co-operation with the OSCE governmental dimension.



The Assembly Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada) reported that the finances of the Assembly are in excellent order, and that the PA had received a favourable report from its external auditors for the 12th straight year. The Treasurer applauded the effectiveness of the Secretariat, and the excellent financial administration by the Secretary General and Financial Assistant. Senator Grafstein noted that the Secretariat's two senior seconded staff members' secondment terms would soon be ending, but said that the necessary changes could be accommodated within the proposed budget. The Standing Committee subsequently approved the proposed budget for 2005-2006.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver briefly addressed the Standing Committee, noting that his written report had been sent to all delegations. In addition to this, the Secretary General highlighted the Assembly's bulletin 'News from Copenhagen' and reports on the various meetings as providing a solid overview of the work done by the OSCE PA.





The Heads of Delegation then heard a report by the Sub-Committee which had been appointed to consider proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure. As Head of the Committee, Pieter DeCrem (Belgium) reported that the proposed changes would be considered within a general review of the Rules of Procedure, and that the Committee would continue to work, and report to the Standing Committee at a future date.

The Standing Committee then took the decision to reappoint R. Spencer Oliver as Secretary General of the Assembly, for an additional five-year term. The Heads of Delegations also voted, on the basis of consensus-less-one, to approve Spencer Oliver's appointment of Tina Schøn as Deputy Secretary General. Ms. Schøn is the first woman to hold such a senior position in the Assembly's Secretariat.

The parliamentarians then heard reports on the Tromsø Sub-Regional Conference, held from May 12-14 in Norway, and on preparations for the Assembly's Autumn Meetings, to be held in Sveti Stefan, Serbia and Montenegro.



Reports were given on the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives, as well as on recent election observation missions.

US Congressman Christopher Smith, Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, reported on his ongoing work, including efforts at organizing a network of OSCE parliamentarians to facilitate exchanges of best practices in fighting human trafficking.

The Chairman of the Assembly's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) reported on the work of this Team, updating the Standing Committee on the political situation in Moldova, as well as on proposals for finding a solution to the status of Transdnistria through democratization. He further remarked on the possibility that the OSCE could organize elections in Transdnistria, and informed Members about a planned seminar on democratization to be held later in 2005.

OSCE PA Vice-President Ihor Ostash informed the Standing Committee of the work being conducted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, noting the disappointment of the Working Group at Belarus' failure to implement aspects of the agreement reached at the OSCE PA's Annual Session in Edinburgh in 2004. He informed Members that efforts of the Working Group in the near future would be focused on the upcoming Presidential elections in Belarus in 2006.

Goran Lennmarker (Sweden), Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, gave a brief outline of his written report, stressing that while the conflict causes hardship to many people and is best not thought of as a 'frozen conflict', there is nonetheless cause for optimism. He said there was currently a 'golden opportunity' for finding a solution, based upon European experiences of democracy and integration, and urged parliamentary support for this process.





(Photo: Philippe Nodde)



(Photo: Philippe Nodde)



(Photo: Philippe Nodde)

Inaugural Plenary Session



Opening remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Alcee L. Hastings

President Hastings welcomed participants, and thanked the United States Congress for hosting the Session in Washington, DC.

The President emphasized that the OSCE must adapt to new threats and challenges, and noted that the theme chosen for the Session in Washington, ‘Thirty Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead’ was particularly fitting for discussions on how the organization can appropriately evolve. He recalled that he had placed particular focus during his first year as President towards reforming the OSCE. The Congressman mentioned the joint project that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly had undertaken with the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, which had resulted in a very fruitful debate on the future of the



OSCE. Several recommendations had been agreed upon, which would be considered by the PA’s ad hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability.

President Hastings noted that co-operation between the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly had increased in recent years, and noted the fight against anti-Semitism and xenophobia as an example of the good co-operation which was developing – focus on this topic stemmed from a side-event held by the OSCE PA in 2003, and had peaked in the recent OSCE conference in Córdoba.

President Hastings also briefly highlighted a number of priorities that the Assembly had pursued in the past year. He noted that close interaction with other parliamentary institutions had continued, particularly in the field of election observation, where the unity of the international community was particularly important. He further noted the importance of the Assembly’s work on gender issues, applauded the efforts of the Special Representative on Gender Issues, Ms. Tone Tingsgård, and assured Members that this would remain a priority issue for the Assembly. The President also remarked on the close attention which the Assembly has been paying to economic and environmental issues, and stressed the success of the recent Sub-Regional Conference on the High North, held in Tromsø, Norway.

The Congressman expressed his conviction that the OSCE can contribute to relations in the Mediterranean area, and also expressed his intention to pay special attention to relations with the OSCE PA’s Asian Partners in his second term as President.

Finally, the President thanked Members for supporting his work and welcoming him to their countries in his travels to over one-third of OSCE participating States in the past year.

Address by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert



Speaker Hastert welcomed Members, saying that it was an honour to host the OSCE PA, which he said had helped develop economic and social cooperation since its founding. He underlined the important contribution that parliamentarians can make

in relations between states, and highlighted the work done by OSCE PA President Hastings in advancing the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

Congressman Hastert stressed that parliaments have a particular responsibility in promoting and upholding basic freedoms. More specifically, he noted the responsibilities to employ parliamentary legislative powers to ensure states' safety, as well as to promote economic growth and opportunity for citizens, and a further responsibility towards people around the world living without democratic governments.

The Speaker urged focusing attention on the situation within states in the OSCE, such as Belarus, as well as outside of Europe. He said that an international coalition, including a number of OSCE participating States, had made progress in bringing freedom to Iraq. He noted in this context that the US House of Representatives had formed a commission to help emerging democracies, and that it would continue to promote freedom and democracy around the world.

Finally, Congressman Hastert stressed his conviction that working together, parliamentarians could improve the lives of people across the globe.



Address by the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice



Secretary Rice welcomed the opportunity to reaffirm US President Bush's commitment to the OSCE. She also noted that the presence of Speaker Hastert attested to the support of the US Congress to the Organization and its Parliamentary Assembly.

She thanked all of the parliamentarians for their participation in the OSCE PA and support for the OSCE, noting that strong parliaments are important for upholding fundamental rights and freedoms.

Commenting on the 30th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, Secretary Rice stressed that the link between human rights and security among states, as was recognized in the Final Act, still forms the basis of the OSCE. She noted that thirty years ago, many had feared that Western countries were legitimizing Soviet repression by forming these agreements. Nonetheless, citizens groups in Eastern Europe seized upon the Helsinki accord as a way of pushing for respect for human rights. The Secretary of State remarked that the past thirty years had seen monumental change within the OSCE region. She stressed the importance of the Helsinki Final Act in this transformation.

Secretary Rice also noted more recent changes within the OSCE region, referring to revolutions in Georgia and Ukraine, as well as to the pending Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan, which she said hold great hope for the country. Nonetheless, the Secretary also noted that some OSCE states still fail to live up to their commitments.

Also, in regards to reform of the organization, the Secretary called for a fresh look at the OSCE agenda, and ensuring that any changes do not compromise the principles of the OSCE, but rather strengthen its effectiveness. She also reminded parliamentarians that the Organization plays a pioneering role in some respects, and can help countries and institutions in other parts of the world.

Finally, the Secretary of State noted that the gains made by OSCE countries required hard work and urged continued commitment to the principles of the OSCE.

Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, Dmitrij Rupel



The Chairman-in-Office welcomed the opportunity to address the Assembly at what he called a dynamic period of change for the Organization, with a new Secretary General and significant reforms being proposed. Referring to the recent reports produced by the OSCE's Panel of Eminent

Persons and the OSCE PA Experts Group colloquium, he noted that ideas on reform of the Organization have now been clearly formulated, and can provide the basis for high-level consultations. He urged PA Members to continue their work to refresh political discussions in the OSCE.

Stressing the continuing relevance of the OSCE, the Foreign Minister noted that recent political events in some countries had demonstrated the importance of the OSCE's inclusive character. The Chairman-in-Office remarked that OSCE work in Kyrgyzstan could be considered a microcosm demonstrating the advantages of the organization: establishing rule of law through police assistance; facilitating dialogue; electoral assistance; inter-ethnic reconciliation; and supporting free media. In this context, he urged fur-

ther work by the OSCE in assisting all Central Asian states attain full democracy.

Regarding events in Uzbekistan, Minister Rupel urged Uzbekistan to co-operate with an independent investigation by the international community into events in Andijan on May 13. In this context, he also called upon Kyrgyzstan to respect commitments towards Uzbek refugees. The Chairman-in-Office said that he was encouraged by developments regarding closure of Russian military bases in Georgia as well as by the prospects for peace in Nagorno-Karabakh. He further noted positive momentum over settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, and mentioned the possibility of an increased OSCE role in this area. Mr. Rupel also discussed the importance of making use of the OSCE's well-established role in Kosovo as the international community considers the future of Kosovo.

The Chairman-in-Office outlined a number of priority areas for the OSCE, including counter-terrorism work, and fighting intolerance and discrimination, and urged the gathered Members to work in their home parliaments to ensure that participating States implement their commitments. The Minister also noted the emphasis that the Slovenian Chairmanship is placing upon migration and integration issues, and urged a closer look at demographic trends and population development. The Chairman-in-Office finished his presentation by urging parliamentarians to focus on reforming the OSCE.

Following his presentation, the Chairman-in-Office answered questions from parliamentarians on a range of issues. He welcomed an increasing role for the OSCE in observing elections, including in western countries, and supported further consideration of OSCE-organized elections in Transdniestria. The C-i-O discussed current events in Central Asia, including on the question of refugees in Kyrgyzstan, and the situation in South Ossetia, as well as the future of Kosovo.

OSCE Reform Addressed

“As the Chairman-in-Office and the Parliamentary Assembly take a fresh look at the OSCE agenda and consider these and other items, preserving the integrity of Helsinki principles and ensuring that the OSCE continues to be an agent of peaceful, democratic transformation should be paramount objectives. Any new procedures must not come at the expense of principle, and any institutional reforms should be geared to strengthening OSCE's ability to produce results on the ground, particularly through its field missions.”

US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice

“Your input can stimulate participating States to think ‘outside the box’ and to raise issues that consensus-based bodies may shy away from.”

Chairman-in-Office, Dmitrij Rupel



Address by the Head of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA, Senator Sam Brownback



Senator Brownback emphasized the continuing importance of the OSCE, stating that in some respects, it was most important now than ever, given that positive changes were now possible in many parts of the world. He stressed that with energy and commitment,

changes can be made to happen, referring in particular to recent events in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. Taking their queue from these events, countries outside of the OSCE were also making moves towards increased democracy. The Senator stressed that these changes should be pursued with all effort.

Senator Brownback concluded by reiterating the commitment of the United States to the OSCE and to its underlying principles of human rights and democracy.

Address by the President of the Inter- Parliamentary Union, Senator Sergio Paez Verdugo,



Senator Paez Verdugo welcomed the opportunity to address the Assembly, and noted that the paths of the OSCE PA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) have converged several times in the past. He stressed that the OSCE PA was formed following

a long process in which the IPU was closely involved. He further noted the formative role of the IPU in the process leading to the formation of the Helsinki process, over thirty years ago.

Explaining some of the work performed by the IPU, Senator Paez Verdugo highlighted the technical assistance that the organization provides to new parliaments in countries such as Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Burundi. Also, the IPU works to support the rights of parliamentarians who are persecuted for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

He also highlighted efforts to increase democratic accountability in multilateral relations, through for example ensuring a parliamentary presence in meetings of the World Trade Organization. The Senator noted that efforts will culminate in the convening of the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, in New York from 7-9 September 2005.

The Senator reiterated the IPU's support for the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in representing the popular will of OSCE peoples.

Address by the Secretary General of the OSCE, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

On his first official day as Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador de Brichambaut addressed the Assembly, and expressed his hope for continued constructive contact with the Parliamentary Assembly.



The Secretary General expressed his confidence that the OSCE was facing a unique opportunity to adapt its institutions and improve its effectiveness. Ambassador de Brichambaut noted the similarity in suggestions by the groups considering the future of the OSCE appointed by the Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE PA President, respectively. He remarked that these suggestions highlight a number of areas in which reform efforts can be concentrated, in order to prepare a programme of reforms before the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in December.

Secretary General de Brichambaut stressed the continuing relevance of the organization, noting the importance of the common commitments and standards which all OSCE participating States have agreed to. Co-operative security remains as relevant today as thirty years ago, he emphasized.

Mr. de Brichambaut said that he intends to make full use of his mandate as Secretary General, and to contribute to the reform process in the organization. This would include restructuring the Secretariat of the organization, but the Secretary General noted that the broader shape of reform would have to come first. Finally, Ambassador de Brichambaut welcomed the input by the parliamentarians, noting that he was present primarily to listen, rather than to speak.



Focus on Gender Issues



On 1 July, during the first day of the Assembly's Session in Washington a great deal of work was done on promoting gender issues and gender equality in the OSCE.

The Working Breakfast on Gender Issues, hosted by President Alcee L. Hastings, was chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Vice-President Tone Tingsgård. In his welcoming remarks, President Hastings reaffirmed his commitment to advancing female representation in the Assembly and regretted the slow progress in this regard. Ms. Tingsgård welcomed President Hastings' participation in gender related activities as a very important political gesture. Ms. Tingsgård presented the OSCE PA Gender Report 2005 and expressed her regret that no substantial progress had been made.

The breakfast continued with an address by Louise McIntosh Slaughter, from the United States House of Representatives. In her address she pointed out some of the most important developments regarding gender equality achieved by the Women's Caucus within the House of Representatives, such as measures to counter domestic violence, increasing research on women's health, combating sexual assault within the military and facilitating women's access to family planning. OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Beatrix Colijn, briefed the participants on the gender balance situation within OSCE institutions and field missions, noting that although there has been an increase in female representation at the professional level, this indicates a fluctuation rather than a verifiable trend. She also outlined the main positive aspects and challenges of the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan, telling participants that the OSCE's goal is to

provide the plan with an implementation agenda. She also mentioned the holding during the last year of two OSCE conferences on violence against women and the role of women in conflict resolution respectively. Speakers expressed support for the work being done by the OSCE PA on gender issues, and Ms. Tingsgård invited the members of the PA to support the participation of the Assembly in the March 2006 UN Conference on Equal Participation of Men and Women.

During the Plenary Session in the afternoon, the Assembly unanimously adopted the supplementary item on Improving the Gender Equality in the OSCE, presented by Ms. Tingsgård. The resolution, which forms a part of the Washington Document, calls upon the OSCE Secretary General and participating States to take positive action to promote the recruitment of women candidates within OSCE bodies and institutions, especially at higher levels, as well as to improve the culture and working conditions in the Organization. In this regard, OSCE PA Delegations are called upon to monitor the work of their national delegations to the OSCE Permanent Council to ensure that they promote gender balance.

In conjunction with this resolution, Ms. Tingsgård presented the OSCE PA Gender Report 2005, commenting that "The conclusions of the Report are very discouraging; the OSCE PA has struggled for several years to promote gender equality within the OSCE, but the so-called 'glass ceiling' still prevents women from advancing into the leadership level in the Organization. It seems that all the good will stops when it comes to implementation." Ms. Tingsgård further praised the work of the International Secretariat in preparing the report.

OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy

On July 1 2005, OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings presented the 10th annual OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy to Ukraine Television Channel Five. Channel 5 was awarded the Prize for its crucial role in the events of October-December 2004 in which Ukraine peacefully transitioned to a more democratically-oriented and legitimately-elected system of government. With great courage, the Channel reported independently at a time when the government was placing strict controls on media coverage, ignoring widespread popular discontent, and working to manipulate electoral processes.

Presenting the Prize to Mr. Roman Skrypin, Editor-in-Chief of Channel Five, President Hastings said that “These historic events captured the attention of the entire world. Had it not been for the work of Channel 5, many Ukrainians would not have initially been aware that a peaceful revo-

lution was taking place on the central square of their capital.”

“It is my hope that this year’s award will resonate well beyond the borders of Ukraine, reminding us of the serious deficiency of independent electronic media in other developing - and developed, I must add - democracies in the OSCE area,” said Congressman Hastings.

In accepting the Prize, Mr. Skrypin echoed President Hastings’ hopes, saying “Our work is not done, and we have no intention of stopping the movement forward. We would like to wish the following to the member countries of the OSCE, particularly the countries from the former Soviet Union: May you enjoy a truly independent media and genuine freedom of speech. For when you do, a number of perceived political problems, like ‘What to do with a dictatorship’ will dissipate all by themselves.”





(Photo: David Bohrer)



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Under the chairmanship of Mr. Göran Lenmarker (Sweden), the First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security discussed a wide range of topics included in the Rapporteur's draft resolution such as trafficking in illicit drugs and human beings, environmental security, illegal migration, border policing, the fight against terrorism and organized crime, human rights, and national asylum administration. The following Supplementary Items were allocated by the Standing Committee to be debated and considered in the First General Committee: Terrorism and Human Rights, Moldova, the Situation in Abkhazia (Georgia), and Terrorism by Suicide Bombers.

Report and Resolution

Introducing his Report and Resolution, the Committee Rapporteur, Mr. Pieter De Crem (Belgium) highlighted the challenges facing the OSCE region, in particular in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He emphasized the traffic in illicit drugs originating in the so-called Golden Crescent, which poses a security threat for the OSCE region. He proposed that the OSCE offer a Partnership Agreement to affected non-OSCE members Afghanistan and Pakistan to enhance the multi-dimensional fight against trafficking. He also stressed the importance of expanding OSCE assistance in order to improve border policing in OSCE States, in co-ordination with UN efforts. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of the

fight against terrorism, but warned against fighting terrorism at the expense of human rights. While recognizing the important work carried out by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, Mr. De Crem regretted the continued vulnerability of national minorities and especially women to exploitation and violence. Examining environmental security he advocated strengthening the OSCE's Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative as a primary framework for closer regional co-operation in Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management, which has a trans-boundary nature in itself. In addition, he expressed the importance of the reform of OSCE as regards its efficiency and effectiveness. Also, he highlighted the key role that parliamentarians can play in their respective national parliaments in encouraging their governments to follow up on OSCE PA Declarations. After having debated and



voted on the 26 submitted amendments, the Committee adopted the Resolution.

The resolution stresses the strong need for the OSCE participating States to comply with the fundamental principles of international law. It also emphasizes that the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN Security Council. In addition, the resolution advocates measures to enhance dialogue and closer institutional co-operation between the Assembly and the governmental OSCE structures and it encourages reform of the OSCE as regards its efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, the Resolution encourages debate on the question of whether or not the name ‘Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’ still adequately reflects the Organization’s operational scope and reality.

Supplementary Items



Four supplementary items, two of them related to terrorism, were debated and voted on in the meetings of the First General Committee.

The Supplementary Item on Terrorism by Suicide Bombers, sponsored by Senator Luigi Compagna (Italy) was adopted following debate on the proposed amendments. The resolution emphasizes that terrorist acts committed by suicide bombers are, for all the intents and purposes of current international law, very serious “crimes against humanity”.

The second Supplementary Item related to the issue of terrorism was entitled Terrorism and Human Rights and was sponsored by Mr. Jeppe Kofod (Denmark). This item, which emphasizes the importance of the UN Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), was adopted unanimously by the Committee.



After hearing a speech by Mrs. Nino Burjanadze (Georgia), principal sponsor of the Supplementary Item on the Situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, the Committee adopted the resolution, regretting the lack of progress in the peace process and supporting the work of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia.

In addition, after a debate on the situation in Moldova which included a report from the Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova, the First Committee adopted a resolution urging all parties to resume, together with the OSCE, negotiations to find a permanent solution to the problem concerning the status of Transdnistria. The resolution on Moldova was sponsored by Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) who, in his presentation, called for the OSCE to organize elections in the region of Transdnistria. In addition, the resolution expresses the readiness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Parliamentary Team on Moldova to support the efforts of the Republic of Moldova towards settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict, the restoration of the territorial unity of the country, the contribution to the development of democratic institutions in the region and the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

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. Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria)*



(Photo: Philippe Nohel)



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



The three sessions of the Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment were chaired by US Congressman Benjamin Cardin. The Rapporteur, Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation) presented his report entitled ‘30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead’, which was followed by a general debate and consideration of the draft resolution and amendments. The Committee also debated five supplementary items on Small Arms and Light Weapons, on Maritime Security and Piracy, on the Fight Against Corruption, on Money Laundering and on the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension.

Report and Resolution

During the meetings of the Second Committee, the report ‘30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead’ by Rapporteur Leonid Ivanchenko, as well as a draft resolution followed by debates and amend-

ments, was presented. The amended resolution was adopted by the Committee Members.

In his report to the Committee Mr. Ivanchenko addressed the economic and environmental challenges to security in the OSCE area. He referred to some of the human needs and challenges that the OSCE faces today. The report stresses that the first and most important task for the OSCE participating States today is to promote and develop the process of integration within new and old European Community members and states as a whole. Despite some progress in developing relations in the OSCE region, some participating States still need assistance in carrying out reforms and integrating into the world economy in order to escape possible conflicts between new and old members. Also, illegal economic activities, inefficiency of legal institutions, poverty, inadequate application of legal norms and rules, and other negative factors threaten security





and stability as well as the state of the environment, human health and well-being. In this context, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is well-placed to co-ordinate participating States' activity and prevent them from creating new dividing lines and inequality both between and within OSCE countries.

The Rapporteur also referred to the recently held Sub-Regional Conference in Tromsø, Norway devoted to environmental security in the Arctic region, and to the OSCE Economic Forum in Prague which examined demographic aspects, migration in Europe, and national minorities' issues.

Supplementary Items

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

The resolution on Small Arms and Light Weapons, presented by Mr. De Donnea (Belgium) urges continued work by OSCE states to combat the illicit spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and calls for the creation of a follow-up mechanism to assist in the implementation of relevant OSCE decisions on the matter.

The resolution on the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension, presented by Mr. Bruce George (UK),

highlighted the increasing attention devoted to Mediterranean affairs within the OSCE PA. The Resolution stressed the importance of the co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in addressing current global threats to security.

The resolution on Money Laundering, presented by Mr. Roy Cullen (Canada) recognised the fight against money laundering as an essential part of the overall struggle to combat the financing of terrorist activity, trafficking in illegal narcotics and the activities of organized crime, corruption and tax evasion.

The resolution on the Fight Against Corruption, presented by Mr. Roy Cullen (Canada) addressed the problem of corruption in societies making a transition from authoritarian regimes, while reiterating that no country is free from corruption. The resolution urges parliamentarians from OSCE States to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it.

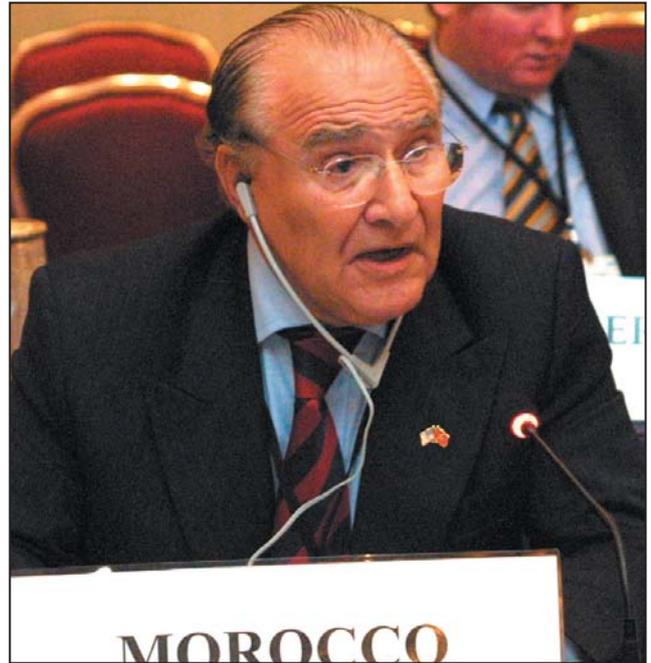
The resolution on Maritime Security and Piracy, presented by Mrs. Ineke Dezentjé Hamming (Netherlands) underlined that the safety of international trade-routes has a direct effect on the well-being of all OSCE participating States. The Resolution recommends OSCE participating States to support the US Regional Maritime Security Initiative and to intensify the fight against piracy.



Election of Officers

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

- Chair:** *Mr. Benjamin L. Cardin (United States)*
- Vice-Chair:** *Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation)*
- Rapporteur:** *Mr. Roland Blum (France)*



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Under the acting chairmanship of Ms. Cecilia Wigström (Sweden), the Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions addressed a wide range of issues including trafficking in human beings, freedom of the press, OSCE involvement in election observation, as well as human rights issues in the fight against terrorism. Also, the Committee debated supplementary items on Combating Involvement in Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by International Peacekeeping Forces, on the Need to Strengthen the Code of Conduct for OSCE Mission Members, on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, on Improving the Implementation of OSCE Electoral Standards and Commitments and the Effectiveness of OSCE Election Observation Activities, and on Funding for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.



Report and Resolution

The Third Committee opened with a presentation of the report by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Senator Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium). Mrs. Lizin underlined that progress must be made with regard to social rights, such as education, health, and housing. Mrs. Lizin also argued that the right to participate in elections is a key individual right, and that States must make sure that the procedural integrity of elections is maintained, as this is the basis of democracy. An OSCE presence is needed wherever there is a threat to individual rights. In comparison to other organizations, the OSCE has achieved notable successes in its efforts to support individual rights, and to combat the trafficking of human beings. Senator Lizin further emphasized that individual freedoms, particularly those of journalists, must be improved. She stressed that journalists must answer to the law, but that there should be no laws that penalize journalists criminally, and noted that the stability of democracy in a State can often be measured by the level of freedom of the journalists within its borders. She went on to discuss the problems in identifying what constitutes terrorism, as well as the dangers and difficulties that are associated with finding a definition for it. The rise of the internet was raised as another potentially problematic issue in that it can be used to encourage violence, as well as for sexual abuse and the exploitation of children. According to Mrs. Lizin,

States have an obligation to police the content that is broadcast from their countries, in efforts to control content that would be detrimental to the rights of individuals.

Following a general debate on the report, the Committee discussed, debated and voted on the amended resolution, which was later adopted by the Assembly Plenary. The resolution affirms the principle of gender equality, raises the particular vulnerability of children and the corresponding need for greater protection for them, recommends that participating States cease the criminal prosecution of journalists and underlines the important role of political parties in democracies. On more specific issues, the Resolution suggests, inter alia, that the Moscow Mechanism be considered in response to the actions of Uzbekistani authorities in Andijan in May 2005, recalls the horrifying massacre in Srebrenica in 1995 and calls on the authorities in the United States to grant voting rights to residents of Washington D.C.

Supplementary Items



Five supplementary items were also presented, debated, and adopted by the Third Committee.

The supplementary item on Combating Involvement in Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by International Peacekeeping Forces, presented by Mr. Christopher Smith (USA), was adopted following certain amendments. The resolution emphasizes the importance of policing and discouraging any inappropriate activities of peacekeeping forces which might aid or encourage the trafficking of human beings.

The supplementary item on the Need to Strengthen the Code of Conduct for OSCE Mission Members, presented by Ms. Carina Hägg (Sweden) emphasizes



the need to outline and address standards and requirements of those working in and representing OSCE field missions, and emphasizes the need to uphold the highest ethical standards of integrity, accountability and transparency in all OSCE activities.

The supplementary item on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, presented by Ms. Doris Barnett (Germany) emphasizes the continued importance of the OSCE's efforts to eliminate the trafficking of human beings, particularly the trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The supplementary item on Improving the Implementation of OSCE Electoral Standards and Commitments and the Effectiveness of OSCE Election Observation Activities, presented by Ms. Liubov Sliska (Russia) and then vigorously debated, emphasizes the importance of the OSCE in election observation and calls on participating States to adhere to their election-related commitments.

The supplementary item on Funding for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), presented by Mr. George Voinovich (USA) addressed the present and future funding of ODIHR.

Election of Officers

The following committee officers were elected by the Third Committee:

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



(Photo: Philippe Noblet)

(Photo: Philippe Noblet)

Side Meetings

A number of side meetings on topical events were held throughout the Annual Session



Side Meeting on the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean side meeting on 2 July was chaired by Mr. Bruce George, President Emeritus and OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. Three of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Algeria, Israel and Morocco, and a number of parliamentarians from the Mediterranean region participated in the meeting. Mr. George welcomed the participants and stressed the need for the Assembly to continue addressing issues of importance to the Mediterranean region. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe, Chairman of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, gave an account of the activities carried out by the Contact Group in 2005, and discussed the prospects for the Annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar to be held in Rabat in September 2005. Following his presentation, parliamentarians discussed a number of issues including piracy, extending the Mediterranean dialogue to other countries and common security challenges of the Mediterranean countries.

Subsequently, Mr. Ranko Krivocapic, Head of the delegation of Serbia and Montenegro and Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, gave a presentation on the Third OSCE PA Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, which will be hosted by Serbia and Montenegro in October in Sveti Stefan. Mr. Krivocapic's presentation was followed by an open debate, with parliamentarians suggesting various topics for inclusion in the agenda of the 2005 Mediterranean Forum. A number of delegates stressed the need for addressing the crucial role of the media, particularly the Internet, for spreading ideas of tolerance and multiculturalism, as well as the education of young people and the sharing of inter-civilization values.

Finally, Mr. Benjamin Cardin, Chairman of the Assembly's Second Committee, introduced Moroccan Ambassador to the US Mr. Aziz Mekouar, who discussed the challenges presented by migration and highlighted poor socio-economic conditions and lack of opportunities as the main causes of illegal migration. Ambassador Mekouar proposed further development of the southern Mediterranean countries as the way forward. He also denounced the use of stereotypes regarding Islam and stated that the so-called 'clash of civilizations' is in reality a 'clash of ignorances', which can be overcome by increased knowledge of each other.

Side meeting on Abkhazia (Georgia)

Following the adoption of the resolution on The Situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia (Georgia) met with the Georgian delegation to the OSCE PA to discuss how to proceed to implement the provisions in the resolution. Members of the Georgian Delegation reported that nothing has changed with regard to the situation in Abkhazia and they urged the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake new initiatives. Members of the Committee agreed to again attempt to initiate dialogue with elected officials in Abkhazia (Georgia). They also discussed whether the Committee could learn from efforts undertaken by other international bodies and agreed that they would study these. In addition, the Members of the Committee decided to circulate their ideas concerning the implementation of the Resolution before they have another meeting in October 2005.



Side meeting on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict

On 5 July, OSCE PA Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, Mr. Göran Lennmarker hosted a side meeting on Nagorno Karabakh. Held in the form of a panel discussion, it included: Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, Ms. Elizabeth Rood, Deputy Director of the Euro-Asian Conflict Settlements Office in the US State Department and Mr. Lennmarker as Special Representative.

Ms. Rood stressed the interest of the United States in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict over the Nagorno Karabakh region and also noted recent positive signs. She encouraged Members of Parliament from Armenia and Azerbaijan to help facilitate preparation for peace among the population in the two States. Ambassador Kasprzyk introduced his mandate within the OSCE and stressed the strong correlation between the negotiations and the situation on the ground at the line of contact. He regretted that in the current ‘no war, no peace’ situation, 20-30 people are killed every year. After having heard the two interventions, participants discussed the problems related to preparing the public for peace in the sensitive post-war period.

Mr. Lennmarker also presented his report on the conflict, stressing that there is now a golden opportunity for a peaceful solution based on a win-win concept. He emphasized the need for Armenia and Azerbaijan to intensify negotiations on the conflict and stressed that there must be a willingness in both communities to find a sustainable solution. Mr. Lennmarker listed the different concerns of the parties: Armenia’s central concern is security, whereas Azerbaijan has a feeling of injustice. He stressed that each side needs to find ways to overcome the main concern of the other in order to build a peaceful common future. In addition, Mr. Lennmarker

emphasized the offer of the EU to expand its neighbourhood policy to the Caucasus as an opportunity for both Armenia and Azerbaijan to develop economically. Furthermore, Mr. Lennmarker stressed the usefulness of the work done by the Parliamentary delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan: he said that “Once a peace agreement has been finalized by the two Governments, the parliamentary dimension becomes invaluable in informing the public and in ensuring the implementation. It is of utmost importance that networks of Members of Parliaments already exist and stand ready to take on these tasks”.

Side Meeting on Moldova

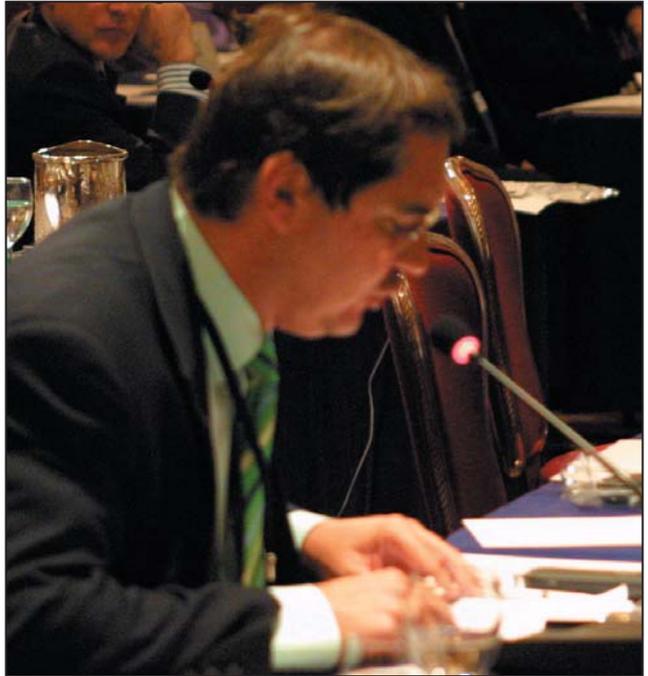


Members of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova met on Sunday July 3 for a working lunch, chaired by Kimmo Kiljunen, to discuss current initiatives and future work. In addition to Mr. Kiljunen, the meeting was attended by Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) from the Parliamentary Team; Stefan Secareanu (Moldova); Sergiu Stati (Moldova); Oleg Serebrian (Moldova); Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia); Vice-President Ihor Ostash (Ukraine); and Ambassador William Hill, Head of the OSCE Office in Moldova.

Participants discussed the supplementary item on Moldova, as well as future work to be undertaken by the Parliamentary Team. Consideration was also given to a proposed seminar on democratization, to include parliamentarians from Moldova, Ukraine and Russia, among others, as well as Members of the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet.



(Photo: Philippe Noblet)



Second Plenary Session



The Second Plenary Session, Chaired by President Hastings, first considered the draft Resolution on Combating Anti-Semitism, introduced by Gert Weisskirchen (Germany). He stressed the importance of recognizing the dangers posed by anti-Semitism, and particularly the importance of increasing education to counter-act growing intolerance. Several Members reiterated the importance of the Assembly's work in combating anti-Semitism, and welcomed participation in the recent OSCE Conference in Cordoba, Spain, dealing with this issue. The Assembly adopted the resolution.

The Assembly then heard reports by the Special Representatives on Guantanamo and on Human Trafficking. Senator Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)

reported on her work regarding the US detention facility in Guantanamo, and urged continued pressure on the United States government to close the detention centre. Congressman Christopher Smith reported on his work in combating trafficking in human beings, and called upon Members to work actively in their home countries to fight trafficking through, for example, holding hearings on trafficking.

General Debate

The general debate touched on a wide range of current issues. Many speakers paid homage to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. In particular in this regard, Members un-



derlined the continued importance, even after thirty years, of a comprehensive approach to security. The benefit of guidance from parliamentarians and the positive input of the Parliamentary Assembly to the OSCE was also noted. Another recurring theme in the discussion was the need for reform of the OSCE – several Members underlined that it was important to press this upon Ministers in participants’ home countries. Members warned, nonetheless, that reforms must be realistic, achievable, and with a view to the future.

Reform of other international organizations, and particularly of the United Nations, was also addressed. In reference to tragedies such as the massacre in Srebrenica in 1995 and to ongoing abuses in Darfur, some Members remarked that

the international community had failed to protect many people from severe human rights abuses, and urged reform of organizations to help remedy this. The responsibility of the international community to protect people meant that sometimes there is a responsibility to intervene, it was noted.

A number of parliamentarians voiced their concerns about the American detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, expressing support for the work being done by Senator Anne-Marie Lizin on this issue. The importance of upholding international human rights commitments in the battle against terrorism was underlined by several parliamentarians. Members also addressed ongoing frozen conflicts within the OSCE region, and discussed bilateral relations between individual countries. Voting rights and electoral standards were also considered, and the importance of international election observation missions was stressed.

Members voiced concern over the continued occurrence of sex slavery, as well as other human rights issues such as displaced persons. The need for further progress in achieving gender equality was also stressed by speakers.



Photo: Philippe Noels





(Photo: Philippe Noblet)



(Photo: Philippe Noblet)

Closing Plenary Session



President Alcee L. Hastings welcomed participants to the final meeting of the 14th Annual Session.

The Assembly's Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada) told participants that the Assembly's Standing Committee had unanimously approved the budget for the next financial year. He applauded the efficiency of the International Secretariat, which continues to function within budget. Secretary General Spencer Oliver also briefly addressed the Plenary, informing Members that his written report had been made available to all delegations, in three languages. The Secretary General further thanked the United States Congress for their hard work and generosity in hosting the Assembly.

US Congressman Steny Hoyer, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability then reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. In particular, he discussed recent work by the OSCE PA's Experts Group Colloquium,

which was in line with the views of the Ad Hoc Committee. It was stressed that the crisis within the OSCE was fundamentally political, and not only procedural. Congressman Hoyer underlined the importance of adjusting the OSCE decision-making process and improve transparency through publicly defending any use of a veto. He also noted that both the OSCE Eminent Persons Group and the OSCE PA Experts Group had advocated strengthening the role of the OSCE Secretary General. Mr. Hoyer urged delegates to advocate the adoption of these recommendations by their national governments.

The participants then considered a matter of urgency on reform of the OSCE. The Assembly adopted the resolution calling upon OSCE governments to begin negotiations on implementing the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Panel report.

The Chairs of the three General Committees gave brief presentations, summarizing the discus-





sions held in their respective committees, following which the Assembly agreed to the three General Committee Resolutions individually, and adopted the Washington Declaration as a whole.

The Plenary then considered the supplementary items which had been addressed in the General Committees, and adopted resolutions on the following topics: terrorism by suicide bombers; the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia; terrorism and human rights; the Republic of Moldova; small arms and light weapons; maritime security and piracy; the OSCE Mediterranean dimension; money laundering; the fight against corruption; combating involvement in trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation and abuse by international peacekeeping forces; the need to strengthen the Code of Conduct for OSCE Mission Members; combating trafficking in human beings; improving the implementation of OSCE electoral standards and commitments and the effectiveness of OSCE election observation activities; funding for the Office for Dem-

ocratic Institutions and Human Rights.

President Hastings thanked all Members for their participation, and described the Session as an unqualified success. He urged Members to bring the Washington Document to the attention of their colleagues in their home countries, assuring participants that he would be doing so in the United States.

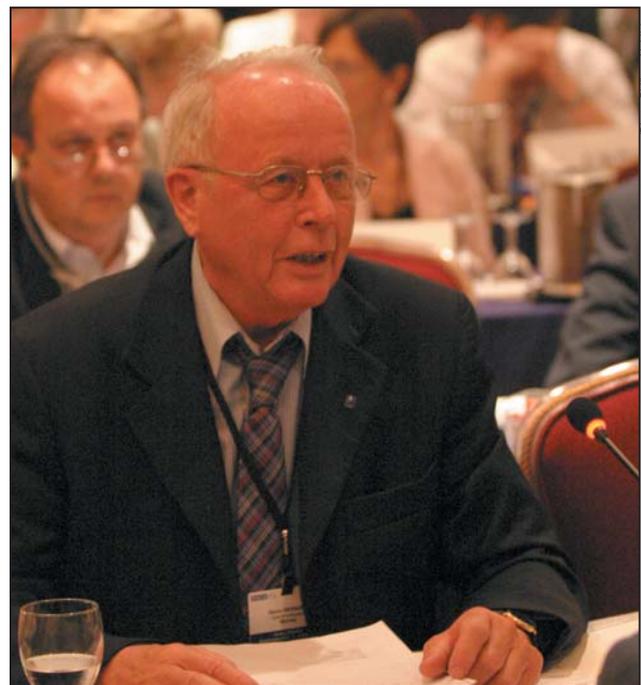


Photo: Philippe Noels

Election of Vice-Presidents

Prior to adjourning the 14th Annual Session, it was announced that the following Members had been elected as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly:

Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine)

Pia Christmas-Møller (Denmark)

Barbara Haering (Switzerland)







Programme

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 1-5 2005

All meetings of the Annual Session took place in the J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC

Friday, 1 July

07.00 – 08.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups	07.00 – 09.00
08.00 – 09.00	Working Breakfast on Gender Issues	09.30 - 11.00
09.30 – 12.30	Meeting of the Standing Committee	
12.30 – 14.30	Lunch break	
14.30 – 16.00	Inaugural Plenary Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call to order and opening remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly• Address by Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert• Address by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice• Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Foreign Minister of Slovenia Dimitrij Rupel, followed by a question/answer session	09.30 – 11.00 11.30 - 13.30 13.00 - 14.30 14.30 - 16.00
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break	
16.30 – 18.30	Plenary Session (cont.): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address by the Head of the U.S. Delegation, Senator Sam Brownback• Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies• Address by the OSCE Secretary General• Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on the gender issue followed by a debate• Presentation of Prize for Journalism and Democracy• Consideration of Supplementary items	14.30 - 16.00 16.30 - 18.00 Evening
18.45	Coaches depart from hotels for Reception at the National Building Museum	07.00 - 09.00 09.00 - 10.00
21.00	Last coach departs from National Building Museum to hotels	10.00 - 12.00

Saturday, 2 July

07.00 – 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups	11.10 - 11.30
09.00 - 11.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee• Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur• Debate	13.30 - 17.00
09.00 – 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee• Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur• Debate	17.30 - 19.30
11.30 - 13.30	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee• Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur• Debate	07.00 - 09.00 09.00 - 11.00 09.30 - 12.30
12.00 – 14.00	Mediterranean Side Meeting	
15.00	Excursion to Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens	12.30

Sunday, 3 July

07.00 – 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.30 - 11.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of amendments• Consideration of Supplementary Items
09.30 – 11.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of Supplementary Items
11.30 - 13.30	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of amendments• Consideration of Supplementary Items
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of Supplementary Items• Election of Committee Officers
14.30 - 16.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of Supplementary Items
16.30 - 18.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of Supplementary Items
Evening	Reserved for receptions by Diplomatic missions

Monday, 4 July

07.00 - 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.00 - 10.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of supplementary items• Election of the Committee Officers
10.00 - 12.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of supplementary items• Election of the Committee Officers
11.10 - 11.30	Meeting of the Bureau
13.30 - 17.00	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of supplementary items• General debate
17.30 - 19.30	Reception at the Library of Congress followed by a Concert and Fireworks display at the United States Capitol

Tuesday, 5 July

07.00 - 09.00	Time reserved for meetings of various groups
09.00 - 11.00	Election of OSCE PA Officers
09.30 - 12.30	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer's Report• Secretary General's Report• Report from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE• Urgent item under Rule 24• Consideration of General Committee Resolutions• Announcement of the results of the 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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