

News from Copenhagen

Hastings Addresses OSCE Conference on Tolerance

OSCE PA President Emeritus Alcee L. Hastings participated in the OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, held in Bucharest on 7 and 8 June.

On behalf of the OSCE PA, Congressman Hastings addressed the Opening Session of the two-day conference, which was also addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos. Hastings reminded participants that the conference was an outgrowth of work originally begun by the Parliamentary Assembly in 2002 in response to an increase in anti-Semitic incidents. He stressed the responsibility of all to combat intolerance and discrimination, particularly by elected officials. Hastings also noted the importance of education in overcoming legacies of the past and in promoting social justice.

Congressman Hastings also addressed the working session on legislation in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, and related his own experiences and the use of legislation to combat intolerance and discrimination in the United States.

Preparations for Kyiv Session; Deadlines Reminder

In both Copenhagen and Kyiv, preparations are underway for the arrival and welcoming of all OSCE PA Members to the Annual Session in Kyiv, 5-9 July. The programme and all background information have been distributed to Delegations.



The Parliamentary Assembly's meeting is attracting considerable media attention, with more than 150 journalists expected to attend and cover the OSCE PA meeting.

Deadlines Reminder

All delegations are reminded of the following deadlines in preparation for the Annual Session in Kyiv:

- **Tomorrow, Thursday 14 June** - Deadline for submission of Supplementary Items
- **Thursday 21 June** - Deadline for submission of amendments to Draft Resolutions
- **Thursday 28 June** - Deadline for submission of amendments to Supplementary Items

OSCE PA Organizes Troika Seminar in Belgrade



PA Special Representative Roberto Battelli (right), and the President of the Serbian Parliament, Oliver Dulic

The over 70 participants in the seminar on Parliamentary Oversight of the Budget, which took place in the Serbian National Parliament in Belgrade on June 11, 2007, all agreed that parliamentary co-operation must continue in order to meet important challenges in the region. Participants stressed that parliamentary oversight over the budget is crucial for transparent, accountable and truly democratic administrative structures.

The seminar, which was organized by the OSCE PA in its capacity as chair of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact on South East Europe, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia, was addressed by a number of senior

officials, including: the recently elected President of the Serbian Parliament, Oliver Dulic; the Chairman of "Working Table I – Democracy", former Serbian Foreign Minister Goran Svilanović; and Bulgarian MP Yovko Yokov, representative of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the South East Europe Co-operation Process.

Under the Chairmanship of Slovenian MP Roberto Battelli, who is the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, participants presented their practices of parliamentary oversight over the budget and discussed achievements and deficiencies that they are experiencing. The seminar included the OSCE PA's partners in the Troika, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, as well as representatives of both Chambers of the Italian Parliament, and Members from the parliaments of the region.

The Stability Pact will expire at the end of the year and will be replaced by a Regional Co-operation Council, the parliamentary dimension of which will have its seat in Sofia, Bulgaria. The next - and last - event of the Troika will be a two-day seminar within the framework of the OSCE PA Fall Meetings in Portoroz, Slovenia, in September, dealing with the issues of decentralization, energy security and education focused on "Knowing Your Neighbour". Mr. Battelli was accompanied by Amb. Andreas Nothelle and Liaison Officer Andres Blasco Cortes from the PA's Vienna Liaison Office.