

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 130

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

9 December 2004

President Alcee L. Hastings addresses the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia

On 6 December 2004 in Sofia, OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings addressed the Opening Session of the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council. In his address, he highlighted the contributions of the Parliamentary Assembly to the work of the OSCE, the merits of the Bulgarian Chairmanship, the need to reform the OSCE, the important role of parliamentarians in election observation missions, the support of the Assembly for the OSCE Statement on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the contributions of the PA in strengthening relations between the OSCE and its Mediterranean and Asian partners. Mr. Hastings emphasized that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued throughout this past



year to fulfill the task set forth in the Charter of Paris and to provide on the international level some degree of democratic legitimacy to the OSCE. He congratulated Bulgaria for the significant work carried out in the past months in the difficult and challenging task of guiding the OSCE. "The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly shares the Chairman-

ship's views on the need for reform and adaptation of the OSCE. I hope that this Ministerial gives a much needed impetus to the Organisation", he said. President Hastings

reminded the Council that with its Resolution on Co-operation, the Assembly reiterates its previous recommendations that the OSCE carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its decision-making procedure, both in terms of enhancing its transparency and looking into the possibility of differentiating the consensus principle, providing, for instance, for a consensus minus two or three for decisions on budget and personnel, particularly for heads of institutions and missions and other high-level personnel. President Hast-

ings welcomed Slovenia to the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2005. "We very much look forward to working with our Slovenian friends in promoting the principles that make the OSCE a unique Organisation", he concluded.

Full text of President Hastings address available at www.oscepa.org



Bureau Meeting in Sofia

The Bureau of the OSCE PA met on 5 December in Sofia in conjunction with the 12th Ministerial Council. The Members of the Bureau heard remarks by the Head of the Bulgarian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Dr. Toshko Peykov and were addressed by the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Ivan Naydenov and the Chairman of the Permanent Council in Vienna, Ambassador Ivo Petrov. The

Bureau also heard reports by Treasurer Jerry Grafstein and Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The Treasurer informed that the audit of last year's expenditures showed excellent financial management in the Secretariat and that the Assembly was within the annual budget for the 12th consecutive year. The Bureau devoted a first discussion to a theme for the 2005 Annual Session in Washington. It was agreed that the Members will forward

their ideas and proposals to the International Secretariat in order to prepare for a decision on the theme as soon as possible. The Bureau adopted a technical amendment to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 5, paragraph 1 (Election of the President) as proposed by the International Secretariat. The Members were informed that the next Meeting of the Expanded Bureau will take place on 18-19 April 2005 in Copenhagen.