



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
respecting its participation at the 2010 Trans-Asian  
Parliamentary Forum of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

**Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**May 14 - 16, 2010**

## Report

From May 14 to May 16, 2010, Senator Consiglio Di Nino took part in the 2010 Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, organized jointly by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Over 100 parliamentarians from 35 OSCE participating States and Mediterranean partner countries, as well as parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Qatar, participated in the Forum during which the high points were two special sessions with lively discussions on Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Parliamentary representatives from the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Turkic-speaking countries (Turk-PA) also participated.

The agenda of the forum included pressing issues on regional security, including Afghanistan and terrorism, economic concerns such as trade and the environment, and the human dimension – religious tolerance, freedom of the media, human trafficking, and gender equality. The following report is mainly based on the “Report on the Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum”, as published by the OSCE PA.

### **Inaugural Session**

Welcoming participants to the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum on 14 May, President Joao Soares warmly thanked the Parliament of Kazakhstan for hosting the conference. In particular, he applauded the work conducted by Vice-President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and welcomed the opportunity to hold important debates on Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. Mr. Soares reminded Members of the work that the Assembly had conducted in working to address the difficult situation in Kyrgyzstan following April 2010's unrest. The President noted that the OSCE PA had always been a strong supporter of the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE and applauded the personal work of the Secretary of State and Foreign Minister, Kanat Saudabayev. In this regard, he expressed his full support for the efforts of the Kazakh Chairmanship to organize an OSCE summit meeting this year. President Soares referred to a number of the difficulties facing the region, including challenges to the rule of law, press freedom and political pluralism, and welcomed the openness of the Kazakh authorities in facilitating a visit by a senior OSCE PA Member to imprisoned human rights activist Yevgeny Zhovtis.

Foreign Minister Saudabayev welcomed the opportunity to address the conference, noting that the high participation indicates a keen interest in the topics of discussion. He took the opportunity to reiterate a number of the priorities of the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship, and highlighted in particular the work to facilitate a timely adoption of the OSCE budget and efforts aimed at resolving protracted conflicts.

Mr. Tokayev, who serves as Chairman of the Kazakh Senate and as Vice-President of the OSCE PA, noted that this was his third time welcoming the Assembly to Kazakhstan, following the first Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in 2003 and the 2008 Annual Session in Astana. He expressed his appreciation to the Chairmanship for its efforts in enhancing relations with the OSCE PA. Pointing to the unrest in neighbouring

Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Tokayev stressed the importance of trans-regional co-operation for stability and argued that holding an OSCE summit meeting would be worthwhile in this regard.

Mr. Muhamejanov, Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, noted the importance of Kazakhstan being chosen to host this forum where participants would debate and help define some of the most important issues on the international agenda. He stressed that the Eurasian dimension was critical to the OSCE and said that Kazakhstan served as a natural bridge between the Asian and European areas.

The OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, welcomed the holding of the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, noting that it confirmed the unique role of the Parliamentary Assembly in raising and debating new issues. He stressed that while the OSCE region is diverse; all countries are united around the same vision of an indivisible security. There are numerous shared challenges, just as there are dividing lines, he said. Mr. Perrin de Brichambaut referred to the bold ambitions of the Kazakh Chairmanship, noting that holding a summit meeting would be the natural fulfilment of this ambitious agenda.

### **SESSION I: Regional security - Afghanistan, combating terrorism, drug trafficking, disarmament**

Calling the meeting to order, Senator Di Nino, Chair of the OSCE PA's First General Committee, introduced the topic, and reminded participants of previous work by the Assembly regarding Afghanistan, including the adoption of several resolutions on the topic. His full remarks can be found at the end of this report.

Keynote speakers for this session included Mirwais Yasini, First Deputy President of the Wolesi Jirga (House of Representatives) of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Abdullah Abdullah, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General; Michel Voisin, OSCE PA Special Representative on Afghanistan; and Dulat Bakishev, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

In the ensuing debate, Members were reminded of the real human losses that regularly take place in Afghanistan. Participants stressed that greater effort must be made to work closely with the Afghan people, and to strengthen the political, and particularly, the parliamentary and electoral systems. Several participants stressed that there is no real military solution to the conflict. There was also a great deal of discussion regarding how to overcome the challenges presented by the drug trade in Afghanistan. Overall, participants urged greater commonality in the work being conducted by the international community in Afghanistan.

### **SESSION II: Eurasia - Emerging Markets and Growing Challenges**

As moderator for this session, OSCE PA Vice-President Petros Efthymiou stressed that the economies of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, have experienced growth in recent years, although such positive tendencies are still heavily overshadowed by the economic hardships felt by most citizens due to the current crisis. Economic recovery

and longer-term prosperity will only be possible following economic reform on a variety of levels.

Keynote speakers included Zhanar Aitzhanova, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Kazakhstan; Muratbek Imanaliyev, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Ambassador Norbert Jousten, Head of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan; and Murat Musatayev, Deputy Secretary General of the Eurasian Economic Community.

During the general debate that followed the keynote presentations, Members addressed a variety of topics, including the effects of the economic crisis in Central Asia, the role of Parliaments in finding means to improve co-operation among nations in the fields of environmental protection, and the importance to Afghanistan of continuous economic development. Mr. Efthymiou concluded by recalling that security throughout Eurasia is ultimately linked to economic prosperity and environmental stability. He expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### **SESSION III: The Human Dimension**

The moderator of the third session, OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller, welcomed participants on 15 May and introduced the topics of religious tolerance, political development, trafficking in human beings, labour migration, and gender equality.

Keynote speakers included Ambassador Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive

Diplomacy for Central Asia; Askar Shakirov, Commissioner on Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan; Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; and Kathleen Ferrier, OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration.

A range of political views were expressed in the debate, with some Parliamentarians noting the need for a greater human rights focus in migration management, especially when discrimination issues arise. Some commented on the positive contribution made by migrants in the OSCE area, while others expressed concern over the demographic changes in Europe. Parliamentarians also called for strengthening democratic institutions in the OSCE area. The issue of independence of the judiciary in Kazakhstan and the OSCE more widely was raised as were issues of managing migration flows, easing the regulation of remittances, non-discrimination, gender-sensitive labour migration, and the role of legislators in regional co-operation and conflict prevention.

### **SPECIAL SESSION: The Crisis in Kyrgyzstan: Implications for Parliamentary Democracy**

Welcoming participants to the special session on Kyrgyzstan, OSCE PA President Joao Soares described the active engagement that the Assembly had undertaken since the unrest in Kyrgyzstan, and highlighted the importance of this opportunity to further consider the ongoing difficulties in the country.

Reports and/or comments were presented by Zhanibek Karibzhanov, Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Kyrgyzstan; Adil Akhmetov, OSCE PA Special Envoy

to Kyrgyzstan; Zhanysh Rustenbekov, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan; Kimmo Kiljunen, Vice-President of the Assembly and OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia; Pia Christmas-Moeller, Vice-President of the OSCE PA; Goran Lennmarker, OSCE PA President Emeritus; and Senator Di Nino, Head of the Election Observation Mission in Kyrgyzstan in 2009, who noted that democracy is not a linear process and that nonetheless, differing opinions must be heard for democracy to function. Senator Di Nino urged continued support by the OSCE to Kyrgyzstan, noting that the comprehensive security approach of the Organization means it is well placed to provide effective help.

In the ensuing discussion, participants discussed some of the challenges that Kyrgyzstan now faces, including significant security and political vacuums. Members stressed that efforts must now be dedicated to averting a civil war, and considered various efforts through which the OSCE PA could continue effective work in Kyrgyzstan. Some participants urged more effective communication with the actual population of Kyrgyzstan, and it was also stressed that we should not discourage an active political scene with multiple parties in the country.

On May 14, delegates attended a dinner hosted by the Presidents of the Senate and the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and on May 15, they attended a reception hosted by the Mayor of Almaty, Mr. Akhmetzhan Yessimov. On May 16, delegates were offered a visit to the Akbulak Mountain, located 40 km east of Almaty in the foothills of the Trans-Ili Alatau mountains.

The full "Report on the Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum" is available in English at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Consiglio Di Nino, Senator,  
Director  
Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Election Observation Mission of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Almaty, Kazakhstan
<b>DATES</b>	May 14-16, 2010
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	The Honourable Consiglio Di Nino, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$5,087.08</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$1,367.74</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$345.83</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,800.65</b>

## APPENDIX I

### **Opening remarks for Senator Consiglio Di Nino as chair of the session on regional security (Afghanistan, combating terrorism, drug trafficking, disarmament), OSCE PA trans-Asian parliamentary forum, 14-16 May 2010, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Dear Hosts,

My good friend, Kassym Tokayev,

President Soares,

Mes chers collègues,

It is my sincere pleasure and honour to be chairing this session on regional security at the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum.

Before I share with you some brief opening remarks on the session, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our gracious hosts for taking the initiative to organise such a valuable and important event. The themes we will be discussing today and tomorrow are pertinent to the OSCE family in general and to us parliamentarians in particular.

I want to emphasise as well the keen insight of our hosts in inviting to this event parliamentarians from the OSCE Partner Countries as well as from countries in the immediate neighbourhood. Indeed, our discussions on trans-Asian issues would not be complete if parliamentarians from the region were not present.

Turning to the immediate matter at hand, this session of the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum will be examining many of the security challenges facing this region, and indeed all of us. These include Afghanistan, combating terrorism, drug trafficking and disarmament. As you know, the OSCE PA has passed several resolutions at its Annual Sessions on these topics – including two resolutions which I sponsored on Afghanistan. Most recently at its Fall Meeting, the OSCE PA held a special debate on Afghanistan which featured our good friend Mr. Tokayev and in which many of us participated. Our parliaments play an important role in raising awareness of these issues and in strengthening the political will to see them addressed. The views on these topics are many, and for that reason I am confident that our debate on them will be of high quality.

## APPENDIX II

### **Remarks for senator consiglio di nino during the special session on kyrgyzstan, OSCE PA trans-asian parliamentary forum, 14-16 may 2010, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Dear Hosts,

President Soares,

Mes chers collègues,

I want to thank the organisers of the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum for their insight in including a special session on the Crisis in Kyrgyzstan and for giving us an opportunity to discuss the implications of it for parliamentary democracy.

I want to limit my remarks to the following three points.

First, the events of April 2010 reinforce the difficulties faced by many countries in building democracy. Indeed, it is not a linear process and can involve as many setbacks as steps forward. But what must remain constant throughout is that the choices and diverse voices of the people are allowed to be heard. We should also be mindful that a “one size fits all” model of democracy does not exist and each of our countries has had to endure its own particular path to freedom and democracy.

Kyrgyzstan has shown a tremendous amount of progress in building its version of democracy, but there is still much to be done. This is the message that was issued by the observation mission for Kyrgyzstan’s 2009 presidential election which I headed. In the preliminary and final reports, the election observation mission noted failings and weaknesses in the separation between party and state, an unbalanced media, some lack of transparency and independence on the part of the Central Electoral Commission, and an electoral code that is inconsistent with OSCE commitments, among others. At the same time, it noted a distinct choice of candidates and an active and engaged civil society among other positive elements related to the campaign process.

The next several months and years will be critical for Kyrgyzstan as it works through its many political, social and economic issues. Among the first items on its list – as announced by the interim government - are the proposed constitutional reforms that would strengthen the role of parliament in the political process, submitting these reforms to a referendum scheduled for the end of June, the reform of the Central Election Commission, and the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2010.

The stakes are always high when it comes to building democracy, an open society and national unity, but they are even higher once blood has been shed. As Kyrgyzstan takes its next steps, the OSCE family can play an important role in supporting the country in the never-ending path of democratic development.

This is the second point I want to make: the crisis in Kyrgyzstan has reinforced the importance of the OSCE in regional security. The OSCE was front and centre in



mediating the crisis, working with the governments of Russia, the United States, Kazakhstan, and even China, as well as other organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union, to de-escalate tensions. The Chairman-in-Office figured prominently during these proceedings as did his Special Envoy and the OSCE Centre in Kyrgyzstan. As a comprehensive regional security institution, the OSCE is well placed to provide support to address human rights concerns and media challenges in the aftermath of the crisis, and I note in particular the roles played by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. In his comments on 20 April 2010, the Chairman in Office himself reflected on the OSCE's "extensive and unique set of instruments to contribute to dealing with a multitude of post-crisis challenges facing Kyrgyzstan, and is ready to use all of its potential to do so." He noted areas where the OSCE could provide assistance such as public safety, legislative reform, electoral assistance, targeted economic and environmental activities -- all of which underline the value of the OSCE's comprehensive approach.

My third and final point follows from this: the OSCE's comprehensive approach includes the Parliamentary Assembly. Our meetings and the norms and values we discuss, as well as our activities in election observation, have been shown to be not without consequence. Our role was also prominent in the de-escalation of the crisis with the appointment of an OSCE PA Special Envoy, Senator Adil Akhmetov, from the Parliament of Kazakhstan. We can all agree that political pluralism is crucial, and we should note that Kyrgyzstan is the only country in this region with a multi-party delegation in our Assembly. Indeed, a member of that delegation is now head of Kyrgyzstan's interim government. As parliamentarians, we have a unique role to play and I encourage each of us to continue to work with our parliamentary colleagues and all of the people of Kyrgyzstan to overcome their challenges.

Thank you for your attention.