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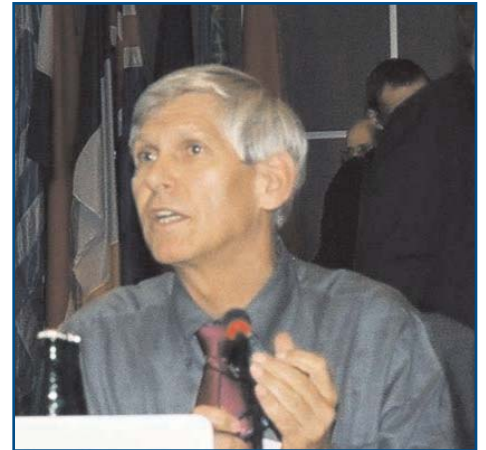
24 June 2003



Alcee Hastings



Barbara Haering



Gert Weisskirchen

Vice-Presidents Call on Parliamentarians to Fight anti-Semitism

Vice-President Alcee Hasting represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism, held in Vienna on 19-20 June 2003. A total of sixteen parliamentarians were present at the Conference, including OSCE PA Vice Presidents Gert Weisskirchen and Barbara Haering; Petr Sulak, Head of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA; Michel Voisin, Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA; and Chris Smith, Head of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA. The Conference addressed anti-Semitism and its manifestation in Europe, Central Asia and North America, and the role of governments, parliaments and civil society in promoting greater tolerance. In his address, Mr. Hastings emphasized that public denunciations, law enforcement and education are essential components in the efforts by governments, parliaments, NGOs and civil society to combat anti-Semitism and

promote tolerance. Regarding parliamentary initiatives, he recalled how he, as Vice-President of the OSCE PA, has been working with PA Vice-President Weisskirchen, and other parliamentarians to build a coalition of parliamentarians committed to combating anti-Semitism and promoting tolerance. "One of our significant successes came at the July 2002 Annual Session in Berlin, where we secured the unanimous approval of a resolution offered by the US delegation, which denounced anti-Semitic violence and agreed that proactive approaches by parliaments and governments are essential to countering anti-Semitism". He furthermore announced that the US delegation will introduce a second resolution on anti-Semitism at the upcoming OSCE PA Annual Session in Rotterdam urging parliamentarians to "strongly and publicly condemn anti-Semitic acts when they occur".

290 OSCE Parliamentarians to Consider Current International Topics in Rotterdam

In addition to debating draft resolutions on 'The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe', which forms the main theme of the Twelfth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (De Doelen, Rotterdam, 5-9 July 2003), some 290 parliamentarians from 50 participating States will also consider draft resolutions on a number of supplementary items, including Combating Anti-Semitism in the 21st Century; Combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Children; Prisoners detained by the US at the Guantanamo Base; and the international status of Jerusalem. Additionally, consideration will be given to draft resolutions on the International Criminal Court, Belarus, Moldova, OSCE Peacekeeping Operations as well as on several other specific OSCE issues. By last week's deadline for amendments to the Draft Resolutions, the International Secretariat had received 40 amendments to the First Committee Draft Resolution, as well as 26 amendments to the Second Committee Draft Resolution and 19 amendments to the Third Committee Draft Resolution.



On 18 June, a delegation of Czech Parliamentarians, headed by Petr Sulak, visited the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna, where they were briefed by the Head of the Office, OSCE PA Special Representative, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle.