



ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION

OF THE

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

ST. PETERSBURG, 10 JULY 1999

ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

10 July 1999

PREAMBLE

1. We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in St. Petersburg on 6-10 July as the Parliamentary OSCE Institution to assess developments relating to security and co-operation in Europe and to offer our views to OSCE Ministers.
2. We wish all success to the next OSCE Summit to be held in Istanbul in November 1999, and bring to its attention the following declarations and recommendations.

RESOLUTION
ON
THE SITUATION IN KOSOVO

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Warmly welcoming the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, the full withdrawal of all Serb security forces, the end of NATO's air campaign, as well as the deployment of KFOR and other steps under way towards the normalization of the situation, towards restoring stability, security and the respect for human rights in Kosovo;
2. Welcoming the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe aimed at strengthening the countries in the region by promoting co-operation, economic prosperity, democracy and the respect of human rights in order to achieve stability in the entire region;
3. Endorsing the leading role of the United Nations in carrying out the peace plan of the international community aimed at stopping the violence, bringing about a political settlement in Kosovo and eliminating the consequences of the armed ethnic conflict there in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244;
4. Recognizing the importance of creating the conditions for the peaceful and secure development of all ethnic communities of Kosovo and guaranteeing the rights and fundamental freedoms of the national minorities living there;
5. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's involvement in the efforts to solve the Kosovo crisis;
6. Welcoming the progress made by the international community and regional actors in implementing a peace agreement and enforcing the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
7. Remembering the unique position in which the OSCE is placed to provide assistance in Kosovo, due to its foundation, experience, breadth of membership and already substantial presence and involvement in the region;
8. Asserting that lasting peace and stability in the region presupposes justice for all citizens and the strengthening of civil society based on democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law;
9. Emphasizing the right of all refugees and displaced persons from Kosovo to return to their homes in peace and security;
10. Underlining the obligation of all parties involved to adhere to agreements and commitments;

11. Recognizing the major contribution made by Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, along with other neighbouring countries in the region and international humanitarian organizations in reacting positively to limit the consequences and implications of the Kosovo refugee crisis;
12. Noting that international organizations, including UN officials, have reported that 1,500 to 5,000 prisoners were transferred from Kosovo to jails in Serbia proper around the time of the entry of international forces into Kosovo and that the Serbian Ministry of Justice has acknowledged that such transfers were made;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

13. Supports the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, as well as other OSCE Bodies and Institutions, in their activities and efforts aimed at ensuring peace, security and the construction of civil society in Kosovo;
14. Supports the re-establishment of the long-term OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Moreover, taking into account the experience of the Kosovo Verification Mission and the lessons learnt during its deployment, and recommends that the Mission should focus on institution- and democracy-building and involve a maximum number of OSCE participating States;
15. Welcomes the OSCE's active contribution to the establishment of a civil implementation mission in Kosovo, as indicated by the United Nations;
16. Stands ready to contribute with the special capabilities of parliamentarians to the reconstruction of Kosovo by deploying a Parliamentary Democracy Team, which will periodically visit Kosovo to meet with community leaders, political parties and authorities, as well as representatives of relevant international organisations, in order to promote the recreation of civil society, protection of human rights, development of democracy, and the rule of law;
17. Recommends that civilian and military efforts in the region be undertaken in a co-ordinated fashion to ensure the highest quality of assistance and aid for all the peoples of Kosovo and humanitarian assistance to the other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
18. Urges all parties involved in Kosovo to make the utmost effort to ensure the safe return and resettlement of all displaced persons and refugees, regardless of ethnicity, religious belief or political orientation, and to work towards reconciliation between all sections of society;
19. Calls upon all the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross full, immediate and ongoing access to all prisoners arrested in relation to the Kosovo crisis, to ensure the humane treatment of such prisoners, and to arrange for the release of all such prisoners;

20. Urges governments to take all available measures to bring about immediate ICRC access to said prisoners and to ensure their quick release;
21. Calls upon the Kosovo Liberation Army and other armed groups in Kosovo to fully comply with their obligations to demilitarize and to cease hostile acts aimed at deepening ethnic division and stirring up further conflict in the region, as laid down in United Nations Security Council resolution 1244;
22. Requests that OSCE participating States, as well as international institutions such as the European Union, urgently agree upon and implement a viable plan for physical and economic reconstruction under a unified leadership, in collaboration with all co-operative governments, organizations and financial institutions in the region, as well as with subregional organizations and processes, applying a holistic approach which will make sure that the best available solutions are selected in securing sustainable economic, social, cultural, environmental and political development;
23. Encourages the European Union and the other competent international organizations and institutions to draw up a comprehensive long-term international strategy for the economic stabilization and development of the countries in the Balkan region in the spirit of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, including their accelerated integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures as a tool to achieve this objective;
24. Demands that immediate aid be provided to compensate the countries bordering on Kosovo, and particularly Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro, which have had to cope with a massive influx of refugees, as well as other neighbouring countries, which have suffered a fall in exports and imports following the degradation of transport routes, and particularly of river traffic on the Danube;
25. Emphasizes that the aid programmes to be implemented should take into account, in addition to situations of emergency, the delay which had already occurred in the global process of reform in the countries of the region before the conflict began;
26. Requests the Governments of the Member States of the European Union to ensure that the economic and social rehabilitation of the Balkans does not prejudice the current gradual enlargement of the Union, and particularly that it does not affect the economic and financial resources envisaged for that purpose;
27. Supports the proposals of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for the implementation of new strategies in the Balkan region, and particularly those based on the strengthening of subregional and transborder co-operation;

28. Urges OSCE participating States to fully assist the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in its efforts to provide justice for all the peoples of the region and to ensure that those indicted for criminal acts will be brought to justice and receive a fair trial;
29. Recalls the legally binding obligation of States to co-operate fully with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, contained in UN Security Council Resolution 827 of 25 May 1993, and, therefore, calls on all States to apprehend indicted persons present on their territory and to promptly surrender such persons to the Tribunal; condemns any effort to provide persons indicted by the Tribunal a safe haven from the law; supports sanctioning any State which provides such persons with any form of protection from arrest; urges all governments which may hold information relating to allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to promptly provide all such information to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and encourages the discussion of measures to be taken to apprehend persons indicted for these crimes with the objective of concluding a plan of action that will result in these inditees' prompt delivery into the custody of the Tribunal;
30. Supports negotiations aimed at finding a permanent understanding and solution to the crisis between the Kosovo Albanians and the Yugoslav Federal authorities, whilst respecting the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as the political and civil rights of all inhabitants of Kosovo;
31. Encourages all viable efforts designed to create regional stability and promote good neighbourly relations for the future in the Balkans, including the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe;
32. Believes that the people of Serbia share the right of all people to enjoy life under democratic institutions, and that such institutions throughout Serbia and Montenegro are essential to the implementation of any settlement regarding Kosovo, and to long-term stability throughout the region; and, therefore, recommends that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other OSCE Institutions establish an organized programme to assist and promote democratic development in Serbia, and protect it in Montenegro;
33. Urges the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to fully develop democratic political rights – including giving the opposition free access to the media – and in close co-operation with the democratic opposition initiate and organize free and fair elections in accordance with the high standards of the OSCE. This organization should support and closely supervise the whole process which would eventually lead to a welcome re-admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the OSCE;

34. Urges the leadership of the International Security Presence to take the necessary steps to guarantee the physical security of all inhabitants of Kosovo, including the Serbian minority, the protection of their religious and cultural rights and freedoms, including the preservation of the integrity and inviolability of the sacred national heritage as well as cultural and historical monuments.

RESOLUTION
ON
CORRECTING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT OF THE OSCE

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recalling that the original provisions for the establishment of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are contained in the Charter of Paris for the New Europe and that they envisaged the CSCE Parliamentary Structures be based on existing experience and work already undertaken in the field of parliamentary institutions, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament;
2. Stressing the crucial role Parliaments and Parliamentarians play as guardians of democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights at both the national and international levels;
3. Underlining that democratic oversight and accountability are essential elements of transparency, credibility and efficiency;
4. Underlining that the existence of a democratic deficit in international organizations affects the overall image of Parliamentarians at both the national and international levels;
5. Pointing out that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe possesses wide powers and obligations in the decision making of the Council of Europe, such as giving its opinion to the Committee of Ministers and electing the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and the Judges of the European Court of Human Rights;
6. Noting that the European Parliament possesses wide powers and obligations in the decision making of the European Union, such as approving the annual budget, endorsement of the nominations of the European Commission and the oversight of the Commission's activities;
7. Recommends that before making major decisions, to be defined in future consultations, the Ministerial Council of the OSCE should be obliged to ask the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly;
8. Proposes that the Secretary General of the OSCE be approved by a majority vote of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during its Annual Session;
9. Requests that the Secretary General, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media report on their activities and budgetary expenditures to the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;

10. Proposes that the members of the Parliamentary Assembly should be able to submit written questions to the Chairman-in-Office between the plenary sessions.

RESOLUTION

CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN BELARUS

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

1. Recalling its concerns regarding the situation in Belarus, as stated in the Sixth Annual Session Warsaw Declaration;
2. Noting the continued existence of serious differences between political forces in Belarus;
3. Considering the forthcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for the year 2000;
4. Remembering the expiration of mandates of the 13th Supreme Soviet and the operational legislature in the year 2000;
5. Recognizing past deficiencies in the Belarusian electoral system;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

6. Urges all political forces in Belarus to co-operate in constructive talks and to look for solutions to the political impasse;
7. Continues to support the work of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (AMG), particularly with respect to its monitoring of human rights issues and the political situation in Belarus;
8. Directs the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ad hoc Working Group on Belarus to:
 - a. continue its efforts to engage all sides in a meaningful dialogue on elections, as begun during the recent Bucharest Meeting;
 - b. broaden the political dialogue within Belarus, in order to hold elections under conditions agreeable to all political sides and which will produce mutually acceptable results; and
 - c. work towards the co-ordination and reintegration of other international organizations in Belarus, particularly with respect to the provision of technical assistance in preparation for the forthcoming elections (election law drafting assistance, media observation and development, election commission training, domestic observer training, etc.);

9. Calls upon the Government of Belarus to:
 - a. agree to elections procedures and the conduct of the elections in accordance with OSCE Commitments, and to
 - b. provide political parties and opposition groups with access to time on State-owned Television and Radio;
10. Requests that OSCE Governments and international organizations express their support for the development of a democratic election process in Belarus and to provide such assistance as appropriate and necessary.

RESOLUTION
ON
REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Taking into account developments in Serbia-Montenegro during the course of the St. Petersburg Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
2. Recognizing the urgency of solidifying in South-Eastern Europe the principles of democracy, tolerance and international co-operation enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act;
3. Further recognizing the importance of transforming South-Eastern Europe into an integral part of the European mainstream and promoting regional co-operation among the countries of the region, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
4. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to mobilize the necessary resources to assist the people of South-Eastern Europe in their quest to achieve lasting peace as well as political and economic stability, giving priority attention to those infrastructure projects, including in Serbia, after assessment of those projects that benefit the humanitarian and economic well-being of those countries of the region that are dependent upon the Serbian infrastructure.

COMMON SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

CHAPTER I

(POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recalling that the OSCE was established as the only pan-European organization in the field of security, is all-embracing in membership and adopts a comprehensive approach to security, including military and political aspects, conflict prevention and crisis resolution, the human dimension and economic co-operation in the OSCE region;
2. Recalling also that the OSCE must play a leading role, not only in the prevention of conflicts and post-conflict rehabilitation, but also in conflict management, including for the maintenance of peace;
3. Recognizing that the political and security environment is changing and that the OSCE faces new challenges due to these altering circumstances;
4. Realizing the need for the OSCE to address these new challenges in order to find solutions and better adapt the Organization to the challenges of the next century;
5. Acknowledging the beneficial contribution to the improvement of the common Euro-Atlantic security made by the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), as well as the subsequent Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBM);
6. Calls upon the OSCE to act in accordance with the following recommendations at a time when the participating States are preparing to meet the challenges ahead, seizing present-day opportunities to strengthen peace and security in the OSCE region and to further promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
7. Supports the initiatives of the European Union, on the one hand, to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts on the continent and, on the other hand, to convene a conference on reconstruction in the Balkans in line with the decisions of the United Nations Security Council concerning peace in Kosovo. In this respect, an equitable distribution of efforts must be achieved among the various donors by inviting the major economic and financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, IMF, OECD, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) to adapt their procedures and methods of intervention to the magnitude and urgency of the situation;

8. Welcomes the fact that the principles of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe have been accepted by Russia, which must find the place it deserves in its implementation, which should take place in full co-operation with international organizations, first and foremost among them the United Nations, the European Union, OSCE and NATO;
9. Stresses the need for the OSCE, as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, to make a significant contribution to the efforts undertaken through the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe;
10. Invites the Governments of the OSCE participating States to adopt, at the Istanbul Summit of November 1999, the European Security Charter, which is to define the principles governing co-operative security on the continent and to determine the mechanisms for their implementation;
11. Advocates that “approximate consensus” be adopted in the OSCE decision-making process, as advocated by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since the 1994 Vienna Annual Assembly;
12. Calls upon Parliamentarians in the OSCE participating States to work to ensure that laws, regulations, practices and policies in their respective countries conform with international law and are brought into harmony with OSCE commitments and to promote and publicize OSCE documents and commitments by addressing these issues in their Parliaments;
13. Stresses the invaluable role of Parliamentarians in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. Small groups of elected representatives can be deployed on the ground as “Democracy Teams” to help build democracy, promote national reconciliation and support democratic institutions in transition countries;
14. Recommends that efforts be made to attain even closer co-operation and co-ordination with the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO and the Western European Union, with a view to the efficient performance of the OSCE tasks in the field of early warning, conflict prevention, the settlement of crises and post-conflict rehabilitation;
15. Recommends the promotion of co-operation between the OSCE and the Central European Initiative, the Process of Co-operation in South-Eastern Europe, the Royaumont Process, the South-East European Co-operation Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and other subregional organizations and initiatives which contribute substantially to friendly co-operation among the countries in the respective European region;
16. Urges the OSCE to efficiently contribute to the observance of the provisions of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe by all the participating States, taking into account the significant role for the OSCE in the Pact;

17. Urges the OSCE and the member States to pay greater attention to the so-called “frozen” conflicts (for example in Abkhazia, Georgia), since they are liable to break out again and constitute a genuine threat not only for particular States but for pan-European security and democracy in the twenty-first century;
18. Continues to support the idea of the creation of an OSCE Academy. Issues addressed by such an Academy could include effective civilian-military co-operation, election monitoring, refugee assistance and the development of democratic institutions, as well as specific aspects relating to conditions on the ground in particular locations. The accumulated experiences of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly could be effectively utilized;
19. Proposes the creation of an OSCE civilian rapid reaction capability through the identification of suitable qualified and trained civilian personnel who could be rapidly deployed when necessary to work on democracy building within the OSCE area. The Danish experience of contracted members of a “Humanitarian Task Force” should be studied in order to establish whether this could serve as a model for the OSCE;
20. Calls for greater political participation and representation for minority groups in OSCE participating States, ensuring respect and effective exercise of equal rights. The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) should be tasked to provide early warning and, when appropriate, early action, including through objective mediation between the minorities and States in conflict resolution processes;
21. Urges the OSCE participating States to incorporate in the Document-Charter on European Security, and eventually into other components of the Security Model, as appropriate, recommendations contained in its 1996 Stockholm Declaration and subsequent Declarations. Particular attention should be paid to the parliamentary and inter-parliamentary dimensions of security in the OSCE region;
22. Supports the adaptation of security oriented documents, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security to take into account changes in the security environment including boundary alterations;
23. Considers the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, established in Geneva in 1995, as a potentially important instrument for the peaceful settlement of disputes, and calls upon participating States who have not yet done so to sign, and those who have signed to ratify the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration as soon as possible;
24. Calls on participating States to have recourse to the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and supports the view that the Court is entitled to furnish advisory opinions mandated by the political organs of the OSCE, the possibility of which could be introduced in the Charter Document on European Security;

25. Urges the OSCE to support issues relating to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, including: the reaffirmation at the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as reinforced by the 1995 Statement of Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II), as well as regional nuclear-weapon-free zone initiatives where freely entered into by the relevant regional states, such as the one for Central Asia;
26. Welcomes the entry into force of the Ottawa Treaty to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines, calls upon all OSCE participating States to support the comprehensive adoption and implementation of this treaty, and encourages the OSCE participating States who have not yet signed the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity;
27. Urges Governments to intensify efforts to have the Treaty to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines complemented by commitments to ban also other types of indiscriminate anti-personnel devices;
28. Recognizes that the excessive and uncontrolled accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security in many regions of the world and that the solution of this problem requires a concerted approach including preventive as well as reactive measures to the task of both drastically reducing the huge stocks of uncontrolled small arms in crisis areas and of effectively preventing the continued influx of such weapons;
29. Urges the OSCE to strictly enforce its 1993 Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, especially the provisions relating to the transfer of weapons to countries threatening international peace and stability or which do not implement human rights or fundamental freedoms;
30. Suggests that in the course of the general task of drawing up rules of procedure for all OSCE structures and Institutions, the Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Troika should be given specifically enumerated powers and that co-operation between these bodies and the OSCE PA should be enhanced;
31. Suggests that co-operation between the OSCE Troika and the OSCE be enhanced further and conducted on a more regular basis;
32. Urges that a formal meeting be convened to address implementation of OSCE commitments one week before the OSCE Summit, at the same location with high political level participants. Such a meeting should supplement any existing implementation reviews and include representatives from NGOs, the OSCE Assembly and other organizations;
33. Urges that the OSCE establish a round-table forum for NGOs, international organizations and OSCE participating States, which could serve a useful and constructive role in terms of enhancing communication and co-ordination of

efforts between these parties, and that the OSCE PA should be included in the planning of such events;

34. Urges that greater transparency be applied to OSCE Institutions. To that effect, Permanent Council meetings should only be closed to the public under special circumstances on a case by case basis after all the OSCE participating States have taken a public decision to do so;
35. Asks that, in order to meet the above-mentioned need for greater transparency, detailed information should be given to Parliamentarians, when approving the Assembly's annual budget;
36. Recommends that the OSCE Missions establish seminars, with both OSCE PA and Permanent Council Heads of Delegation participating, to increase awareness of OSCE principles and bodies, as well as enhancing the reputation and prestige of the Missions;
37. Calls upon the Governments of the OSCE participating States to give serious consideration to these recommendations and to ensure that each of them is thoroughly considered by the Permanent Council and that the Chairman in Office report to the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA at its next meeting in Vienna on the outcome of these recommendations.

CHAPTER II

(ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

38. Acknowledging the fact that the Economic Dimension has established itself as an indispensable component of the co-operative and comprehensive security policy of the OSCE;
39. Stressing the need to sharpen existing OSCE instruments in this area and to enhance the organization's potential in conflict prevention and crisis management;
40. Underlining that compliance with the commitments in the fields of democracy, the rule of law and human rights as well as with the principles of good governance is an essential condition for stable and prosperous economic development;
41. Concerned that the unbridged disparities in living standards and social security from West to East and from North to South continue to cause tensions and provoke conflicts within the OSCE region;
42. Recognizing the fact that States with unstable democratic institutions are prone to vulnerable public structures, unreliable economic conditions and increased infiltration by organized crime, all of which can significantly discourage investment while undermining the general business climate;
43. Aware that environmental degradation can lead to disputes, tensions or even conflicts of far greater danger to common security than military threat, but also recognizing that war and armed conflicts always lead to serious environmental degradation;
44. Alarmed at the serious risks posed by outdated nuclear power stations, stockpiles of chemical and nuclear weapons and radioactive waste as well as by the lack of sufficient control over nuclear materials;

Strategies for action in the economic policy sphere

45. Urges the OSCE to encourage decision-makers to embrace globalization through democratically legitimized international legal frameworks and transparent, effective multilateral regulations that encompass capital markets, labour markets and environmental conditions;
46. Appeals to the States engaged in economic transition processes to give priority to their commitments in the field of democracy, rule of law and human rights in order to ensure successful utilization of funds and technical assistance;

47. Appeals to the international community to express solidarity and give support to the reforming countries providing financial and technical assistance and offering fair trade partnership, recognizing that specific economic conditions demand tailor-made measures;
48. Urges all OSCE participating States to intensify efforts to resolutely combat corruption and organized crime, to fully implement respective international agreements and to co-operate efficiently among themselves and with the respective international organizations including, where necessary, the establishment of high-level inter-agency corruption-fighting mechanisms;
49. Urges the OSCE participating States to consider the convening of a ministerial meeting of relevant ministers for the purpose of reviewing practical forms of co-operation to combat corruption and organized crime;
50. Stresses the need to create stable social security systems and to build solid “social partnership” between employers and employees and their organizations;
51. Encourages to the greatest extent possible a shift in the emphasis on agriculture development to building, sustaining and improving private sector agriculture – focusing on the primary producer, the smallholder and private farmer as well as working towards more market-oriented operations so as to increase the well-being and health of our populations and to bolster general food security in the context of sustainable development;

Strategies for action in the environment policy sphere

52. Appeals to all OSCE participating States to comply with agreed environmental legislation at all levels and to speed up the pace of implementation and control;
53. Supports the efforts by UNEP and the UNECE to develop an early warning system for environmental and natural disasters and calls upon the OSCE and the partner organizations to institutionalize mutual flow of information and analyses;
54. Urges governments of the OSCE participating States to raise systematically awareness of security-related environmental developments, allowing prompt recognition and assessment of the security relevance of these developments;

Enhancement of the Economic Dimension of the OSCE

55. Underlines that the unique competence of the OSCE regarding security-related economic, social and environmental issues must be developed further and complement the activities of other institutions;

56. Suggests in this context the OSCE focus its activities primarily on:
- highlighting security risks arising out of economic, social and environmental problems;
 - giving the required political impetus to deal consistently and in good time with the deeper causes of such tensions;
 - impressing on decision makers and relevant international organizations the need to combat and overcome recognized socio-economic and environmental risks decisively and at an early stage;
57. Calls for the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to regularly place security-related economic, social and environmental problems on the agenda of the Permanent Council, with the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (CEEA) presenting his analyses on concrete issues;
58. Calls upon the OSCE to request all relevant international institutions to share their economic data systematically with the OSCE for an institutionalized analysis and evaluation of their relevance to security;
59. Requires consistent mandating of the OSCE field missions with information-gathering, evaluation and early warning on economic and environmental aspects, providing the missions, where necessary and where other organizations are not active, with specialized resources;
60. Appeals to the OSCE to support politically infrastructure projects designed to link South-Eastern Europe to the rest of the continent;
61. Encourages the OSCE to enhance its role as mediator in security-related economic, social and environmental conflicts by conferring such task to the CEEA and ad hoc OSCE steering groups;
62. Invites all competent bodies of the OSCE to devise and develop ideas for preventive projects and to propose them to international partner organizations for implementation;
63. Calls upon the OSCE/ODIHR to extend its existing cooperation network to economic institutions allowing regular exchange of experience and conduct of joint projects and evaluation missions;
64. Recommends to broaden the original scope of the Economic Forum in order to address new areas of tension in the economic sphere, to intensify the dialogue with representatives of the private sector and above all to enhance its status allowing it to adopt recommendations for referral to the Ministerial Council;
65. Supports actively the “Monaco process” and the initiatives developed by the CEEA to boost regional and subregional co-operation as an essential element of good-neighbourliness and growing common security;

66. Calls on the Parliaments of the participating States of the OSCE to play an active role in the second parliamentary conference on *Subregional Economic Co-operation Processes Faced with the New Challenges*, to be held in Nantes from 13 to 15 October 1999;
67. Urges OSCE parliamentarians to press for the implementation of the OSCE PA recommendations in their national parliaments and expresses its firm willingness to establish a follow-up process to ensure the implementation of these recommendations.

CHAPTER III

(DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS)

IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

68. Recognizing the importance of solidarity and partnership amongst the OSCE participating States as essential to the OSCE's capacity to respond to challenges to peace, security and the construction of societies built upon the principles of democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law;
69. Emphasizing that OSCE commitments must be translated into the national legislation of OSCE participating States, and that these commitments in the human dimension constitute an immediate and legitimate concern for all participating States, and not only an internal affair of the State concerned;
70. Taking note of the fact that cultural policies and education are important tools in building pluralistic and tolerant societies, and that education is essential in the protection and respect of the rights and identities of persons belonging to national minorities and in their integration into society;
71. Recalling commitments by OSCE participating States condemning totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, including against Roma, anti-semitism and xenophobia and discrimination against anyone, as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds;
72. Underlining that OSCE participating States must view respect for human rights as a value itself, as it constitutes a major stabilizing factor for both intra-State and inter-State relations;
73. Deploring violations of human rights of the citizens of OSCE participating States caused through the use of force by other OSCE participating States, acting in violation of international law and OSCE principles;
74. Emphasizing the importance of the Human Dimension as an essential aspect of the overall OSCE policy, since the observance of Human Dimension commitments represent a basic element in early warning and conflict prevention, and cannot be separated from other aspects of the OSCE's work;
75. Stressing the importance of free and fair, transparent and open election processes as fundamental to democracy;
76. Accepting that the OSCE PA has an important role and responsibility in the development of democratic electoral systems and practices, and that the OSCE PA is uniquely positioned to emphasize the implementation of OSCE commitments concerning fair elections;

77. Recognizing the significance of NGOs in building civil society, and promoting human rights and the rule of law, and that NGOs can also play an important role in monitoring compliance with Human Rights commitments;
78. Supporting freedom of expression and an independent and pluralistic media as essential elements of a functioning democracy;
79. Taking into account the high number of refugees fleeing from areas that are affected by internal tensions or conflict, as well as the increasing difficulties in protecting the rights of these people;
80. Noting that legislators also have a critical responsibility to frame debate on immigration and refugees in their respective countries and to develop the appropriate legislative framework in these areas and that the OSCE PA can serve as a sounding board for regional approaches, as well as a forum for generating political will for co-ordinated strategies to address the root causes of human rights violations in these matters;
81. Recognizing the great contribution made by the Council of Europe in the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and the need for further co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, both on governmental and parliamentary levels;
82. Inviting the participating States of the OSCE to fully value the International Criminal Court recently established within the United Nations as an independent and permanent judicial body responsible for prosecuting crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, committed by States, directly or indirectly;
83. Urges the OSCE participating States to bring their national legislation into compliance with their OSCE commitments. It is particularly urgent to enact, if not yet done, new constitutions that guarantee the respect for basic human rights and the separation of powers, including the independence of the judiciary. Legislation must also provide conditions for free and fair elections. The OSCE should develop its capacity to advise the participating States in these matters, when requested;
84. Recommends that the OSCE participating States consider drawing up action plans concerning the enhancement of human rights and that Parliamentary reviews on national human rights developments should be held regularly;

85. Takes upon itself to initiate a mechanism which will enable it to receive national reports on efforts and activities in the field of human rights and to react to them;
86. Encourages the Governments of the OSCE participating States to create an environment where ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious differences are respected and where all people have equal opportunity to create wealth, gain employment and participate fully in political decision-making procedures;
87. Calls on the Governments and Parliaments of the OSCE participating States to promote respect of the rights of women and children in accordance with relevant international conventions and to enhance the participation of women in political life;
88. Calls for the creation of genuine conditions for equality among different ethnic groups, with a view to avoiding armed ethnic conflict, by paying greater attention not only to preventing violations of the rights of ethnic minorities but by efforts on the part of such minorities to meet their obligations to the majority, to the State and to the international community as a whole;
89. Emphasizes the need for the OSCE participating States to adopt Constitutions built on the protection of human rights and democratic institutions and the mutual recognition of the equality between different ethnic and cultural communities;
90. Calls upon participating States to fully implement their commitments, set forth in the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, to “take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals and communities on the grounds of religion or belief” and to “foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect”;
91. Condemns statements by parliamentarians of OSCE participating States promoting or supporting racial or ethnic hatred, anti-semitism and xenophobia, including those against Roma, and commends actions taken by parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to repudiate purveyors of racial or ethnic hatred, anti-semitism and xenophobia, including against Roma, within their ranks;
92. Urges the OSCE participating States to acknowledge linguistic diversity and therefore to encourage the publication and distribution of written and electronic media in the languages of the different ethnic and cultural communities and to encourage the provision of education at primary, secondary and higher level in the languages of national minorities;
93. Calls on participating States to ratify, where they have not done so, the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, giving full implementation to all its provisions aimed at the protection of the rights of refugees, including the right to “non-refoulement”;

94. Urges the governments of the OSCE participating States, and also all OSCE mechanisms and structures, to put an end to any attempts to alter the demographic situation by forcible methods, through ethnic cleansing, and if this occurs, to take urgent steps to eliminate the consequences and restore the status quo;
95. Urgently recommends the application of the imperative principle that persons guilty of the crime of ethnic cleansing and genocide, or of any violation of human rights on the basis of ethnic affiliation must be punished;
96. Urges the Governments of the OSCE participating States to focus on the protection of refugees and displaced persons and on the improvement of their living conditions; and, in particular, to give priority to the repatriation of those who wish to return;
97. Calls on the OSCE participating States to ensure respect of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of War and its two additional protocols, particularly as regards civilians on territories under the control of an occupying power;
98. Emphasizes the need for the Governments of the OSCE participating States to act to ensure that refugees and displaced persons who have been expelled, have the right to return to their homes, and to regain their property or receive compensation;
99. Recommends that OSCE participating States ratify and implement international agreements concerning human rights protection and consider relevant international and national legal instruments with a view to their effectiveness;
100. Urges the participating States of the OSCE, according to Additional Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, developed within the framework of the Council of Europe, to introduce in their legislation before the end of this millennium a moratorium on executions and ultimately the complete abolition of the death penalty;
101. Urges the Government of Turkey to respect the European Convention on Human Rights and to commute the death sentence imposed on Abdullah Ocalan, not to provide the slightest recognition of terrorism, but with a view to promoting recognition of minority rights in Turkey;
102. Suggests that OSCE participating States undertake greater efforts to promote education and information programs, since it is essential that citizens know of their human rights and their States' commitments;
103. Proposes the organizing of annual competitions, organized amongst high school students in all OSCE participating States, in writing essays on human rights issues. Such competitions could be organized jointly with other institutions, such as the Council of Europe and the European Union;

104. Urges the Governments of OSCE participating States to take full advantage of existing OSCE conflict prevention mechanisms, as well as OSCE institutions;
105. Urges the OSCE and the participating States to pay greater attention to resolving the so-called “frozen” conflicts (for example in Abkhazia, Georgia), since they constitute a potential and genuine threat to the defence and respect of fundamental human rights;
106. Requests the OSCE participating States to provide funds, adequate assignment of staff and resources to guarantee the efficient functioning of OSCE Institutions. Proper funding of human rights activities is a valuable investment for the future;
107. Urgently recommends making use of all OSCE mechanisms for the effective implementation of the resolutions that have been adopted and requiring all participating States engaged in conflicts to fulfil OSCE resolutions and agreements, as well as the commitments they entered into during negotiations;
108. Calls on all OSCE participating States to fully comply with their OSCE commitments, whilst calling on those who have enjoyed democracy for longer to stand ready to assist those who are at present going through the transition period;
109. Recommends that the OSCE participating States, including their Parliaments, seek further assistance from the relevant OSCE Institutions in the promotion of the implementation of their Human Dimension commitments;
110. Suggests that OSCE participating States, which have not yet done so, establish the institution of the Parliamentary Ombudsman or parliamentary human rights committees;
111. Proposes the establishment of an OSCE forum, where specific groups, NGOs and individuals may present their problems and cases for discussion and consideration. Parliamentarians should be included in this forum;
112. Emphasizes the major role of the OSCE Missions in the promotion of human rights in their host countries. This aspect needs to be included in their mandates and they should have adequate resources, including staff, to perform these duties. The importance of human rights should be reflected in the Missions’ recruitment policies;
113. Urges the OSCE field Missions to also pay attention to the situation of women, as well as to the role women can play in the improvement of the human rights situation and in conflict prevention. More women should be involved in the daily work of the Missions;

114. Suggests that the Missions consider organizing seminars on the implementation of Human Rights commitments. The OSCE PA stands ready to contribute to the success of such Seminars with participation from Parliamentarians;
115. Endorses the agreement between the OSCE PA and ODIHR concerning cooperation in election monitoring signed by the President of the OSCE PA and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 1997. The agreement strengthens the OSCE's ability to effectively monitor elections. The ODIHR should continue to work closely with the OSCE PA, NGOs and other relevant institutions in election monitoring, in the promotion of democratic electoral rules and practices, and in the application and expression of free, fair and transparent standards in all election observation missions and their statements;
116. Emphasizes the need to develop more effective follow-up of election monitoring reports. A mechanism should be established whereby each participating State, whose elections have been monitored, would be obliged to respond to the observations and recommendations of the OSCE observers. The governments are also expected to inform to what extent they intend to implement the recommendations of the observers;
117. Emphasizing the need, with regard to election monitoring, for a common strategy for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other European assemblies;
118. Recommends that elections of established democracies also be monitored. It would be useful for emerging democracies to learn how elections are organized in countries with longer experience in multi-party elections. Even the experienced countries would benefit from the criticisms and recommendations of outside observers;
119. Advocates the establishment of permanent Central Election Commissions in emerging democracies and, where possible, regional and local election commissions. The lack of such permanent electoral entities prevents consistent application of the rule of law, inhibits establishing electoral expertise and institutional memory, increases the potential for electoral abuse, and adds significantly to the cost of conducting elections:
120. Calls for the further strengthening of the role of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. His recommendations should be strengthened by effective additional measures. A mechanism should be created whereby every participating State whose authorities received recommendations from the High Commissioner would be obliged to respond to those recommendations. Additional resources should be provided for the High Commissioner's activities;

121. Suggests that the ODIHR, when carrying out its important role in promoting human rights and building democratic institutions, work more effectively to consolidate democracy and the rule of law, organize free and fair elections and strengthen democratic institutions. To this end, the Permanent Council should adopt revised terms of reference for the ODIHR, including, inter alia:
- The improvement of its capability to monitor the OSCE participating States' implementation of their Human Dimension commitments;
 - A capacity to effectively identify cases of violations of Human Dimension commitments in OSCE participating States and bringing them to appropriate OSCE bodies for consideration;
 - Support to the OSCE Missions;
 - Act as a clearing house for information concerning the Human Dimension and the strengthening of civil society;
 - Effective co-operation with NGOs to obtain information concerning non-compliance of Human Dimension commitments;
 - Increase the capacity to provide expert advice;
122. Encourages the ODIHR and OSCE Missions to work together to respond effectively to non-compliance of OSCE commitments by intensifying activities on the ground and by encouraging dialogue and confidence-building between the authorities and different sections of civil society;
123. Suggests that seminars, organized by the ODIHR, should concentrate on issues of wide interest to the OSCE, participating States and NGOs;
124. Emphasizes the ODIHR's responsibility in the integration of NGOs in the work of the OSCE;
125. Recommends the improvement of the OSCE Implementation Meetings on Human Dimension issues. Such meetings are an important tool, which fulfil an essential role within the OSCE. A public review of a country's records in the implementation of its Human Dimension commitments serves to promote compliance and identify areas where assistance may be needed;
126. Considers that Implementation Meetings could be improved by:
- Focusing the agendas on a limited number of issues with larger general interest;
 - Using the time effectively;
 - Having the Governments represented on a sufficiently high level and with the right expertise;

- Promoting publicity for the Meetings;
 - Taking more effective advantage of the opportunities to make concrete recommendations where problem areas are identified;
 - Review of the agenda after each Implementation Meeting by the Permanent Council;
127. Welcomes the holding of additional meetings in Vienna on Human Dimension issues, which are for the first time being held this year, and will more closely examine subjects which were found to be important in the Implementation Meetings, and trusts that their outcomes will be taken into account in the work of the Permanent Council;
128. Emphasizes the need for the OSCE and OSCE participating States to benefit from the NGOs' invaluable contribution by:
- Strengthening the OSCE-NGO relationship as an important component in Human Dimension seminars and Implementation Meetings;
 - Stressing the benefits to the OSCE when NGOs provide information and advice on areas of their expertise;
129. Calls on the Missions to use NGOs for the same purposes;
130. Urges the OSCE to protect such NGOs which promote human rights under difficult circumstances;
131. Stresses that the OSCE documents, especially those concerning the Human Dimension commitments of OSCE participating States, must be made available in each country in the languages of that State;
132. Recommends that the role and responsibilities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media be strengthened;
133. Urges all OSCE participating States to co-operate with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and support the promotion of free, independent and pluralistic media;
134. Recommends that Human Dimension issues play a more prominent role in the agenda of the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council and be naturally incorporated in the day-to-day work of the OSCE;
135. Proposes that the OSCE organize, with the participation of its Parliamentary Assembly, seminars reviewing the implementation of Human Dimension commitments with respect to the national legislation of OSCE participating States. The OSCE Missions could pursue an active role in initiating and organizing such seminars;

136. Emphasizes the need to further develop co-operation with other parliamentary institutions, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Assembly and the European Parliament, to promote their common goals and to avoid duplication of work.

RESOLUTION
ON
ROLE OF THE OSCE IN CRISIS PREVENTION AND CONFLICT SETTLEMENT

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Referring to the fact that as a regional organisation under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter the OSCE makes an important contribution towards guaranteeing peace and stability in its area of responsibility;
2. Stressing that on the basis of its broad membership and broad mandate the OSCE is particularly well suited to execute tasks involving civil crisis prevention, conflict settlement, and post-crisis assistance. The OSCE's area of responsibility includes matters concerning human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as matters concerning military security such as disarmament and arms control and the monitoring of crises resulting from economic transformation processes and environmental factors;
3. Aware that the OSCE executes these tasks in close co-operation with other security-related organisations, with particular importance being attached to co-operation with the Council of Europe, the European Union and NATO;
4. Stressing that this co-operation needs to be deepened further and that efforts need to be undertaken on all sides so that non-hierarchical, result-oriented co-ordination can be achieved between these organisations, making use of their respective comparative advantages, and in order to create the synergies that will be indispensable for securing peace in Europe;
5. Recognising that the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and the Kosovo conflict in particular, have made it clear that the instruments of international civil crisis prevention and conflict settlement need to be improved in order to be able to ensure the effective prevention of war in the OSCE area in the future;
6. Aware that the firm establishment of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the OSCE countries and the granting of minority rights are an absolutely necessary prerequisite for peoples to be able to live together peacefully as well as for the existence of free and democratic systems of government in the OSCE area. For this reason key importance also attaches to the establishment of these fundamental conditions in the OSCE countries in the area of crisis prevention.

Strategies for action with regard to civil crisis prevention and conflict settlement:

7. Appeals to the member States to give the OSCE greater political weight, among other things by expanding the political authority of the OSCE Secretary General;
8. Calls for strengthening the ability of the OSCE to take action to fulfil the tasks assigned to it by providing sufficient budget funds as well as qualified personnel;

9. Calls for the creation of an OSCE training centre as well as a civilian personnel reserve to ensure that OSCE staff members can be adequately prepared for their tasks;
10. Recommends the creation of a small military planning group in the OSCE which would prepare OSCE tasks requiring military expertise in close co-operation with other security-related organisations;
11. Recommends the inclusion of police responsibilities in the OSCE mandate;
12. Recommends codification under international law of the OSCE's status as a regional organisation under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and the creation of a legal basis accepted by all OSCE member states for tasks carried out by the OSCE in the areas of civil crisis prevention, conflict settlement, and post-conflict assistance;
13. Calls for establishing the option of decision-making without approval of the parties to a conflict (consensus-minus-one) to guarantee the ability of the OSCE to act in cases of continued violations of the principles and obligations of the OSCE;
14. Recommends further development of the concept of self-government as a time-tested means of guaranteeing the right of linguistic, religious, and cultural self-determination;
15. Calls for further development of the concept of accountability of the OSCE member States to one another as well as to their own citizens with regard to implementation of the agreed principles and obligations;
16. Urgently calls for reaffirmation of the principle that implementation of the agreed OSCE principles and requirements, particularly in the area of the human dimension, is not exclusively an internal affair of the individual states but an immediate and justified interest of all participating states;
17. Urgently calls for strengthening the role of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as an important instrument of civil crisis prevention and conflict settlement;
18. Calls for a strengthening of co-operation between the OSCE and subregional institutions;
19. Reaffirms the principle of free choice of alliances for the participating states;
20. Urgently calls for using the ongoing negotiations on a European Security Charter to implement these objectives prior to the OSCE summit in Istanbul on 18 and 19 November 1999.

RESOLUTION
ON
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Condemning the fact that millions of persons every year, of whom the overwhelming majority are women or children, are trafficked into the international sex trade, in gross violation of their fundamental human rights;
2. Underlining that trafficking of persons in all its forms is an evil that calls for concerted and vigorous action by countries of origin, transit and destination, and by international organizations;
3. Noting that international trafficking in persons is not limited to sexual trafficking but also involves forced labour and other violations of internationally recognised human rights;
4. Concerned that sexual trafficking is a particularly brutal form of the international traffic in persons which includes all the elements of the crime of rape because it results in the involuntary participation of another person in sex acts by means of fraud, force, or coercion;
5. Aware that trafficking in women and children in the OSCE region and beyond is inherently related to the global phenomenon of organised crime relating to slavery, forced labour and forced prostitution;
6. Recalling the commitments of OSCE participating States, as set out in the 1991 Moscow Document, to “seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibitions against such acts and other appropriate measures”;
7. Recalling that international law recognises the right to be free from slavery and involuntary servitude, arbitrary detention, degrading or inhuman treatment, and arbitrary interference with privacy or the family, as well as the right to protection by law against these abuses;
8. Concerned that existing legislation and law enforcement in some OSCE participating States are inadequate to deter trafficking and to bring traffickers to justice and that enforcement against international sexual traffickers is also hindered by official indifference, corruption, and in some instances active official participation in trafficking;
9. Urgently appeals to the Governments of OSCE participating States to adopt or strengthen existing legislation and enforcement mechanisms to punish trafficking perpetrators, particularly those who use force or fraud to traffic

women or children into the international sex trade, while protecting the rights of the trafficking victims;

10. Urges the Governments of OSCE participating States to develop nationally and internationally co-ordinated law enforcement strategies to combat internationally organised crime, and particularly the role of organised crime in trafficking of women and children;
11. Recommends that countries of origin, transit and destination of trafficking victims conduct information campaigns to raise public awareness and understanding of this problem;
12. Suggests that the ODIHR convene a meeting of expert advisors and relevant officials from OSCE participating States to develop a co-ordinated strategy for combating this problem.

RESOLUTION
ON
THE ASSASSINATION OF GALINA STAROVOITOVA

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recognising that Galina Starovoitova, a defender of liberty, a tireless advocate for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Russia, and an outspoken critic of corruption among the political elite, was tragically assassinated in St. Petersburg on 20 November 1998;
2. Expresses sympathy to the family and colleagues of Galina Starovoitova;
3. Urges OSCE participating States that have not already done so to publicly condemn this senseless murder, calls upon the Russian Government to use every appropriate avenue to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice, and further calls upon all OSCE participating States to co-operate with and support the Russian Government in these efforts.

RESOLUTION
ON
DEVELOPMENT OF RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recalling the important work carried out by the Russian Federation in order to reform its criminal justice system, and its adopting of the Constitution of 1993 and ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights;
2. Emphasizing the need for measures to implement legal reforms in the practice of courts of law, so that the reforms will serve their purpose;
3. Underlining that future reforms may lose credibility if they are passed without being carried out in practical judicial life;
4. Pointing out the ongoing case of Russian citizen Aleksandr Nikitin, who since the fall of 1995 has been the victim of unjustified proceedings based on secret and retroactive legislation; been remanded in custody for ten months and since been subject to travel restrictions on the basis of criminal charges founded on the said legislation, been deprived the right to an effective remedy, as the St. Petersburg City Court in October 1998 and the Russian Supreme Court in February 1999, returned his case to additional investigation rather than determining it, despite the fact that none of the courts found any tenable evidence against him;
5. Noting that the case against Mr. Nikitin involves violations of several provisions in the Russian Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights;
6. Recommends that the authorities of the Russian Federation ensure proper implementation of necessary legal reforms related to the rule of law;
7. Requests the Russian authorities to continue their admirable struggle towards the establishment of the rule of law, so that the rights and freedoms of the Russian Constitution and the European Convention are accomplished not only on paper, but also in practice.