



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Report

on the

4th Annual

Winter Meeting

Vienna

24-25 February 2005

Introduction



This publication provides an overview of discussions held during the Fourth Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in Vienna, February 24-25, 2005. Attended by over 200 parliamentarians from 46 OSCE participating States and beyond, the meeting provided an opportunity for Members to engage with officials from OSCE governmental institutions, as well as with colleagues from other countries on current issues. The OSCE PA Winter Meeting, held annually in Vienna in February, is the second largest event in the OSCE PA calendar, surpassed only by the Annual Session held each year in July. This meeting serves as an opportunity for Members of the Assembly to be briefed on current OSCE developments by senior OSCE officials, who also take questions from the gathered parliamentarians, to follow-up on on-going work of the Assembly, to prepare for upcoming events, and to further inter-parliamentary dialogue on topical issues.

The Fourth Winter Meeting began with a Joint Session of the three General Committees, which was opened by OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hast-

ings, and was addressed by Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer, and by the OSCE Chair-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel. Following the Joint Session, the Assembly's three General Committees discussed and exchanged ideas regarding reports and resolutions for the upcoming Annual Session in Washington, DC in July, which will focus on '30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead'.

The Committee work was followed by a Closing Joint Session, which was addressed by senior Members of the Assembly, representatives of the OSCE Chair-in-Office, and by OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubiš.

In addition to bringing together law-makers from all regions of the OSCE, the Winter Meeting was attended by delegations from OSCE Partner States Algeria, Israel, Jordan and Morocco, as well as observers from the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the Assembly of the Western European Union.



Standing Committee Meeting



The Winter Meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations. The parliamentarians heard welcoming remarks by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Dr. Andreas Khol, who called upon

all participating States

to address the issue of reform of the OSCE and to bear in mind the changing security environment after the enlargement of NATO and the European Union. OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings presented a summary of his activities undertaken since the previous meeting of the Standing Committee in Rhodes in September 2004. He emphasized that it is his intention to continue working to develop the Parliamentary Assembly as a reliable contributing partner to the success of the OSCE.

The Treasurer of the Assembly, Jerry Grafstein, reported that the Parliamentary Assembly continues to operate well within budget and to maintain the highest standards of transparency, accountability and efficiency. The final figures from the last fiscal year show a surplus of approximately sixty-three thousand Euros, including annual reserve allocations. OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver gave a summary of the activities of the Assembly's International Secretariat during the past six months. He highlighted the Assembly's bulletin *News from Copenhagen*, which provides a good overall picture

of how much has been done, and of the efforts of the many Members of the Assembly who regularly contribute their time and their talent to the work of the Assembly.

The Standing Committee reviewed the results of the December 2004 OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia. The Members proceeded to approve an amendment to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, simplifying the process for election of the President of the Assembly.

The parliamentarians heard reports on the Assembly's recent election observation missions to Belarus, the United States of America, and Ukraine. Vice-President Tone Tingsgård, who headed the OSCE Election Observation Mission to Belarus in October, highlighted two points in particular. She regretted that the parliamentary elections process had been largely overshadowed by the concurrent referendum, but welcomed the active involvement of the Belarusian delegation in the OSCE PA as a part of supporting the parliamentary process in the country. Vice-President Barbara Haering reported on the Mission to the American elections, noting the strong media attention it received, which provided parliamentarians with an opportunity to explain the OSCE and election observation missions' importance. The lack of support from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights was regrettable, but clearly demonstrated the ability of the OSCE PA International Secretariat to support the entire observation process. President Emeritus Bruce George, who headed the OSCE Election Observation Mission in Ukraine, underlined the



importance of election observers speaking with a unified voice. He applauded the peaceful transfer of power in Ukraine amidst the sometimes tense atmosphere during the elections process.

Members raised a number of points in conjunction with the discussion of electoral observation, including the potential for greater involvement of parliamentarians throughout the electoral process, establishing a set of objective criteria of elections standards, and the need for states to allow international observation of their elections.

The Standing Committee also heard reports on the work of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees. Presenting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE, Congressman Steny Hoyer expressed the Committee's strong concern about the continued failure of the OSCE to adopt a budget, and of the Ministerial Council in December to adopt other key decisions. The Ad Hoc Committee was similarly disappointed that the OSCE Chair-in-Office failed to take into account the Assembly's views on appointments to the OSCE Eminent Persons Group and that response by the OSCE Governmental Institutions to Parliamentary Assembly Declarations continues to be insufficient. Congressman Hoyer suggested streamlining Assembly resolutions to facilitate more effective follow-up.

Mrs. Uta Zapf, reporting on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, reiterated that the recent parliamentary elections in Belarus had not been free and fair. She expressed the disappointment of the Working Group that the co-operative atmosphere achieved during last year's Annual Session in Edinburgh had not achieved results, and urged more effective dialogue from the Belarusian side.



Vice-President Nebahat Albayrak addressed the Standing Committee, reporting on the work of the Working Group on the OSCE Budget. She noted that the poor response by the OSCE Permanent Council to the Assembly's commentary on the Budget had meant that the Working Group had a difficult start. Ms. Albayrak urged Members to contact their national Ministers to place further pressure on the OSCE to improve the budget process. She further advocated considering changes to the OSCE PA Winter Meeting agenda to permit more pro-active engagement with OSCE officials.

Considering future work, the Standing Committee heard reports on preparations for upcoming events, including the Expanded Bureau in Copenhagen, April 18-19, the Sub-Regional Conference in Tromsø, May 12-13, the Fourteenth Annual Session in Washington, DC, July 1-5, and the Fall meetings.



First Joint Session of the Three General Committees

Opening Remarks and Address by Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

President Hastings welcomed participants to the Fourth Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and thanked the Austrian Government and the Austrian Parliament for their continuing support in organizing the Winter Meeting and in welcoming the Assembly every February to Vienna. He also thanked OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubiš for assisting the PA in the organization of the Winter Meeting and welcomed the presence of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel. President Hastings said that he welcomed the priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship outlined by the C-i-O in his address to the Permanent Council a few weeks ago. “The OSCE, as you stated, needs revitalization and reform. The results of the Sofia Ministerial reaffirm this need. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is ready, willing, and most importantly, able to assist the Chairmanship in this process”. Mr. Hastings emphasized that the relations with the governmental side are now on an excellent track. As concrete examples he mentioned his address to the Permanent Council last September on the results of the OSCE PA Edinburgh Session and the feedback he received from many national delegations. Also, the OSCE Secretary General again briefed the Standing Committee in Rhodes on the OSCE budget and the Assembly was able to provide constructive comments to the Chairmanship during the consideration of the budget.

The President expressed his belief that the theme of the forthcoming Annual Session in Washington, DC – ‘30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead’ – will provide a good opportunity to discuss the future of the OSCE in light of its achievements, and failures, since the process began on August 1, 1975 with the signing of the Final Act of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Mr. Hastings said he was very proud that the Assembly will meet for the first time in the United States. “As the first American President of this Assembly, it is one of my priorities to strengthen and enhance the transatlantic link”.

President Hastings outlined how the Assembly has continued since its last Session in Edinburgh to be engaged in a variety of activities aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the OSCE, including the important role of parliamentarians in fighting trafficking in human beings and combating anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. He in particular thanked parliamentarians for their participation in monitoring parliamentary and presidential elections in the OSCE region in the past months. “The monitoring of recent elections in Belarus, the United States, and Ukraine has proven that the political expertise, credibility, and visibility that parliamentarians bring to the monitoring missions is essential in the process. Indeed, it would be impossible to have a successful election monitoring mission without parliamentarians”.

Address by Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Heinz Fischer took the opportunity of the 30th Anniversary of the Helsinki process to refer to the historical changes made since 1975 and to point out the contributions made by the OSCE.

In this regard, Dr. Fischer emphasized the Organi-



zation's vital role in conflict prevention, post-conflict rehabilitation and building of democratic structures. However, he reminded his audience that although an anniversary gives the opportunity to contemplate previous achievements, it should also be an occasion to focus on the challenges ahead. New phenomena, such as terrorism and cross-border organized crime pose a serious threat to societies and states and require them to take joint action to counter these threats. Dr. Fischer thus ascribed a pivotal role to the OSCE, which he said must remain an important factor in the European security architecture.

In connection with the efforts taken to reform the Organization, Dr. Fischer welcomed the establishment of the new OSCE Eminent Persons Group to consider the OSCE's position within the context of EU and NATO enlargement to the East. However, Dr. Fischer concluded his presentation by acknowledging that OSCE parliamentarians play an equally important role in reforming the Organization and preparing it for the challenges ahead.

Address by Dimitrij Rupel, OSCE Chairman-in-Office

The Chairman-in-Office began by urging the Parliamentary Assembly to live up to its reputation as an "incubator of fresh ideas" during the important OSCE reform process underway. He expressed his hope that the recently appointed Eminent Persons Group will be bold in recommending ways to strengthen the OSCE, and urged that there be no taboos when considering reform of the Organization. He further remarked on other internal matters, such as restructuring the rules of procedure and the scale of contributions, but warned against being

overly inward-looking.

Minister Rupel discussed recent events in Ukraine, thanking the OSCE PA for its active involvement in the recent electoral process, and urging continued engagement with the Ukrainian Parliament. The Chairman-in-Office suggested considering building upon current OSCE elections standards in a process sometimes referred to as 'Copenhagen Plus'. Mr. Rupel discussed the Organization's work in South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, highlighting priority issues. He expressed an interest in proposals for a seminar on military doctrine, and a conference on energy security, and highlighted his work in strengthening the fight against intolerance and discrimination.

Noting that many international organizations are currently undergoing major reforms, the Chairman-in-Office urged parliamentarians to carefully consider OSCE reform and to work to raise the profile of the Organization in their home parliaments.

Discussion

Following Mr. Rupel's presentation, parliamentarians engaged the Chairman-in-Office on a number of issues. Possible work by the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly in the Middle East and Guantanamo was addressed, as was OSCE work on certain frozen conflicts. Balancing the work of the Organization in both geographic and thematic terms was discussed. The difficulties faced by the OSCE in gaining approval of its budget and scale of contributions were considered, as were ways in which the OSCE PA might help overcome this impasse.





‘Copenhagen Plus’

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Rupel said at the Winter Meeting that he was open to the idea of building upon OSCE election commitments agreed in Copenhagen in 1990. “Bearing in mind the fact that the OSCE Copenhagen Document is almost 15 years old, I see merit in considering whether additional commitments are needed. This is sometimes referred to as ‘Copenhagen Plus’,” he said.

“But this process should not roll back existing commitments, or call into question the OSCE’s high reputation in election-monitoring. In other words, no ‘Copenhagen Minus’. That being said, we need to talk and to see if and how things can be improved.”

The Copenhagen Document outlines basic criteria for democratic elections and provides for all participating States to invite observers from other countries to determine their compliance with OSCE commitments.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

The Vice-Chair of the First Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Jean Charles Garretto, opened the session by welcoming delegates and introducing the Rapporteur of the Committee Mr. Pieter De Crem and four guest speakers, Parviz Shahbazov, Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation; Ambassador Lenarčič, Chairman of the Permanent Council; Ambassador Zannier, Head of the Conflict Prevention Centre, and Dimirat Jalnev, Program Co-ordinator with the Action Against Terrorism Unit.

Address by Pieter DeCrem, Rapporteur of the First General Committee

Mr. de Crem, Committee Rapporteur, presented ideas for his report and draft resolution. He intends to stress the need for reform, which would link the Parliamentary Assembly closer to other OSCE institutions in order to achieve a more productive follow-up to PA Declarations within the OSCE. He also emphasized the need to take action to follow-up on PA issues within national parliaments. Among other matters, Mr. De Crem stressed that more operational resources and attention should be devoted to the Caucasus and Central Asia and advocated that the fight against terrorism and organized crime should not be carried out at the expense of legitimate human rights concerns.

Address by Parviz Shahbazov, Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation

Mr. Shahbazov, Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation, started his presentation by summarising projects relating to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. He stated that the issue of stockpiles of conventional ammunition has moved up in the agenda of the FSC and has become an area of intense activity in 2004. He stressed that the presence of excess ammunition in the OSCE area poses risks and dangers that are cross-dimensional in nature.

Address by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Chairman of the Permanent Council

Ambassador Lenarčič conveyed to delegates the increasing sense of unease within the OSCE due to differences in opinion on the Organization's role in the new political environment, which has culminated in the failure to agree on a 2005 budget. Temporary financial arrangements have hindered the OSCE from launching new projects and could lead to the paralysis of the Organization within months. He expressed confidence that OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Rupel's triple "R" agenda for 2005 of 'Revitalise, Reform and Rebalance' along with the recently appointed Panel of Eminent Persons will address fundamental and difficult questions facing the Organization





and stimulate discussion on its strategic orientation in the future. The Ambassador also mentioned the remarkable progress made in the area of terrorism, where the OSCE has responded and adapted to meet new challenges.

**Address by Ambassador Lamberto Zannier,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**



Ambassador Zannier gave an overview of the work carried out by the Conflict Prevention Centre and by the Missions in the field. He also explained that the current budget stalemate hinders his Centre's ability to efficiently carry out their

role. He stressed that simply moving financial resources from South East Europe to the Caucasus and Central Asia would not be sufficient to 'rebalance the Organization' as there is a lack of sufficient capacity in these regions. Ambassador Zannier also added that co-ordination in relation to project activities has been expanded in the centre to ensure increased transparency and uniformity.

**Address by Dimirat Jalnev,
Program Co-ordinator with the Action
Against Terrorism Unit**

Mr. Jalnev expressed his deep concern over the increased level of terrorist attacks within the OSCE area. He highlighted the Unit's work in advocating

the ratification of the 12 UN anti-terrorism conventions and maintained that soon the Unit would be concentrating on implementing these conventions within OSCE participating States. He also summarized the various workshops and meetings convened by his Unit relating to issues such as aviation security, security of containers, travel documents, among other items.

Discussion

Throughout the meeting a fruitful discussion took place on issues related to political affairs and security. Members debated a variety of specific regional issues as well as general OSCE-ODIHR election monitoring standards. Several Members requested a more political agenda for the Parliamentary Assembly and called for reform of the OSCE. Some Members also expressed their disappointment that no Members of the OSCE PA are represented in the newly established OSCE Eminent Person's Group.



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

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Second Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment met under the Chairmanship of Benjamin Cardin, who began by stressing the importance of the 'second basket', which comprises the economic and environmental dimensions, in the OSCE. Chairman Cardin also thanked Vice-Chair Maria Santos who will no longer be a Member of the Assembly.

Address by Leonid Ivanchenko, Rapporteur of the Second Committee



Mr. Ivanchenko introduced his ideas for the report for the Washington Annual Session of the Assembly which will focus on the topic '30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead'.

Mr. Ivanchenko noted that the idea of economic integration in Europe emerged after the Second World War and marked the beginning of a new era for the whole world. Medium and small states – neutral, non-aligned and socialist – could discuss and solve common European problems. The Helsinki process with its focus on political, economic, trade and humanitarian issues was a step forward in the integration process.

Mr. Ivanchenko stressed that the OSCE's unique geographical coverage and its multi-dimensional approach to security have made the Organization very popular within the region. However, a good number of OSCE participating States still need assistance in putting reforms into place and settling the problems of weak government, corruption, high unemployment, social and economic inequality and poverty.

Mr. Ivanchenko noted that despite increasing concern over environmental problems, the continued depletion and unsustainable use of natural resources may have serious consequences both for human health and well-being, and for the stability and security of countries. Co-operation among participating States, and international and regional institutions is one of the most important ways of strengthening security and stability and preventing potential conflicts in the OSCE region.

Address by Mr. Frédéric Fournier, Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the Tsunami relief efforts

Focusing on the Tsunami effects, Mr. Fournier highlighted that affected countries had been impacted in very differing ways. For example, in Sri Lanka, where many international agencies were present, there was a strong ability to respond to the breakdown in communications and infrastructure, whereas in Aceh, Indonesia, the capacity was much weaker. He then explored some of the ways in





which the ICRC has tried to help survivors from the disaster. Finally, Mr. Fournier commented on the great generosity of both people and governments in donating towards aid for the disaster. However, he stressed that for the aid to be used most efficiently, the long-term picture was important, meaning that it was better to spend some of the donated money in the future for redevelopment, rather than on immediate relief-aid as most organizations and donors wanted.

Discussion

Following Mr. Fournier's keynote address, Members discussed the dangers of increased child trafficking that may arise as a result of the disaster and the ability of the OSCE PA to help in the fight against child trafficking. During the debate, Members considered ways to co-operate on different countries' approaches to the disaster, possible future ways to generate permanent funds to deal with such crises and the best way to help with long-term infrastructure rebuilding by the populations of affected countries, such as micro loans.

Address by Mr. Patrick Moulette, Head of the Anti-Corruption Department of the OECD

Mr. Moulette raised the issue of globalization and the impact of internationalization of economies on financial crime and abuses. He pointed out that while the cost of financial crime is immense, there are no reliable figures on its actual scale. Financial crime slows down the economic and social development of countries in transition in particular, as it leads to distortion of investment flows and seriously undermines confidence in democratic institu-

tions. Therefore Mr. Moulette underlined the need for co-operation between governments and international organisations, as well as for the elaboration of a variety of approaches to fight corruption.

Furthermore, Mr. Moulette presented the measures that the OECD has undertaken in order to fight corruption. In particular, he spoke of its efforts to combat bribery in international commerce and money laundering and spoke about the importance of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention from 1997. Mr. Moulette dedicated the second part of his presentation to the activities of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

In conclusion, Mr. Moulette stressed the importance of the OECD and the OSCE combining their efforts to help countries in transition move towards international standards in the fight against corruption.

Address by Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Swiecicki informed the parliamentarians about the current status of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension. He pointed out the fact that although the office of the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities (OSCEEA) receives only some three percent of the budget of the Organization, there has been steady progress in strengthening this dimension throughout the years.

Mr. Swiecicki said that three preparatory seminars were organized in connection with the OSCE Economic Forum that will take place in Prague in the end of May 2005. The first two meetings took



place in Trieste and Almaty and were dedicated to demographic developments and migration respectively. The third seminar will be held in Kiev and will focus on the integration of national minorities. Mr. Swiecicki said that according to a decision adopted at the Sofia 2004 Ministerial Council, during the 2005 Economic Forum more time will be devoted to a review of commitments in fields of investment, trade, immigration, education, good governance, fight against corruption, and sustainable development.

Meanwhile the OSCEEA has developed various projects on the basis of recommendations from previous forums. For example, there is an environmental project aimed at identifying unsolved environmental problems which could potentially cause tensions on the international level. This initiative covers Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus, the Balkans and will be extended this year to Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. The OSCEEA is also promoting the implementation of different environmental agreements, in particular the Aarhus Convention.



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions



Ms. Claudia Nolte, Chairperson of the Third Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming the speakers and drawing the audience's attention to the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. She pointed out that since 1975 there have been many accomplishments in respect to democracy and human rights, yet noted that many challenges remain.

Ms. Nolte also introduced the issue of trafficking in human beings, calling on the participating States to combat trafficking both in countries of origin as well as in those of destination.

Rolf Ekeus, High Commissioner on National Minorities

Mr. Ekeus drew the Committee's attention to a study on the treatment of new minorities in established democracies. Comparing the situation of established and new minorities, Mr. Ekeus stated that many of the problems as well as the means of facing them are similar, concluding that a more intense debate among institutions dealing with both groups would be an important step forward. Although he stated that the risk of tensions arises more often in situations involving established minorities in new or emerging democracies, he



stressed the correlation between the protection of the rights of all minorities and the successful prevention of conflicts.

Miklós Haraszti, Representative on Freedom of the Media

In his opening remarks, Mr. Haraszti asked for support for his campaign against criminal libel and insult laws. Although most countries have acknowledged that criminal defamation laws are not acceptable in modern democracies, those laws remain the major instrument of oppression against journalists in some OSCE countries. Accordingly, he made an appeal to the participating States to transfer the handling of libel and defamation from the criminal domain to the civil law domain.

Mr. Haraszti pointed out that the European Court of Human Rights has always found imprisonment a disproportionate punishment for libel. In conclusion, he offered his assistance to those countries which are still undergoing the process of reforming their respective legislation.

Discussion

Following these presentations, parliamentarians asked Mr. Ekeus about the situation of minorities in different regions. In addition, the connection between the integration of minorities and the resolution of 'frozen conflicts' in the OSCE area was highlighted by some of the speakers. Some speakers emphasized the need for mechanisms to protect victims of defamation and to guarantee the right to response, demanding professionalism and responsibility from journalists.

**Anne-Marie Lizin,
Rapporteur of the Third Committee**



Ms. Lizin presented the main outlines of her coming report for the Annual Session. She stated that because of the central role played by State authorities in safeguarding fundamental freedoms and human rights, her report would consider human

rights protection from a three-dimensional perspective: by, between and within States. Ms. Lizin pointed out some of the measures to be undertaken by States in order to create the necessary conditions for safeguarding fundamental freedoms. She mentioned international co-operation as the means to ensure the protection of human rights between States. Finally, Ms. Lizin referred to human rights protection within States, affirming that it requires the peaceful coexistence of different sociological and political groups.

Ms. Lizin's presentation was followed by a debate including discussion on election monitoring activities, the need to address the situation of prisoners in Guantanamo, and the need for more clear judgments regarding the compliance of elections with democratic standards.

**Tone Tingsgård,
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Gender Issues**

Ms. Tingsgård stated that the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation constitutes one of the fastest and most lucrative types of organized crime. Ms. Tingsgård stressed that the legalization / decriminalization of prostitution promotes sex trafficking, expands the sex industry and increases the demand for prostitution. She outlined the Swedish model of combating prostitution and trafficking, which criminalizes the purchasing of sexual services without criminalizing the victims, and recommended that States adopt similar measures. Finally, Ms. Tingsgård stated that both prostitution and trafficking are part of a greater discussion on gender inequality – male violence against women – and asked States to combat both.

**Christopher Smith,
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Human Trafficking Issues**

Mr. Smith declared that the best solution to trafficking for prostitution is in the penalization and prosecution of those involved in prostitution, and the concerted efforts of governments and organizations to reduce the overall demand for prostitution. Mr. Smith suggested many avenues to combat prostitution, and encouraged others to join the 39 nations who permit the prosecution of nationals abroad for sexual exploitation and 'sex tourism'.

Mr. Smith looked to the 'Swedish model' of fighting trafficking for prostitution, explaining that the punishment and re-education of sex buyers, as well as maintaining the illegality of prostitution, are among the most effective ways to reduce demand, and therefore reduce the number to trafficking victims.



**Helga Konrad,
OSCE Special Representative on
Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Helga Konrad began her statement by acknowledging the connections between human trafficking and prostitution; however, she focused her comments specifically on issues of trafficking.



Ms. Konrad asked that parliaments take effective measures against trafficking, distinct from immigrant smuggling and illegal migration. She said that no single group or governmental body can eliminate trafficking without addressing the root causes and criminal relationships, and ensuring integrated work by authorities involved in education, immigration, combating poverty, and organized crime.

Ms. Konrad advocated that trafficking be addressed as a human rights issue, and that the victims of trafficking be treated as victims rather than as illegal immigrants or criminals.

Discussion

During the ensuing debate, it was stressed that nations interested in reducing trafficking in human beings should take measures to reduce demand. Some Members noted that making or keeping prostitution illegal does not necessarily address the issue of protection and safety for victims of trafficking.



Closing Joint Session of the Three General Committees



Address by Tone Tingsård, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

At the Joint Session, Vice-President Tone Tingsård, who also serves as Special Representative on Gender Issues, presented her report on the status of gender issues in the OSCE. Ms. Tingsård acknowledged the adoption of a new OSCE Gender Action Plan as a step forward and commended the increased level of accountability that will be introduced as a result of the Plan. She also stressed the fact that the 2004 Gender Action Plan calls on participating States, particularly those with economies in transition, to submit more female candidates for

positions in the OSCE. Ms. Tingsård regretted that “while the Plan establishes that the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretariat will be ‘proactive’ in the nomination of candidates it does not, however, embrace the practice of ‘positive action’”.

With regard to the actual situation within the OSCE, Ms. Tingsård expressed her dissatisfaction that women continue to be under-represented within the OSCE, especially in higher level positions. In this connection Ms. Tingsård mentioned the establishment of an Eminent Persons Group and expressed her disappointment that not one woman was appointed by the Chairman-in-Office to this important group. She said “I was shocked when I found out that participating States did not nominate one single woman. I think this shows how much the OSCE needs to change its culture – I worry that we are not supporting the principles we preach”.

In addition, Ms. Tingsård also highlighted that the Parliamentary Assembly suffers from female under-representation, as stated in the 2004 OSCE PA Gender Balance Report. “It is important we realize that it is the gender imbalance within our own delegations that prevents equal participation of men and women in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly”. In this context, Ms. Tingsård explained her intention to present her 2004 Gender Plan in the form of a Supplementary Item at the Washington Annual Session and she asked her colleagues for support in this matter.





Address by Jan Kubiš, OSCE Secretary General

Mr. Kubiš noted that this would likely be his last address to the Parliamentary Assembly as OSCE Secretary General, and stressed the importance of the PA particularly during the ongoing OSCE reform process. He noted that there are indeed many questions being raised about the Organization and its functioning, with some even questioning whether the OSCE is engaging with topical issues. Ambassador Kubiš admitted that the OSCE is not necessarily in a good situation, particularly given the budget crisis. The Secretary General also mentioned other worrying issues affecting the Organization, including the resurfacing of Cold-War terminology, assertions by some participating States of double standards, and differences on the closure of field missions.

The Secretary General expressed concern about the work of the OSCE, noting that without a budget, the Organization was working from month-to-month with interim billing, which allows no new projects or staff. Indeed, if the Permanent Council fails to pass a budget in the coming months, there is the possibility that the Organization will not be given a clean bill of health by its auditors.

Mr. Kubiš discussed various possibilities of overcoming some of the problems currently faced by the Organization, including abandoning the use of the consensus rule for some decisions such as budget approval, albeit not for political issues. Similarly, restructuring of the Secretariat and review of staff regulations could help reinvigorate the work of the Organization.

Despite the current difficulties faced by the OSCE, the Secretary General outlined a number of areas in which progress is being made, including work in combating terrorism, the establishment of an anti-trafficking unit, and increased emphasis on combating intolerance and discrimination. In particular, Mr. Kubiš highlighted the OSCE's October 2004 elections work in the Partner State of Afghanistan – a first for the Organization, representing a strong outreach effort.

During the ensuing question-and-answer session, the Secretary General discussed issues raised by parliamentarians on gender balance in the OSCE Eminent Persons Group, rebalancing the work of the Organization, and achieving a more effective dialogue on the OSCE budget between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Permanent Council.

Finally, Mr. Kubiš urged the gathered parliamentarians to support the OSCE in achieving consensus in the coming months on the appointment of a new Secretary General.



Report by Jean-Charles Gardetto, Vice-Chair of the First Committee



The Vice-Chair of the First Committee, Jean-Charles Gardetto informed members about the presentations and debates held in the Committee. Mr. Pieter de Crem, Committee Rapporteur, had presented ideas and intentions for

his report and draft resolution, which will focus on issues such as OSCE reform, the channelling of resources to the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the fight against organized crime and terrorism.

Mr. Gardetto reported that Ambassador Lenarčič, Chairman of the Permanent Council, had discussed the failure to agree on a 2005 budget due to differences in opinion within the Organization, which could lead to a paralysis of the Organization within months. On a more positive note, he had referred to the remarkable progress made in the area of terrorism where the OSCE has responded and adapted to meet new challenges.

The Chairman of the Forum for Security Cooperation, Mr. Shahbazov, had briefed the Committee on projects relating to reducing small arms and light weapons and had expressed his belief that their presence represents a cross dimensional challenge. The Committee was also briefed by Ambassador Zannier, Head of the Conflict Prevention Centre and Dimirat Jalnev, Program Co-ordinator with the Action Against Terrorism Unit.

Report by Benjamin Cardin, Chair of the Second Committee

Mr. Cardin gave an overview of discussions in the Second Committee, noting the importance of rebalancing OSCE work in the three dimensions. Work in the Economic and Environmental dimension has progressed relatively slowly, and Congressman Cardin called upon the OSCE PA to help raise the profile of the 'second basket'. He explained that the Committee had heard a presentation by Frédéric Fournier of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who briefed the Members on the tsunami relief efforts. This was followed by an active discussion on the

relief efforts and the dangers of donor fatigue.

Mr. Cardin reported that the Committee had also heard an address by Patrick Moulette, who deals with anti-corruption efforts at the OECD. Mr. Moulette had warned of the dangers of corruption impacting the tsunami relief efforts, and spoken about progress made in relation to the Financial Action Task Force's work against corruption. Also, Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, had briefed the Committee on his work since the Edinburgh Annual Session.

Congressman Cardin concluded by thanking Maria Santos, Vice-Chair of the Committee, for her work, and expressed his regret that she would no longer be a Member of the Assembly.



Report by Claudia Nolte, Chair of the Third Committee

Mrs. Nolte provided a summary of the presentation by Anne-Marie Lizin, Rapporteur of the Third Committee, whose coming report will examine the key role played by States in the protection of human rights. Mrs. Nolte reported that the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities had addressed the Committee, particularly raising issues concerned with protection of new minorities in established democracies.

The Committee had also heard a presentation by Miklós Haraszti, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, focusing primarily on his work in eliminating criminal libel and insult laws. He had stressed the importance of transferring libel cases from criminal to civil legal jurisdiction.

Finally, Mrs. Nolte briefed the Joint Session on the discussion on trafficking in human beings which had taken place in the Third Committee. In particular, Members had debated the links between combating prostitution and combating human trafficking.





Presentations by Personal Representatives of the Chair-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination

Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative of the C-i-O on Combating anti-Semitism, noted that anti-Semitism was clearly on the rise in parts of the OSCE, with intolerance growing in poor regions. He aims to raise awareness of the issue, and improve co-operation between civil society, NGOs and government. Specifically, he will work to standardize data on anti-Semitism across the region, and increase debate and create regular reports on the issue.

Omur Orhun, Personal Representative of the C-i-O on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, underlined the worsening situation which Muslims have faced since the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks. He stressed that to combat this deterioration in relations, he would push for effective work by existing bodies,

ensure that all participating States have adequate and effective legislation to deal with discrimination, and pay close attention to the role played by the mass media.

Anastacia Crickley, Personal Representative of the C-i-O on Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, outlined her plans to focus on examining the contribution that civil society can make to improving inter-cultural understanding, as well as to raise public awareness of the scope of the problems. She will also work to ensure adequate implementation of legislation, and encourage exchanges of good practice between states.

Closing Remarks by Alcee L. Hastings, President of the OSCE PA

President Hastings thanked the participants for their work over the past two days, and noted that the Winter Meeting objectives of engaging with the OSCE governmental institutions, following-up on past work, and discussing topical issues had been fulfilled. He stressed that parliamentary

diplomacy represents an important addition to inter-governmental relations. The President said that it was clear that the OSCE was in need of effective reform, and stressed that the Parliamentary Assembly should play a key role in pushing this agenda forward.





Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH WINTER MEETING
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**
Vienna, 24-25 February 2005

All meetings of the Standing Committee and the three General Committees will take place in the Congress Center Hofburg in Vienna.

Thursday, 24 February

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|-------------|--|
| 08.30-11.15 | Standing Committee |
| 11.30-13.30 | Joint Session of the three General Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call to order; - Opening remarks by the President of the OSCE PA; - Address by the President of the Austria; - Address of the OSCE Chair-in-Office followed by a question/answer session; |
| 13.30-15.00 | Lunch break |
| 15.00-18.00 | General Committee on Political Affairs and Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by the Committee Chair; - Discussion led by the Rapporteur on the subjects to be considered at the Annual Session in Washington D.C. followed by general debate - Coffee break; - Briefing by Senior OSCE Officials followed by a question/answer session; |
| 15.00-18.00 | General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by the Committee Chair; - Discussion led by the Rapporteur on the subjects to be considered at the Annual Session in Washington D.C. followed by general debate; - Coffee break; - Briefing by Senior OSCE Officials followed by a question/answer session; |
| Evening | - Reserved for Embassies |

Friday, 25 February

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| 09.00-12.30 | General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening remarks by the Committee Chair; - Discussion led by the Rapporteur on the subjects to be considered at the Annual Session in Washington D.C. followed by general debate; - Coffee break; - Briefing by Senior OSCE Officials followed by a question/answer session; |
| 12.30-14.30 | Lunch break |
| 14.30-17.00 | Closing Joint Session of the three General Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call to order; - Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on the gender issue followed by a debate; - Report by the OSCE PA Treasurer - Report by the OSCE PA Secretary General - Address by the OSCE Secretary General followed by a question/answer session; - Reports by the Chairs of the three General Committees; - Concluding statement by the OSCE PA President |

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