

News from Copenhagen

Number 75

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

28 April 2003

14th Annual Session in Washington, July 2005

At the Expanded Bureau Meeting, held in Copenhagen on 24-25 April 2003, OSCE PA Vice-President Alcee Hastings conveyed an invitation of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA to host the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Washington, in July 2005. On behalf of the Assembly, President Bruce George graciously accepted the invitation. Meeting in the Danish Parliament, the Expanded Bureau discussed Reports and Draft Resolutions of the General Committees in view of the upcoming Annual Session in Rotterdam. The Expanded Bureau also heard activity reports from the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General. President George indicated that he was pleased with the general improvement of the working relations with the governmental side of the OSCE, particularly with the Dutch Chair-in-Office, but he expressed serious concerns about current obstacles preventing the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna from functioning as an important link between the parliamentary and the governmental dimensions of the OSCE. After an initial positive start, there is now seemingly a reluctance to acknowledge the status of the Parliamentary Assembly, and particularly the new PA Ambassador in Vienna. Mr. George said that he will send a letter to the Chair-in-Office about the matter. In his report to the Expanded Bureau

Treasurer Jerry Grafstein emphasized that the Assembly is in excellent financial shape and had strong praise for the management of the Assembly's finances by Secretary General

Spencer Oliver and his team. The PA continues to operate within its budget and, as the external KPMG auditors have pointed out, the financial procedures followed are of a high standard.

In addition, reports were presented on preparations for the Sub-Regional Conference in Bern (14-16 May), the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Kazakhstan (7-9 June), the Rotterdam Annual Session (5-9 July), and the Fall Conference



on Religion and Mediterranean Forum to be held from 9 to 12 October in Italy. The parliamentarians were also informed about the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committees.

The Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Frank Van Beuningen, briefed the Expanded Bureau on the activities of the Dutch OSCE Chairmanship, followed by an extensive question and answer session.

OSCE PA Sharpens Focus on Central Asia

From 8-10 April, Programme Officer Paul LeGendre traveled to Ashgabad, Turkmenistan for the OSCE Regional Heads of Mission Meeting where he updated the participants on the preparations for the upcoming OSCE PA Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum as well as on other OSCE PA activities. The meet-

ing was also attended by senior OSCE officials from Vienna, the Hague, and Warsaw.

Mr. LeGendre and PA General Services Officer Kurt Andersen will travel to Almaty, Kazakhstan next week in preparation for the important OSCE PA meeting there on June 7, 8 and 9.

Vice-President Alcee Hastings Visits the International Secretariat



Prior to the Expanded Bureau meeting, OSCE PA Vice-President Alcee Hastings (US Congress) visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on April 23. His programme included a meeting and discussion with the Research Assistants of the Secretariat (shown here).

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