

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls on OSCE countries to fulfill international commitments in Kyiv Declaration



Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko addresses the Assembly

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ended its 16th Annual Session in Kyiv today by adopting a Declaration that expresses regret at the lack of progress in resolving so-called 'frozen conflicts' in the OSCE region and recommends strengthened action in several fields including migration and energy and environmental security.

The Kyiv Declaration, representing the collective voice of OSCE parliamentarians, will be sent to the governments of all 56 OSCE participating States. It is the result of five days of work by the 250 parliamentarians participating in the Annual Session in the Ukrainian capital.

The Declaration expresses support for all efforts to achieve

a peaceful settlement of the 'frozen conflicts' in Moldova and Georgia based on the principles of territorial integrity.

Reaffirming the crucial importance of all democratic values, the Declaration calls on Belarus and governments of other OSCE participating States to pursue their international commitments and principles linked to the notion of each being a free and democratic country.

Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko, and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, addressed the meeting.

The Declaration urges all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty and the Kyoto Protocol. It also calls for greater action on migration and against human trafficking, especially children, and for the dismantling of criminal networks which facilitate illegal migration. In addition, it contains provisions on women, peace and security; cluster bombs; environmental security; human rights and intolerance.

The Declaration emphasizes that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is the OSCE's most valuable asset in enhancing the credibility of the OSCE's efforts to promote democracy and the establishment and improvement of parliamentary institutions.

It reiterates the relevance of OSCE Electoral Observation Missions and states that parliamentarians contribute a wide range of professional political experience and visibility to these missions.

Lenmarker Re-Elected - Three New Vice Presidents



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Göran Lenmarker, Sweden, was unanimously re-elected to a second one-year term as President at the Annual Session in Kyiv that ended on Monday, 9 July.

Lenmarker, a member of the Swedish Parliament since 1991 and the chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee, is also the Chair of the Swedish Defence Commission and a former Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs.

He was first elected PA President at the Annual Session in Brussels in 2006. He has been a member of the OSCE PA since 1996, having served as vice Chair of the First Committee and as Special Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.



Succeeding Jerry Grafstein, Canada, the PA Annual Session also elected a new Treasurer. He is Hans Raidel, Germany, a member of the German Bundestag since 1990.

The Annual Session also elected three new Vice Presidents:



Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate, has been a member of the OSCE PA since 1992, and its Special Representative on Guantanamo since 2005.



Jerry Grafstein, a member of the Canadian Senate since 1984 and of OSCE PA since 1995, has been the PA's Treasurer during the past six years.



Dr. Kimmo Kiljunen, a member of the Finnish Parliament and its OSCE PA delegation since 1995, is also the PA's new Special Representative on Central Asia;



Panos Kammenos, PA Vice President since 2003, was re-elected. He is a member of Greece's Parliament since 1993 and head of the Greek PA delegation since 2004.