

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S 21ST ANNUAL SESSION MONACO



The OSCE: Region of Change



REPORT ON THE 21ST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary

Hosted by the National Council of Monaco, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 21st Annual Session took place at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco from 5 to 9 July 2012.



The Parliament of the Principality of Monaco hosted the 21st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 5 to 9 July 2012 under the theme “The OSCE: Region of Change.” It concluded with the elections of Assembly Officers, including a new Assembly President, and the adoption of the Monaco Declaration.

Parliamentarians voted on 9 July to pass the Monaco Declaration, a political document recommending plans of action for governments, parliaments and the world’s largest regional security organization, the OSCE, to address human rights, military transparency and the global economic crisis.

By acclamation, parliamentarians elected Riccardo Migliori, a member of Italy’s Chamber of Deputies, president of the OSCE PA for a one-year term.

“I am honoured to have the trust of my colleagues and look forward to working with delegations across our region to tangibly strengthen our commitments to human rights, military co-operation, and economic and environmental protection,” said Migliori, who previously served as vice-president and two terms as rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security.

“The Assembly must remain the vanguard of OSCE, proud of its specificity, as a body which does not sit in the sidelines, but acts decisively

in the forefront,” said Migliori.

Vice-Presidents elected to three-year terms were: George Tsereteli (Georgia), Robert Aderholt (United States) and Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco). Alain Neri (France) and Uta Zapf (Germany) were both elected to terms to end at the 2013 Annual Session.

Officers were also elected to the three General Committees. In the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Asa Lindestam (Sweden) was elected Chair; Susanne Bratli (Norway), Vice-Chair; and Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania), Rapporteur.

In the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) was elected Chair; Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan), Vice-Chair; and Christos Stylianides (Cyprus), Rapporteur.

In the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Matteo Mecacci (Italy) was elected Chair; Isabel Santos (Portugal), Vice-Chair; and Ann Phelan (Ireland), Rapporteur.

The Assembly’s annual Mediterranean Forum was held on 6 July, focused on issues related to the Arab Spring. Several meetings were held on the margins of the Annual Session, including a side meeting on Belarus, an event focused on the case of the late Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, and a working lunch on gender issues.

Monaco Declaration



At the close of each Annual Session, the Assembly adopts a Declaration with recommendations in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment and human rights. Representing the collective voice of the OSCE parliamentarians, the Declaration helps shape OSCE and national policy. It is complemented by a number of supplementary items relating to OSCE commitments and values.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Monaco Declaration outlines plans of action for governments, parliaments and the executive structures of the OSCE to address human rights, military transparency and the global economic crisis.

Adopted in plenary session on 9 July, the Declaration demands the release of all political prisoners in the OSCE area and calls for countries leading the OSCE to "set the standard" on human rights. The Assembly focused considerable attention on the situation in Ukraine, which takes over as chair of the OSCE in January 2013.

On the economic front, the Monaco Declaration calls on national governments to increase green investments to encourage economic growth and warns against the long-term negative impact of continued austerity measures.

The Declaration also calls for updating the Vienna Document that governs how militaries should share information. The Monaco Declaration calls for increasing confidence-building measures and transparency among States by lowering the thresholds at which they must inform each other of their military exercises.

In addition to the Declaration, the Assembly passed 25 resolutions that ranged from seeking a diplomatic solution to questions about Iran's nuclear programme to seeking new ways to co-operate with budding democratic institutions in the Arab world. Members overwhelmingly supported a measure centered on the case of Russian whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky that called on parliaments to ban visas and freeze assets for human rights abusers.





Inaugural Plenary Session



Joao Soares

Opening the 21st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, President Emeritus Joao Soares highlighted his respect and appreciation for the important work that had been done over the previous two years by Petros Efthymiou (Greece) and underlined his regret over Efthymiou's defeat in the recent parliamentary elections in Greece.

Emphasizing the importance of the annual OSCE PA meeting, he wished the participants fruitful discussions.

Michel Roger, Minister of State of the Principality of Monaco



Michel Roger

H.E. Michel Roger discussed the humanist tradition of the Monegasque Princes and underlined their engagement within the OSCE, especially in the field of the protection of human rights and the respect of fundamental principles that ensure peace, political stability and the rule of law.

Speaking about Monaco being a country of both Europe and the Mediterranean, he said that "the Principality is very happy to welcome the Mediterranean Forum 2012 in the context of the 21st Annual Session."

He underlined that dialogue and action – the basis of the OSCE PA's work – are needed to address ever-changing global dynamics. "In Europe, in the Mediterranean, more than ever there is a need for security and co-operation," he said.

Jean-François Robillon, Speaker of the National Council of Monaco

The Speaker of the National Council of Monaco, Jean-François Robillon, emphasized that parliamentary diplomacy is an essential instrument as a forum of exchange, reflection

and debate for parliamentarians of the 56 OSCE participating States. He also noted that the "OSCE PA was able to open itself generously to neighbouring countries."

Highlighting the context of an increasingly globalized world, he stated that the economic crisis and the recent political resurgences are calling for a profound redrafting of our modes of governance.

Speaking about the importance of the theme for the 21st Annual Session and the uprisings in the Arab world, Speaker Robillon emphasized that it is the duty of parliamentarians to make their experience available to those who are in the process of democratic transition.

Jean-Charles Gardetto, Vice-President and Head of the Delegation of Monaco to the OSCE PA



Jean-Charles Gardetto

Jean-Charles Gardetto stated his conviction that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly "plays a fundamental role in facilitating the political transitions to a state of the rule of law, democracy and safety of our people."

Reiterating his belief in the relevance and the effective role of parliamentary diplomacy in the field of conflict prevention, he said: "Due to the forum of discussion and exchange offered by the Assembly, we have the opportunity to think, together, of a definition of an effective international co-operation that meets new challenges present in numerous areas."

Eamon Gilmore, OSCE Chair-in-Office, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland

Eamon Gilmore provided an overview of the initiatives that the Irish Chairmanship had

Inaugural Plenary Session

undertaken during 2012, highlighting the numerous successful events it has organized.

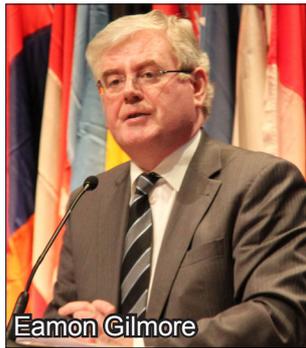
The CiO singled out a number of specific tasks assigned to the Chairmanship by participating States. These include the work of enhancing the OSCE's engagement with the Partners for Co-operation, the work of actively moving forward Mongolia's application to become an OSCE participating State, addressing issues related to the legal status of the OSCE and promoting the OSCE's interaction with other regional and international organizations.

Gilmore emphasized the readiness of the Irish Chairmanship to work closely with the Parliamentary Assembly in order to further the common objectives and concluded by saying: "I am confident that, through effective co-operation with all relevant actors, including the Parliamentary Assembly, we can achieve solid and lasting progress during 2012 and beyond."

**Jean-Claude Mignon,
President of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of
Europe**

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Jean-Claude Mignon, addressed parliamentarians on the importance of strengthening relations between PACE and national parliaments to advance their collaboration on political and social challenges within Europe. Mignon highlighted the development of the PACE Election Observation Manual to which he attributed the value of sharing common experiences for election observation and providing a mechanism "to continue the integrity of elections."

Mignon also spoke about the establishment of the PACE partnership process in which countries outside of Europe can apply to become a partner State. The requirements for partnership include holding democratic elections and abolishing the death penalty. Morocco, as a partner State with both the OSCE PA as well as PACE, was offered as a model example of engagement with countries outside of Europe.



Mignon illustrated that the Palestinians and Moroccans are the most active in PACE meetings and expressed his hope that parliaments in other parts of the region will follow their example. Tunisia has expressed an interest in partnership, he said, and the Kyrgyz Republic has already applied. OSCE membership is an important attribution that is considered during the application process, he said.

**Lamberto Zannier,
Secretary General of the OSCE**

In his second address to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, reiterated his commitment to increasing the profile of the Organization and the need to prioritize its agenda. Stressing the desire for further inter-governmental dialogue and expansion of partnerships with governments and organizations, he said, "No single country, no single organization can address the challenges we face. When we work together we can achieve more, we are building partnerships."

Zannier listed several areas in which future co-operation would be greatly appreciated, in particular, transnational threats, such as trafficking.

**Hedy Fry, OSCE PA Special
Representative on Gender Issues**

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) emphasized the economic and social disparity between women and men, with a special focus on minority women. "Despite being a majority, women still have minority rights status," said Dr. Fry. Women of ethnic, religious, cultural or linguistic minorities suffer from being seen in even lower status than other women.

Dr. Fry called on parliaments to engage minority women in their legislative and policy making process recalling the UN 1995 Beijing Declaration on Women's Rights, which officially recognized women's rights as human rights.







Standing Committee



The Standing Committee consists of the 55 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, the Fall Meetings and the Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget, and appoints the Secretary General.

The Standing Committee on 5 July was chaired by Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco) on behalf of former OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou.

Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) provided an overview of the previous financial year emphasizing the efficiency and good financial health of the Assembly. He proposed that the budget remain frozen for the fourth consecutive year, pointing out however that in order to maintain the PA's level of activities, adjustments to the budget will have to be made in the coming year. The budget was approved unanimously by the Heads of Delegation.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported on the International Secretariat's activities, supporting Assembly meetings, election observation missions and parliamentary diplomacy.

Oliver offered particular thanks to Petros Efthymiou for his service, noting his dedication to raising the profile of the OSCE as demonstrated by his leadership during his presidency. The Secretary General also highlighted the coverage of OSCE PA activities in the *News from Copenhagen* and pointed to the Secretariat's successful research fellowship programme.

The Standing Committee approved 26 supplementary items for general debate. Four supplementary items were allocated to the plenary Session – on Ukraine, the rule of law in Russia (case of Sergei Magnitsky), equal participation of women in OSCE decision-making, and gender and minorities in the OSCE region.

The Standing Committee delegates were also informed about recent election observation missions by their respective leaders.

Tonino Picula (Croatia) outlined the features of the mission in Russia and reported that the elections fell short of OSCE standards. His contribution was followed by Xavier De Donnea's (Belgium) presentation of the election obser-

vation mission in Armenia. Regarding Serbia, Matteo Mecacci (Italy) described elections as overall free and democratic, serving as a good precedent for the future. He also underlined the positive co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and PACE during the election observation mission.

Uta Zapf (Germany), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Belarus, announced the side-event on Belarus to be held during the Annual Session and voiced concern over the lack of significant advancement in the issues addressed by the Committee.

The Chairs of the two other Ad Hoc Committees, on Moldova and on Transparency and Accountability, reported on their recent progress.

Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) expressed satisfaction for the advancement of the 5+2 settlement process in Moldova and reported on the visit made by the Ad Hoc team in May, both to Chisinau and Tiraspol.

Roberto Battelli, in his capacity as Special Representative on South East Europe, reported on recent activities in the region, specifically the Serbian elections in May and the Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in South East Europe in Pristina earlier that week (3-4 July). The two rounds of the Serbian elections saw an active participation of our Assembly, Battelli pointed out. He also spoke about the importance of enhancing the focus on Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Contributions regarding the upcoming meetings were made by representatives of Albania, Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Speaker of the Albanian Parliament Jozefina Topalli offered a detailed report on the preparations for the upcoming Fall Meetings, to be held in Tirana on 5-7 October, and encouraged robust participation by members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.



Mediterranean Forum



Chaired by Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Mediterranean Forum was held on 6 July under the theme "The OSCE Mediterranean partnership in a changing region: the impact of elections since the events of 2011."

Gardetto noted that since the previous Mediterranean Forum organized in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in October 2011, the OSCE PA had engaged with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation by observing elections in Tunisia and by inviting parliamentary delegations to the February 2012 Winter Meetings in Vienna, Austria.

Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Jean-Claude Mignon compared the changes sweeping the Middle East and North Africa to the changes in Eastern Europe two decades ago. However, he also noted the threat of freezing or reversing democratic progress in the region.

Mignon emphasized the opportunity presented for closer co-operation between the



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to assist the region's aspiring democracies, noting that both organizations have extensive and complementary experience in these matters.

Ihor Prokopchuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE and Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners

Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk praised the OSCE PA's valuable contribution towards raising awareness of the OSCE's Mediterranean dimension within the Organization and through active engagement with parliamentarians from the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Noting that at the 2010 OSCE Astana Summit, participating States had recognized that the security of the OSCE area is "inextricably linked" to that of its neighbouring regions, Amb. Prokopchuk explained that recent developments in the South Mediterranean had testified to the relevance of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

Prokopchuk said that the Mediterranean Contact Group serves as a platform for sharing experience and good practices of the OSCE, in particular in the areas of preventing and settling conflicts, developing confidence- and security-building measures, promoting the consolidation of democratic institutions, and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Amb. Prokopchuk encouraged parliamentarians from the Mediterranean Partners to consider the OSCE's proposal of assistance in order to support democratic transition in the Middle East and North Africa.

Mediterranean Forum

Panel discussion

For the first time, Libyan officials appeared before the OSCE PA as guests of the host government. In a panel discussion, Mohamed Abdulaziz, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Libya, called for sustained international assistance to tackle the country's many challenges. Abdulaziz noted that the Libyan experience differs from the transitions in Egypt and Tunisia, with Libya essentially "starting from scratch" in its efforts to build a state.

He described the most pressing concerns his country faces, including border security, absorption of 'freedom fighters' into the national government, containing internal tensions, advancing judicial co-operation with neighbouring countries and ensuring democratic elections. Abdulaziz was joined by Khaled Ghellali, Spokesperson for the Libyan National Democratic Alliance and Director for International Relations of the Tripoli Local Council, who further detailed the challenges of state-building in Libya.

The panel discussion also featured Senator Francesco Amoruso, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and Mahmud Erol Kilic, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Member States, both of whom called for closer co-operation between their assemblies and the OSCE PA.

Debate

The panel discussion was followed by a general debate with participation from a dozen delegations. Delegates from the Southern Mediterranean called for increased privileges within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as a way to enhance co-operation between the OSCE and Partners for Co-operation. Participants also discussed the possibility of extending the Mediterranean partnership to the Palestinian Authority and Libya, opportunities for increased OSCE involvement, and threats to the security and stability of the Mediterranean area. Members expressed concern about the volatile situation in Syria and encouraged OSCE participating States to support democratic processes in the region.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



Following a presentation by Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli (Norway) on follow-up actions regarding the 2011 Belgrade Declaration, the First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security debated a wide array of issues reflected in the report and resolution of Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania).

Meeting in four sessions, the Committee dealt with a total of 12 supplementary items, in addition to the rapporteur's report and reso-

lution. Members focused in particular on the issue of cyber security, a new challenge that is growing in scope within the OSCE region.

Report and Resolution

In her report, Aleknaite Abramikiene discussed issues surrounding this year's theme, "OSCE: Region of Change," to which she attributes the very essence of the OSCE. "Since its establishment, CSCE/OSCE has always

MPs consider gender issues at working lunch

Representatives from the Monagesque delegation hosted a well-attended working lunch on 7 July. OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry opened the working lunch, which included presentations by Third Committee Chair Matteo Mecacci and Akhtar Chaudhry, Head of the Norwegian Delegation.

Mecacci spoke about gender issues in the context of armed conflict, discussing the concept of 'gendercide', in which a particular gender is targeted. Chaudhry pointed out that while men have at times drafted and implemented rules and laws that discriminate against women, they have also attempted to address problems faced by women. He stressed that social and cultural developments contribute to the gender reality and that parliamentarians play an integral role in facilitating change.

While lunch was being served, Members were asked to identify three priority areas for capacity-building on the part of governments, parliaments and political institutions in order to improve the political,



economic, and social participation of women minorities. Education, financial incentives and parental/child support were the three most popular responses to this question. Members actively engaged in dialogue, with both men and women substantially contributing to the discussion.

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security



been a catalyst for change: local, regional and global,” she said.

Mediterranean partnerships are vital to the global promotion of the OSCE’s common values across all three dimensions of security, Aleknaite Abramikiene pointed out. “Execution of concrete projects will generate mutual benefits seeking progress in the Arab world and creating a common security community,” she said.

Emerging threats to the stability of Europe such as cyber crime are in need of further analysis and discussion. Protracted conflicts, however, remain one of the greatest threats to security and stability of the OSCE region, according to her report.

The committee resolution passed after debate on 25 amendments. Eleven amendments were adopted, 13 were defeated and one amendment was withdrawn by the principle sponsor.

Supplementary Items

For the second consecutive year the Committee voted down a draft resolution that called for expanding the OSCE partnership with non-Mediterranean States to include the Palestinian National Authority.

The Committee debated and passed three supplementary items related to strengthening security in the OSCE region, extremism, radicalism, terrorism, and co-operation in post-conflict scenarios.

The draft resolution on Iran’s nuclear programme, sponsored by Akhtar Chaudhry (Norway) was considered paragraph by para-

graph and was adopted. The resolution calls on participating States to work for a diplomatic solution to the threat represented by the Iranian nuclear programme. Encouraging participating States to maintain pressure on Iran in order to make the country fully comply with its international obligations, the resolution also calls on participating States that possess nuclear weapons “to undertake further measures to reduce their arsenals as part of the global effort to enhance nuclear security.”

After a lively debate, the resolution on the situation in Georgia sponsored by Michal Szczerba (Poland) was adopted. The resolution calls on parties involved to abide by the principles of international law, implement the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement, and comply with OSCE commitments and recommendations in the upcoming parliamentary elections. In addition, the resolution calls for the safe return of internally displaced persons to their places of living and to re-establish the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

The draft resolution on emerging democracies in the Arab world sponsored by Jean-Charles Gardetto, as well as the resolution on OSCE co-operation with Afghanistan proposed by Francois-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium) were both adopted after lively debates. Gardetto’s resolution was praised in particular as an important continuation of the earlier debate in the Mediterranean Forum.

The draft resolution on the Impact of Small States in the OSCE, presented by Marion Kindle-Kühnis (Liechtenstein), provided for a spirited exchange of views among the participants and was adopted unanimously. The draft resolution on Helsinki +40 was adopted with one vote against, while the item on Moldova passed with one abstention.

Election of Officers

Chair: Asa Lindestam (Sweden)

Vice-Chair: Susanne Bratli (Norway)

Rapporteur: Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



Chair Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) opened the first session of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment on 6 July by outlining the committee's agenda for the Annual Session. Recalling the productive discussion held during the February 2012 Winter Meeting in Vienna and the April 2012 Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen, Shevchuk encouraged OSCE parliamentarians to participate more actively in the Second Committee by putting forward more resolutions germane to the economic and environmental dimension of security.

In addition to the committee's primary resolution, four supplementary items were debated and adopted, dealing with topics such as renewable energy, water reclamation, freedom of movement, and assistance to children in post-conflict situations.

Report and Resolution

Committee Rapporteur Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom) presented his report by stating that the global economic crisis has had a devastating impact on the economies of the OSCE area. He noted that in the months leading up to the Monaco Annual Session, the economic debate had revolved around the question of growth and shunned austerity policies. Lloyd said that the economic crisis had resulted in a huge loss of

economic output throughout the OSCE region and had led to severe cutbacks in public spending.

Noting that the Annual Session's host country, Monaco, remains prosperous, he observed that the impact of the economic crisis had been unequally distributed. In addition to the rise of extremist political voices and the undue influence of credit rating agencies, Lloyd explained that his report concentrates on the biggest issue facing the OSCE region – the lack of growth – and draws attention to opportunities in education and green growth.

Lloyd's presentation was followed by a lively discussion, with participation from more than a dozen delegations. Parliamentarians commended the report for addressing a highly relevant issue concerning all OSCE participating States. Participants also expressed the need to put the people back at the center of the global economic system.

The adopted resolution calls for a more equally distributed participation in the economic recov-



General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment



ery, in particular from the financial sector, and calls on OSCE participating States to analyze the long-term effects of austerity-driven budget cuts. The resolution also calls for increased international investment in the green economy and for the creation of a global mechanism that would ease access to green technologies. The resolution was agreed to with 14 amendments debated, all of which were approved.

Supplementary Items

Guglielmo Picchi (Italy) introduced a supplementary item concerning food security, which calls on development actors in parliaments, governments and the civil society of OSCE participating States to share their experience in reclaiming water resources. The item encourages organizing practical projects, educational seminars, and the transfer of technology to facilitate water treatment and water reclamation. It also underlines the need to establish an international legal framework to resolve disputes over water resources. The supplementary item was adopted with five amendments.

A supplementary item on the promotion and use of new and renewable energy sources was put forward by Viktor Guminsky (Belarus). The resolution underlines that the OSCE possesses the organizational framework to promote energy dialogue and calls on OSCE executive structures to continue to encourage a shift toward a global energy transformation. The supplementary item also urges OSCE participating States to enable the transfer of technologies and allow a more widespread use of renewable energies.

The Second Committee also adopted a sup-

plementary item on assistance for children in the aftermath of crisis situations. Introduced by Mariusz Grad (Poland), the measure notes that children are disproportionately affected by natural disasters and crises and underlines that humanitarian actions must take into account the specific needs of children. The resolution calls upon OSCE countries to support legislative, judicial and institutional reforms focused on the protection of children against all risks and recommends the frequent monitoring of humanitarian actions to ensure good co-ordination between international agencies and national and local authorities. The measure was adopted with five amendments.

A resolution on the freedom of movement in the OSCE region, sponsored by Valery Rashkin (Russian Federation), calls upon participating States to promote freedom of movement by further simplifying visa procedures and reducing visa fees. The supplementary item also urges OSCE governments to strengthen co-operation in this field with a view of ultimately abolishing visa regimes throughout the OSCE area.

By acclamation, members of the second committee re-elected Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) as Chair and elected Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) as Vice-Chair and Christos Stylianides (Cyprus) as Rapporteur.

Election of Officers

Chair: Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine)

Vice-Chair: Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

Rapporteur: Christos Stylianides (Cyprus)

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Chaired by Matteo Mecacci (Italy), the four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions involved the participation of more than 50 parliamentarians taking the floor to speak on various issues.

The Third Committee meetings began with discussion of the Follow-Up Report on the Belgrade Declaration presented by Vice-Chair Alain Neri (France). In his presentation, Neri noted that progress on human rights matters is generally proceeding slowly. He regretted the undermining of fundamental freedoms in Belarus following recent political events.

The Vice-Chair stressed the need for the OSCE to strengthen efforts to secure the release of all political prisoners, fight against discrimination of the Roma, and combat trafficking of human organs. He reminded partici-

pants of the possibility of using the Moscow Mechanism in urgent humanitarian situations and emphasized that parliamentarians together can intensify efforts to promote human rights.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Coskun Coruz (Netherlands) began his presentation of the committee report and resolution by stating that the current and upcoming OSCE chairmanships should set a standard for exemplary observance of OSCE commitments. Commenting on his recent visit to Yulia Tymoshenko in the prison of Kharkiv (Ukraine), Coruz emphasized the need for judicial independence and prison reform.

Following Coruz's speech, a lively discussion took place with parliamentarians explaining various reforms aimed at fulfilling OSCE

Side meeting focuses on human rights in Belarus

A side event on Belarus took place on 7 July, chaired by Uta Zapf (Germany) and attended by Matteo Mecacci (Italy) and Riccardo Migliori (Italy), Tony Lloyd (UK), as well as by parliamentarians from Finland, Sweden, Poland and others.

Keynote speakers included representatives of civil society working on human rights issues in Belarus: Yuri Dzhibladze and Olga Zakharova of the Belarus Human Rights Committee and Irina Bogdanova, sister of former presidential candidate and political prisoner Andrei Sannikov.



Speakers raised issues of political prisoners, prison conditions, unfair trials and the conditions for the 2012 parliamentary elections. Activists had been recently detained, beaten and placed under house arrest. The speakers pointed out that adopting a resolution once a year is not sufficient and noted the need for follow-up.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



commitments. Others remarked on the relevance of follow-up activities and how to avoid regression on the human dimension issues. The criminal cases against Tymoshenko and the situation on Belarus were also mentioned.

Out of 38 amendments submitted to the draft resolution, 19 were defeated, 19 were adopted and one was withdrawn. The draft resolution was adopted as amended.

Supplementary Items

The Third Committee discussed and voted on six supplementary items.

The supplementary item “Extraordinary Rendition Investigations,” authored by Tony Lloyd (UK), passed with one amendment. This item reiterates that the practice of extraordinary rendition is clearly illegal and that there can never be an acceptable use of torture as a mean of countering terrorism. The item reminds all OSCE participating States that they have binding obligations under international law to not only refrain from torture or inhuman, cruel, humiliating, and degrading treatment; but to also investigate allegations of torture.

The item on transnational fugitive offenders, sponsored by Ase Michaelsen (Norway), passed un-amended. The purpose of the item was to address injustice that leads to *de facto* impunity regarding transnational fugitives. The item calls upon participating States to study the possibility of establishing an independent and impartial international legal authority for deciding extradition, investigation and prosecution concerning transnational fugitive offenders, in co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

The measure “Improving Election Observa-

tion in OSCE Participating States,” introduced by Nikolay Kovalev (Russian Federation), was voted on paragraph by paragraph, and was adopted as amended.

The supplementary item on Belarus, sponsored by Tony Lloyd, passed with 13 amendments. It calls on the government of Belarus to immediately release and exonerate all political prisoners, to respect freedom of movement of its citizens, to suspend the harassment and persecution of civil society, trade unions, independent media and human rights defenders.

The item “Addressing Racism and Xenophobia Affecting People of African Descent in the OSCE Region,” sponsored by Kathleen Ferrier, was adopted with two votes against. It calls, inter alia, upon participating States to engage in efforts to promote racial equality and combat racial discrimination.

The item “Protecting Vulnerable Populations from Human Trafficking,” sponsored by Christopher Smith (United States), passed with three amendments. The item urges participating States to ensure that rehabilitative assistance and legal protection are available to trafficking victims and calls on participating States to train law enforcement, including border enforcement, to identify and offer rehabilitative care and protection to trafficking victims, particularly those belonging to vulnerable populations.

Election of Officers

Chair: Matteo Mecacci (Italy)

Vice-Chair: Isabel Santos (Portugal)

Rapporteur: Ann Phelan (Ireland)

Closing Plenary Sessions

Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) and Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine) chaired two plenary sessions on 8-9 July, in which four supplementary items, as well as the Monaco Declaration, were debated and adopted. Also on the agenda of the plenary sessions were the Report by the Treasurer and the Report by the Secretary General, as well as the election of Assembly officers.

Debate on Resolutions

Four supplementary items were presented and adopted, with the debates over the draft resolutions on Ukraine and “Rule of Law in Russia” particularly active.

Third Committee Chair Matteo Mecacci presented the resolution on Ukraine, which was co-sponsored by 50 parliamentarians from 21 national delegations. He stated that the imprisonment of the Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko ahead the October 2012 elections undermines democracy in the country and called on the Ukrainian authorities to fulfill their commitments in the fields of human rights and rule of law. Considered paragraph by paragraph, the resolution was adopted with ten opposing votes and 33 abstentions.

The draft resolution on the rule of law in Russia, sponsored by Joao Soares (Portugal), focused on the case of Sergei Magnitsky. Aiming to reinforce efforts to bring justice to those responsible for the death of the anti-corruption lawyer who died in Russian custody, the item calls on parliaments to ban visas and freeze assets for human rights abusers connected to Magnitsky’s death.

Fifteen speakers took the floor in the general debate, including U.S. Senator John McCain. Participants stressed that the measure is not intended to be anti-Russian but rather pro-Russian by promoting rule of law in the Russian Federation. The supplementary item was adopted with four amendments.

Hedy Fry (Canada) presented the resolution on gender and minorities in the OSCE region, which passed with broad support, as did the resolution on equal participation of women in OSCE decision-making, presented by Asa Lindestam (Sweden).



Treasurer’s Report

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported that the Standing Committee unanimously approved the Assembly’s annual budget for the next financial year. He noted that the “the Assembly functions in an extremely cost effective way but we need the continued support and solidarity of national delegations to ensure that the Assembly can continue its programs of activities and meetings.”

Battelli thanked the parliaments of Albania, Turkey and Azerbaijan, who will be hosting upcoming Assembly meetings, and encouraged parliaments that have not yet hosted the Assembly to do so in the future.

While acknowledging the hardships that parliaments face due to the financial crisis, the Treasurer offered a warning of future changes within the budget. “We have frozen the budget for the past three fiscal years. This is the last fiscal year that we freeze our budget, if we want to maintain the same level of activities.”

The Treasurer also gave thanks to the Danish and Austrian governments for their contributions and fiscal support to the International Secretariat. It is because of these contributions that the Assembly is permitted to stay within budget while also maintaining a high level of activities. Battelli also expressed gratitude to the Greek Parliament for providing their support to President Petros Efthymiou over the previous two years.

Secretary General’s Report

OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver reported on the activities of the Assem-

Closing Plenary Sessions

bly since the Belgrade Annual Session, highlighting that the Assembly has remained under budget for 20 straight years and has had positive audits throughout that time.

“Parliamentarians have been more active than ever in election monitoring missions,” Oliver said. The OSCE PA led an election observation to Tunisia, he mentioned, the first to be conducted in a Partner State for Co-operation. Election observation missions were also carried out in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Serbia. Oliver informed the Assembly of upcoming election observation missions in Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine and the United States.

Oliver reported that the previous Assembly meetings in Dubrovnik and the Winter Meeting in Vienna have been well attended and successful and announced that this year’s Fall Meetings would be held in Tirana.

In conclusion, Oliver once again thanked the Monegasque Delegation for hosting the Annual Session as well as the staff of the Secretariat, the members of the Bureau and of the Standing Committee for their assistance and continued support throughout the year.

Address by Petros Efthymiou, OSCE PA President 2010-2012

Petros Efthymiou, who served as a member of the Assembly for eight years and as PA president from 2010 to 2012, delivered a farewell address in which he described the importance of the organization’s work. Efthymiou said that for him, “politics is not an issue of personal ambition, politics is a matter of the heart.”

“I am French,” he said, “when I am thinking of *‘liberté, égalité, fraternité.’* I am an American when I’m thinking of the Declaration of Independence. I am one of you in each revolution for national sovereignty or for democratic values and freedoms in your society.”

For Greeks, having lived under dictatorship, “democracy is the way to exist as persons with dignity,” Efthymiou said. This is “why this organization deserves our devotion,” he said. As one of the largest international organizations in the world, the OSCE is a vital

instrument to provide security, co-operation, democracy and human rights to our societies. But in order for it to live up to its potential, he said, parliamentarians have to work harder to be more effective.

Adoption of the Declaration and Election Results

Members adopted the Monaco Declaration, consisting of the three resolutions of the General Committees, as well as 25 supplementary items that had been debated all over the sessions.

At the close of the Plenary, election results were announced. Riccardo Migliori was elected President of the Assembly. The Assembly also elected Vice-Presidents to three year terms: Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), George Tsereteli (Georgia), Robert Aderholt (USA), Alain Neri (France) and Uta Zapf (Germany).

In his inaugural address to the Assembly as its president, Migliori offered recognition to the thousands of women and men who are actively working in the OSCE, particularly those in the field, to promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. He pledged to be president of the whole Assembly and to avoid political factionalism, while urging his colleagues to maintain high levels of activity in the Assembly’s work.

“We must be very ambitious,” Migliori said. “We need to give to the South Caucasus, in Transdniestria – as we are already doing well – the impression that peace, co-operation and rights – starting with those of oppressed minorities – are possible.”







Officers of the Assembly

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



Riccardo Migliori (Italy)

was elected President of the Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco, after having served previously as Vice-President, Rapporteur of the First Committee and as Head of Italy's Delegation. A member of the Chamber of Deputies, he has served on the Constitutional Affairs Committee and as Deputy Chair of the Bicameral Regional Affairs Committee. Migliori is member of the PDL (Popolo della Libertà) Parliamentary Group and serves on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. With a degree in law from Florence University, Mr. Migliori has served on the Florence City Council as well as on the Tuscany Regional Council.



Roberto Battelli (Slovenia)

was elected Treasurer of the Parliamentary Assembly in Vilnius in 2009 and was re-elected for a second two-year term in Belgrade. A member of the Assembly since 1992, he has been particularly active in election observation, observing more than 20 elections across



the OSCE area. He has served as head of the OSCE PA delegation and as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers four times. Battelli has been active in the Democracy Team for Moldova, the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure, and the Sub-committee on Transparency and Accountability. Since 2006, he has also served as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe. He has been a member of the Parliament of Slovenia since 1990.

Uta Zapf (Germany)



was elected Vice-President at the Monaco Annual Session. Since 1990, she has been a member of the German Bundestag, where she serves on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee for International Policy of the Social Democratic Party. Zapf chairs the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, and in the Bundestag serves as Chair of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. She is a deputy member of the Defence Committee, Vice-President of the Southeast Europe Association, and as co-president of the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament. Her key areas of interest are arms control, disarmament, crisis prevention, South East Europe, Turkey, Afghanistan and Belarus.

Officers of the Assembly

Alain Neri (France)



was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco, having previously served as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. He has been a member of the

Parliamentary Assembly since 2002 and has served as Deputy Head of the French Delegation since 2007. From 2007 to 2008, and since 2009, he has been the secretary of the bureau of the French National Assembly, where he has served since 1988. He also served as Vice President of the French National Assembly from 2008 to 2009.

Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria)



was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2008 Annual Session in Astana and re-elected in 2011. He has also served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee. Grossruck was first elected to the

Austrian Parliament in 1995 and has been a Member of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 1996. He is a frequent participant in election observation, and has headed several missions, most recently in Azerbaijan. With a background in insurance, Grossruck is also active in municipal politics and is the Mayor of Grieskirchen.

Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly in Vilnius in 2009 after having served as Chair of the First Committee since 2006 and as Vice-Chair before that. Gardetto has been a Member of the National Council of Monaco since 2003 and is Head of Monaco's Delegation to the

OSCE PA. Gardetto has served as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and a Member of the Legislative, Finance, Education & Youth and Women's Rights Committees. He is also active in the Parliamentary



Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he serves as Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights. As an attorney he is active in international legal organizations.

Robert Aderholt (United States)



was elected OSCE PA Vice-President at the Monaco Annual Session in 2012. He has served as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 4th congressional district since 1997, is a member of the House

Committee on Appropriations, and serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Aderholt is also a member of the Agriculture, Rural Development Subcommittee; Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee; and the Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee. He serves on the House Cybersecurity Task Force and is a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Isabel Pozuelo (Spain)



was elected Vice-President at the 2009 Annual Session in Vilnius and re-elected in Oslo. She has been a Member of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2004 and is presently the Head of the Delegation. She has

Officers of the Assembly

been particularly active in election observation activities, having participated in election observation missions to, inter alia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, Georgia, and Armenia.

Pozuelo has been a member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies since 1996, having served as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the Finance Committee and the Healthcare and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade. She previously served two terms as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, having previously served as Committee Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. Habsburg Douglas is also the Head of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. With a background in law and journalism, Habsburg Douglas served as Secretary General of the International Pan-European Movement prior to being elected to parliament in 2006.



Tonino Picula (Croatia)



was elected OSCE PA Vice-President at the 20th Annual Session in Belgrade, after having served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee since the 2010 Annual Session in Oslo. Picula has been a Member of the Croatian Parliament since 2003, and has served as the Head of Delegation of Croatia to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2004. From 2000-2003, he served as Croatia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and from

2004-2008 he was Chairperson of the Social-Democratic Party Croatia Governing Board. He also serves on the Foreign Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament. He has been particularly active in OSCE election observation activities, leading the election observation missions to Russia and Georgia in 2012.

George Tsereteli (Georgia)

was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. Following a career in business and as a neurologist, Tsereteli came to politics in 1995, serving in the Tbilisi municipality and as Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1999, and has served as Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Vice Prime Minister, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy, Chairman of the Committee on Healthcare and Social Issues, and as Acting Chairman of Parliament. Since 2010 he has served as President of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, having previously served as Vice-President of the forum. He is currently Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia.



Leadership of the First Committee:
Susanne Bratt, Vilija Aleknaite-Abramikiene
and Asa Lindestam

General Committees



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

One of the most important aspects of the work of the Annual Session is the deliberation that takes place in the three General Committees.

Following the 1991 Madrid Declaration, three committees were established along the lines of the three main “baskets” or sections of the Helsinki Final Act: The First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security; the Second General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and the Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Following debate and discussion, a draft resolution is adopted by each Committee for presentation to the Annual Plenary Session of the Assembly, which is then included in the Final Declaration.

First General Committee

Asa Lindestam (Sweden)



was elected Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. A Member of the Swedish Riksdag since 2002, she has served on the Committee on Defence and the Joint Committee on

Foreign Affairs and Defence. Since 2007 she has been a Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. She served as a Member of the NATO PA from 2002 to 2006 and has partici-

pated in several election observation missions. Lindestam previously served as a Member of the Soderhamn Municipal Council from 1998 to 2010.

Susanne Bratli (Norway)



was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade. She has served as a member of the Norwegian delegation to the OSCE PA since 2009. In the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) Bratli

serves on the Committee on Transport and Communications. Since 1993, she has been an active member of the Norwegian Labour Party. She has also served as a member of the Nord-Trondelag County Council for six years. Bratli has a business intelligence degree in training in board governance from the Norwegian School of Management.

Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania)

was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade. A Member of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania since 1992, she has served as Head of Delegation of Lithuania to the OSCE PA since 2008. She also is a member of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Trans-



General Committees



parency and Accountability and the Working Group on Belarus. Aleknaite Abramikiene is a Member of the Committees on Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, Legal Affairs, Social Affairs and Labour, Environment Protection and the Commission on Family and Child Affairs of the Lithuanian Seimas.

Second General Committee

Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine)



was elected Chair the Second Committee at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade. He previously served as Rapporteur of the committee. A member of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, Mr. Shevchuk has served as a delegate to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 1998. Since 2006, he has served as Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. In 2008, he was elected Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science and Environment of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and Senate of the Republic of Poland.

Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)

was elected Vice-Chair of the Second Committee at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. She serves as Head of the Kyrgyz Delegation to the OSCE PA. She first served in the Parlia-



ment of Kyrgyzstan in 2000-2001 and returned in November 2010. Aknazarova serves on the Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Information and Religious Policies as well as the Parliamentary Democracy Committee.

From 2001 to 2005 she served as Minister of Labour and Social Protection in the Government of the the Kyrgyz Republic. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Moscow Academic-Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and has been a central figure in reforming the banking sector in Kyrgyzstan.

Christos Stylianides (Cyprus)

was elected Rapporteur at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. Stylianides is the Deputy Chairman of the Cyprus House of Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs and a Member of the Committee on Labour and Social Insurance



Stylianides is the Head of the Cyprus Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and has been an active Member of the OSCE PA since 2006. In March 1998, he was appointed Government Spokesman. He participated in the OSCE PA's 2008 election observation mission to the United States.

General Committees



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Third General Committee

Matteo Mecacci (Italy)



was elected Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 2011 Annual Session in Belgrade after having served as the committee's Rapporteur since 2009. Mecacci has been

a member of the Italian Parliament since 2008, where he serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. From 2001 to 2008 he was based in New York where he co-ordinated various campaigns related to the promotion of democracy, particularly in regards to the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Isabel Santos (Portugal)



was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. Santos has been s a Member of Parliament in Portugal from 2005 to 2009 and resumed her service in

the Parliament in 2011. She serves on Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration and the Committee on Agriculture and Sea.

She has participated in several OSCE PA election observation missions.

Ann Phelan (Ireland)



was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco. In February 2011, she became the first woman elected to the Dáil (Irish Parliament) from Carlow/Kilkenny. She serves as a Member of the

Joint Administration Committee and the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly. She represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2012 Dublin Conference on Internet Freedom put on by the Irish OSCE Chairmanship.













*Secretary General
Spencer Oliver*

The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly, and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and has a permanent staff of 18, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



*Deputy Secretary
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Tina Schön*



*Deputy Secretary
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Gustavo Pallares*



*Special
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Bringing together 320 parliamentarians from across the 56-nation OSCE region, including Europe, Asia and North America, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

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

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



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