



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Sixteenth Annual session of
the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

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

Kyiv, Ukraine

July 5-9, 2007

Report

From 5 to 9 July 2007, seven Canadian parliamentarians travelled to Kyiv to attend the sixteenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. The Honourable Senator Consiglio Di Nino led the delegation, which was composed of the Honourable Senator Jeremiah Grafstein, the Honourable Raymond Simard, and Bev Shipley, Peter Goldring, Borys Wrzesnewskij and Francine Lalonde, members of Parliament. The delegation was accompanied by Denis Robert, Delegation Secretary, and Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Advisor.

OVERVIEW OF THE OSCE

Established in 1975 as the Conference on Security and Co operation in Europe (CSCE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was given its current name at the Budapest Summit in December 1994. The current 56 participating states of the OSCE are “all the European states, the United States and Canada.”⁽ⁱ⁾ Eleven other states in the Mediterranean and Asian region, called “Partners for Cooperation,” were added as observers. The organization defines itself as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management in the region. It is also recognized as a regional arrangement within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which means that the members of the United Nations that are members of such an arrangement “shall make every effort to achieve a pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.”⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ However, the OSCE is not, strictly speaking, an international organization in international law; that is to say, the resolutions it adopts are not legally binding on the signatory countries.

The organization’s 2007 budget is €168.2 million, almost three-quarters of which is allocated to field operations in 16 states. About 3,500 persons work for the OSCE, 500 of them in its various institutions, and 3,000 in field missions. One-quarter of the OSCE personnel is made up of seconded staff from participating states.

A. An Inclusive, Comprehensive and Cooperative Approach to Security

Above all, it is the OSCE’s membership, which includes the United States and Canada as full-fledged members of a body that addresses European issues, that makes the organization unique. The OSCE favours inclusive dialogue rather than selective admission. As a result, it keeps the lines of communication on essential security matters open between Western countries and other states that are less exemplary with regard to democracy. It also favours exchanges between the European Union and the states of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), which are not members of the Council of Europe. Although the aim of the Council of Europe is, above all, the harmonization of democratic practices among member states, the OSCE seeks to promote the development of a vast geographic area from Vancouver to Vladivostok that is conflict-free, regardless of the democratic characteristics of the participating states.

The organization's resolutions and activities stem from an original conception of security that is "global" in the sense that it goes beyond a merely political-military framework. In the Charter for European Security, adopted at the Istanbul Summit in November 1999, the heads of state and government of the OSCE member states undertook to "address the human, economic, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole."⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ All forms of peaceful cooperation between participating states are viewed as tending to reduce the risk of conflict within the region. The OSCE's approach is called "cooperative" in that the 56 member states all enjoy equal status. Decisions are made by consensus rather than majority vote.^(iv)

B. Operational Capacity

Following the Cold War, the OSCE developed its institutions and its operational capacity in response to often urgent requirements, rather than as part of a strategic plan developed with a long-term perspective. The Paris Charter for a New Europe laid the foundation for the OSCE's institutional structure in 1990.

The OSCE allocates 75% of its budget to field operations and yet has no missions in Western Europe or North America. This fact is frequently cited by the Commonwealth of Independent States as a basis for the argument that the organization employs a double standard in its relations with the participating states, whereas it claims to be cooperative and egalitarian. The OSCE's response is that its operations are conducted on the basis of commitments arising from consensus and at the invitation of the countries themselves. The OSCE's six missions in south-eastern Europe represent more than half of the organization's budget. The Kosovo mission budget alone (€35.2 million in 2007) is higher than that of the OSCE Secretariat (€30.9 million).

The chairmanship of the OSCE changes every year, such that the "Chairman-in-Office" function rotates among the ministers of foreign affairs of the participating states. As the organization's senior diplomat, the Chairman-in-Office is supported by the Secretariat and its Secretary General. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for 2007. Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, from France, has been the OSCE Secretary General since June 2005.

C. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Instituted by the OSCE (then the CSCE) in the Paris Charter for a New Europe in 1990, the Parliamentary Assembly held its first annual session in Budapest in July 1992, and its Secretariat in Copenhagen became operational in January 1993. It is an independent organization, with separate funding, which has a non-decision-making power of influence over the OSCE's activities. More than 300 parliamentarians appointed by their respective parliaments meet twice a year to debate a large number of matters pertaining to the OSCE. The parliamentarians produce declarations and reports and issue recommendations to their governments, parliaments and civil society concerning the OSCE's three areas of action. The Parliamentary Assembly plays a key role in the observation of elections in the OSCE's region and regularly sends parliamentary delegations on field operations.

The OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly meets every July for its Annual Session, in November for the fall session, in February for its Winter Meeting, and in May of every second year for its Economic Forum. At the Annual Session, the Assembly adopts a final declaration and resolutions at its plenary session. It elects the 11 parliamentarians who form the Bureau of the Assembly (President, nine Vice Presidents, and Treasurer), as well as the Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur of each of the three General Committees. The members of the Bureau, the chairs of the General Committees and the heads of delegation of the participating states together form the Standing Committee. At the Annual Session, decisions are made by majority vote, whereas the Standing Committee uses the "consensus less one" rule, except in appointing the Secretary General, which is done by majority vote. The 2006-2007 budget for the Parliamentary Assembly is €2.56 million. Canada's 2006-2007 contribution to the Parliamentary Assembly was set at €149,699.

Mr. Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) has been President of the Parliamentary Assembly since July 2006, when he succeeded Alcee L. Hastings (USA). Its Secretary General has been Mr. Spencer Oliver (USA) since January 1993. The Honourable Jerahmiel Grafstein, member of the Canadian Senate, has been Treasurer since July 2001. The Honourable Senator Consiglio Di Nino has been the head of the Canadian delegation since February 2005.

2007 ANNUAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

From 5 to 9 July, parliamentarians from the OSCE participating states, together with representatives of the "Partners for Cooperation" states, met to discuss the topic "Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE Region."

On the first day, the heads of delegations took part in a meeting of the Standing Committee to approve the budget and receive various activity reports. At the inaugural plenary session in the afternoon, the participants heard a number of presentations, including those by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Göran Lennmarker (Sweden), the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, by OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Miguel Angel Moratinos, Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General. The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgård (Sweden), also presented her report.

The next three days were devoted to the work of the three General Committees, parallel meetings on specific topics and meetings of the ad hoc committees of the Assembly.

On the fifth and last day of the Annual Session, the Kijiv Declaration, which contains all of the resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly at this Annual Session, was adopted. The members then re-elected Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) for a second one-year term as President of the Parliamentary Assembly. Senator Jerry Grafstein was elected to the position of Vice-President, and Senator Consiglio Di Nino was elected as Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security.

A. Standing Committee

At the meeting of the Standing Committee, President Lennmarker gave an overview of his activities since the last meeting in February 2007, including his trips to central Asia, the Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova.

Canadian Senator Jerahmiel Grafstein presented his last report as Treasurer of the Parliamentary Assembly. The financial report was once again very positive, and for the fourteenth consecutive year the opinion of the external auditors was favourable. He gave the credit for this to the International Secretariat. The 2007-2008 budget of €2.67 million was then adopted. Canada's 2006-2007 contribution to the Parliamentary Assembly was set at €141,699.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver presented his activity report. A discussion followed on the possibility of reconsidering amendments to the PA's Rules of Procedure, even if the amendments had already been refused during the meeting in Malta. The response was negative.

The Standing Committee then heard, among others, the following presentations:

- Mr. Josep Dallares, Head of the Andorran delegation, reported on the Economic Conference that was held in Andorra.
- Mr. Oleh Bilorus, Head of the Ukrainian delegation, welcomed participants to the annual session in Kyiv and outlined the week's activities.
- Ms. Tone Tingsgård (Sweden), as OSCE Special Coordinator for the elections in Armenia, reported that there were clear improvements in the conduct of the elections and highlighted the cooperation by the ODIHR mission.
- Mr. Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), as the Special Representative on South-East Europe, presented his activity report, along with reports by the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which will be holding a meeting in Slovenia during the OSCE PA's fall meeting.
- Mr. Petur Blondal (Iceland) presented his first activity report as the Special Representative on the OSCE budget.
- Mr. Alcee Hastings (USA), as Assembly President Emeritus and OSCE PA Special Representative on the Mediterranean, urged participants to strengthen their cooperation with those from the Mediterranean.
- Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), as the Special Representative for Central Asia, presented his activity program, and thanked the delegations from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan for attending.
- After the Standing Committee heard about preparations for the Fall Meeting in Slovenia and for the Annual Session in July 2008 in Kazakhstan, it accepted

the invitation from Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Head of the Canadian delegation, to hold the 2008 Fall Meeting in Toronto, and the invitation from Mr. Arminas Lydeka, Acting Head of the Lithuanian delegation, to hold the 2009 Annual Session in Lithuania.

B. Inaugural Plenary Session

During the Inaugural Plenary Session opened by Parliamentary Assembly President Göran Lenmarker, the Parliamentary Assembly heard the following presentations:

- Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko welcomed members of the Parliamentary Assembly, who were called harbingers of further democratic progress. He assured the participants of Ukraine's determination to continue along the path to democracy, which includes its full participation in Europe's parliamentary institutions. He asked that parliamentary immunity in the event of criminal charges be lifted, and highlighted the need for a transparent constitutional reform process. Early elections have been announced for 30 September 2007 in order to give new impetus to the political scene. He told the participants that the elections would be free and democratic, and that the package of reforms to be brought in following the elections would be implemented in full compliance with the current legislation and standards. He said he was well aware of Ukraine's responsibility not only for its own stability but also for the stability of the entire region. He then asked all the participating states to show their solidarity with the victims of the 1932-1933 famine by recognizing it as genocide, as this would show their commitment to the fundamental values of respect for human life and national liberty. President Yushchenko promised to maintain his commitment to the OSCE's values and activities, and urged the organization to try to resolve frozen conflicts. He ended by saying that he would work toward resolving the security challenges affecting Europe, primarily through continued cooperation in energy issues and by strengthening economic ties.

- The President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Göran Lenmarker, said that Ukraine was an important country in the heart of Europe throughout the 20th century and today. Despite the suffering that Ukrainians had had to overcome, Ukraine is now a democratic country that is building toward freedom and prosperity. The President reiterated the importance of the PA's role in election observation, and at the same time invited participants to take part in observing Ukraine's legislative elections to be held on 30 September. The leadership of parliamentary observers was of particular importance during periods of transition toward democracy. He went on to discuss the major threats to security in the OSCE area: terrorism, questions about the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, and the resolution of unresolved conflicts, including in Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Transdnistria. A central theme of his presidency has been strengthening dialogue with the members from Central Asia, and this is why he reiterated his support for Kazakhstan's candidacy for OSCE Chairmanship in 2009.
- The Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada), Oleksander Moroz, welcomed the Parliamentary Assembly. He expressed his gratitude to

the national delegations for attending in such numbers and thereby demonstrating their respect for Ukraine. Mr. Moroz reminded members of the important role played by the PA during the last round of elections and encouraged them to continue to speak out against any other institution that might try to interfere in the Ukrainian democratic process.

- The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Spain, Miguel Angel Moratinos, thanked the PA for the innovative ideas that it continues to put forward and that lead to progress in the OSCE's work. He thanked President Lenmarker for his contribution when he visited the Caucasus, and said that election observation was the cornerstone of any instrument that aimed at confidence building and cooperation between the members. For example, he said, following the elections in Armenia, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights should work closely with the Armenians. He then stressed the need to prevent the escalation of conflicts, primarily in South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdnistria. He also emphasized the importance for the OSCE of the negotiations on the status of Kosovo. He mentioned the discussions underway at the Permanent Council of the OSCE in Vienna on a convention concerning the organization's legal status and hoped that the Working Group on the issue would be able to reach an agreement for submission to the Ministerial Council in Madrid in late November 2007. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office then took part in a question period.
- The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgård (Sweden), reported on her activities. She mentioned in particular that the situation within the OSCE remained the same and that women were still under-represented within the organization. She said she was concerned that the issue of gender equality no longer seemed to be one of the OSCE's priorities. She then reported on her participation in an OSCE seminar in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

At the inaugural plenary session, the Assembly discussed and adopted a resolution on the role and status of the Parliamentary Assembly in the OSCE, presented by Hans Raidel (Germany). The resolution recommends strengthening the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in order to enhance the OSCE's credibility in its efforts to promote democracy.

The Assembly then heard the following special presentations:

- The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Ms. Nino Burjanadze (Georgia), described the economic and geostrategic importance of the Black Sea region and said that there could be productive ties between her organization and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, so that the Black Sea region could be more closely integrated into the European security system as a whole.
- At the end of the meeting, a representative from Afghanistan, one of the Partners for Cooperation, addressed the Parliamentary Assembly for the first

time. Mr. Ghulam Abbas confirmed the scale of the terrorist threat in his country. He also expressed his condolences on the deaths of the six Canadian soldiers who had been killed in a terrorist attack the previous day.

President Lennmarker closed the session.

C. General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Chair: Mr. Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco)

Vice-chair: Mr. Hans Raidel (Germany)

Rapporteur: Mr. Kristian Pihl Lorentzen (Denmark)

Before moving ahead with the consideration of the report and the principal resolution, the Committee heard a presentation by OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. The special presentation was further to the extraordinary conference held in Vienna in June on the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, whose review process had stalled. The Secretary General pointed out that the OSCE's activities were meeting with success in combating terrorism and trafficking. With regard to the organization's internal management, Ambassador Brichambaut said that the OSCE should use its resources more effectively and in light of its priorities. On the issue of Kosovo, he spoke highly of the OSCE's work in developing institutions and emphasized the need for a long-term commitment. Like many other speakers, he said he was concerned about the possibility of an escalation of violence in Transdnistria and Moldova. He said he was encouraged to see the progress being made in Nagorno-Karabakh, and that the efforts of the Minsk Group were certainly commendable, but that responsibility lay ultimately with the OSCE PA members. A question period followed.

1. Report and Principal Resolution

The Committee, with Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco) in the chair, then considered the report submitted by Kristian Pihl Lorentzen (Denmark). The report dealt with two issues: energy security and Belarus.

Regarding energy security, the report followed up on the discussions that began at the G-8 summit in St. Petersburg in the summer of 2006. The G-8 Plan of Action on Energy Security contains seven objectives, which were taken up again and adopted in their entirety at the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels in December 2006. In the same vein, in January 2007 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution condemning the use of the energy supply as an instrument of political pressure. The pressures exerted by Russia on its neighbours, and the impact of these pressures on the stability of Europe's supply, were clearly at issue. The OSCE could be called upon to play a key role in facilitating dialogue on the legal and regulatory frameworks to protect the huge investments in this sector of activity, as well as on the diversification of energy sources and supply routes. The relationships that exist between the development of alternatives to fossil fuels, environmental protection and energy independence from producing countries were also discussed.

The Resolution urges all OSCE participating states to sign and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty if they have not yet done so and urges all OSCE participating states to commit themselves to the successful completion of the Energy Charter Treaty Transit Protocol. It also invites OSCE PA participating states to promote dialogue on the following issues in particular:

- a) building confidence among energy producing, consuming and transit countries;
- b) creating new, and improving existing, mechanisms for the implementation of commitments and obligations regarding energy security;
- c) strengthening the international legal framework on energy issues;
- d) improving national energy policies and legislation;
- e) strengthening capacities of competent national authorities;
- f) facilitating investment in the energy sector;
- g) diversifying energy sources;
- h) ensuring the safety of energy routes and critical energy infrastructure;
- i) introducing energy-saving technologies;
- j) developing alternative and renewable energy sources;
- k) ensuring environmentally friendly oil, gas and coal extraction, preservation and transportation;
- l) making the use of energy resources more efficient; and
- m) overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

With regard to Belarus, ever since the 1994 election brought President Lukashenko to power, cooperation between Belarus and the OSCE has been problematic. Concern over the slow pace of democratization is at the heart of these tensions. The OSCE has re-established its presence in the country after several years of obstructions; an office was opened in Minsk in January 2003. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly welcomed this agreement and has shown its desire to maintain an open dialogue with Belarus rather than isolate it. To this end, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus in 2004. The Working Group has been able to maintain an open dialogue on issues related to the democratization process by organizing seminars that include representatives of the civil society. Nonetheless, the country is still failing to respect its commitments to the OSCE, especially with regard to democratic elections. Although Russia deemed the March 2006 presidential election to be “fair,” it was condemned by the OSCE and the European Parliament.

The Resolution suggests that the Belarussian government and Parliament take advantage of the EU's Neighbourhood Initiative for the development of a mutually beneficial relationship with the EU, and calls upon the Belarussian government to pursue their international commitments actively.

2. Additional Points

- Settlement of conflicts in the OSCE area. The resolution, introduced by Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine), expresses the OSCE's deep regret at the lack of substantial progress toward a political settlement of the existing conflicts in various regions of the OSCE, and supports all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the "frozen" conflicts in Moldova and Georgia based on the principles of territorial integrity of these countries and the complete fulfilment of the 1999 Istanbul Commitments.
- Women in peace and security. The resolution, introduced by Barbara Haering (Switzerland), encourages OSCE participating states to develop, adopt and implement national action plans concerning women, peace and security, and recommends that the OSCE work as a regional network supporting, coordinating and reviewing the development and implementation of national activities in this field.
- The ban on cluster bombs. The resolution, introduced by Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), calls on OSCE participating states to adopt legislation prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that gravely affect civil populations, and urges OSCE participating states to stimulate a global campaign and a process that could lead to an international ban on cluster bombs.

At the end of the meetings, Committee members elected Mr. Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco) Chair, Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino Vice-Chair, and Mr. Arminas Lydeka (Lithuania) Rapporteur.

D. General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Chair: Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia)

Vice-chair: Petros Efthymiou (Greece)

Rapporteur: Roland Blum (France)

1. Report and Principal Resolution

The Rapporteur for the second committee, Roland Blum (France), presented a report on migration in OSCE countries, following up on the ideas introduced during the fall meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in Malta in November 2006. However, he addressed only the economic aspects of migration and did not refer to the important issues of asylum and integration policies.

The first part of the report summarizes documents produced by the UN, the World Bank and the European Commission on the causes of migration and its economic

impact. The most negative impact for OSCE countries is the “brain drain,” while the financial flows of remittances sent home by the migrants are the most positive effect. The major problem for host countries is that migration exacerbates xenophobic sentiment. Migration is seen as a threat to the equilibrium of the host society, and migrants are seen as rivals on the labour market. Nevertheless, migration can have positive effects in the host countries, either by offsetting the aging of the population or responding to the shortage of workers in certain economic sectors. Malta’s accession to the European Union has underscored the immigration challenges facing transit states. Malta now has the world’s third highest population density, after Macao and Singapore, with more than 1,200 inhabitants per square kilometre. The small island country has become a stepping-stone to Europe.

The second part of the report describes in minute detail the instruments available to limit the negative consequences of migratory flows and emphasize their positive impact. Migration-related issues have been a priority for the OSCE since the December 2005 Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The concern was strengthened by a ministerial statement on migration adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in December 2006.

The resolution invites participating states to sign and ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, adopted by the United Nations on 15 November 2000. It also calls for the signature of bilateral or regional agreements between the countries of origin and host countries in order to facilitate harmonized management of migratory flows, as well as an increase in the number of OSCE information centres for migrants along the model of those installed in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Finally, it calls on the President of the OSCE PA to appoint a Special Representative on Migration to examine ways the OSCE and the OSCE PA can further the development of migrant labour systems that are humane and meet the economic needs of both the source and the host countries.

2. Additional Points

- Illicit air transport of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The resolution introduced by François-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium) calls on participating states to criminalize the violation of UN Security Council arms embargoes; engage in a dialogue with the air cargo transportation sector with a view to closing the loopholes for illegal transportation of small arms and light weapons; promote the wider introduction and use of air traffic control systems; and, finally, promote the use of air traffic control data for purposes of ex post facto analysis and of notification for control of flights suspected of engaging in trafficking in small arms and light weapons.
- Environmental security strategy. The resolution, introduced by Barbara Haering (Switzerland), encourages the ongoing work of the OSCE to develop an environmental security strategy for the organization to be debated at the OSCE Ministerial Council in November in Madrid.

- Liberalization of transatlantic trade. This resolution, introduced by Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino, recommends that the parliaments of the participating states of the OSCE:
 1. vigorously support all initiatives to promote the liberalization of transatlantic trade, including the harmonization of standards and the elimination of regulatory barriers;
 2. facilitate the development of transatlantic partnership agreements among members of existing free trade zones, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, the European Union, the European Free Trade Association and the Central European Free Trade Agreement;
 3. raise awareness among OSCE participating states of the considerable shared benefits of stronger initiatives to promote the liberalization of trade.

At the end of the meetings, the members of the Committee elected Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russia) Chair, Mr. Petros Efthymiou (Greece) Vice-Chair, and Mr. Roland Blum (France) Rapporteur.

E. General Committee on Democracy Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Chair: Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)

Vice-chair: Cecilia Wigström (Sweden)

Rapporteur: Jesús López-Medel (Spain)

1. Report and Principal Resolution

The report by the Committee Rapporteur, Jesús López-Medel (Spain), is an attempt to build the case that democracy is the only political form that is compatible with human nature. The sections of the report give a variety of perspectives for dealing with this fundamental issue. They cover: election observation, strengthening social involvement, transparency and anti-corruption efforts, migrations, protection of minorities and freedom of religion and, finally, cooperation on social development. The long Resolution accompanying the report summarizes the various elements.

2. Additional Points

- Strengthening OSCE engagement with human rights defenders and national human rights institutions. This resolution, introduced by Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom), urges OSCE participating states to reaffirm the important role of human rights defenders and national human rights institutions in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms at the 2007 Ministerial Council in Madrid. It recommends that the parliamentary delegations to the OSCE enhance their engagement with human rights defenders and national human rights institutions in their respective states, thereby making use of the assistance and resources developed by the OSCE/ODIHR.

- Strengthening of counteraction on trafficking in persons in OSCE participating states. This very detailed resolution, introduced by Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine), urges those participating states that have not already done so to adopt and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking laws, policies and practices, addressing human trafficking in all its forms and enabling prosecution of traffickers, prevention of trafficking, including demand, and protection of trafficking victims, and to make available the necessary resources to governmental agencies, including law enforcement, and relevant nongovernmental organizations to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of measures aimed at prosecution, prevention and protection.
- Combating anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims and Roma. This resolution, which is also very detailed, was introduced by Benjamin Cardin (USA), and urges participating states to increase efforts to work with their diverse communities to develop and implement practices to provide members of minority groups with equal access to and opportunities within social, political, legal, and economic spheres. It notes the growing prevalence of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance being displayed within popular culture, including the Internet, computer games, and sports, and deplores the growing prevalence of anti-Semitic materials and symbols of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic organizations in some OSCE participating states. It deplores the continuing intellectualization of anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance in academic spheres, particularly through publications and public events at universities, and it condemns the association of politicians and political parties with discriminatory platforms, and reaffirms that such actions violate human rights standards.

At the end of the meetings, the members of the committee elected Mr. Jesús López-Medel (Spain) Chair, Ms. Hilda Solis (USA) Vice-Chair, and Ms. Walburga Habsburg (Sweden) Rapporteur.

F. Closing Plenary Session

The meeting began with the presentation of reports by the two Special Representatives:

- The Special Representative on Guantanamo, Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), and presented her report on her visit to the detention facility. She emphasized that the prison needs to be reformed and must eventually be closed. She believed that the detainees must be transferred to other prisons in their own country or in a third country. If there was a reason to keep the Guantanamo facility open, it should apply only to very dangerous individuals. The legislative status of the facility must be clarified if the United States wants to avoid even greater damage to their international image in terms of the treatment of detainees and respect for human rights.

- Appointed the Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism in April 2007, Panos Kammenos (Greece) first identified the key legal instruments that could be used. He hoped to be able to work closely with the Vienna-based OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) toward a global approach to the problem.

About 30 members of the Assembly, including three members of the Canadian delegation, then made short presentations on a wide variety of issues.

The OSCE Treasurer, Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein, presented his last report to the members, noting the excellent state of the Parliamentary Assembly's finances and congratulating his successor, Hans Raidel (Germany). Secretary General Spencer Oliver then presented his report, noting that it was probably one of the busiest years in the organization's history, particularly with regard to election observations. Reports on the work done by each of the three committees were then presented. The Kyiv Declaration was then adopted with all of the additional points. Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein was presented with a commemorative plaque as thanks for his six years as Treasurer. Vice-President Joao Soares (Portugal) concluded by announcing the election of four new Vice-Presidents: Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein, Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) and Panos Kammenos (Greece). The next Annual Session will be held in July 2008 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION

Both individually and as a delegation, the parliamentarians in attendance were very active during this annual session:

- On their arrival, the delegation was received by the Canadian Ambassador for a briefing session on the main issues in Canada–Ukraine relations.
- The same evening, the Ambassador Abina Dann received the delegation, in the company of Canadian citizens living or doing business in Ukraine.
- On 6 July, the parliamentarians laid a wreath at the Holodomor monument commemorating the victims of the 1932-1933 famine/genocide in Ukraine. Later they laid a wreath at the Babi Yar monument, paying silent homage to the thousands of Jewish community members and prisoners of war who were executed there in World War II.
- Senator Consiglio Di Nino, head of the delegation, introduced a resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on the need to broaden trans-Atlantic trade (see p. 12 and Appendix 4). Notably, he spoke during the closing plenary session on the need for NATO member states to share the burden of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan equitably, so that Canadians could continue to support the mission (see Appendix 5). At the end of the meeting, Senator Di Nino was elected to the position of Vice-President of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security.

- Senator Jerry Grafstein, in his capacity as outgoing Treasurer of the Parliamentary Assembly, presented his annual report. He also made an important statement on the resolution introduced by the US delegation on combating anti-Semitism. At the end of three two-year terms as the OSCE PA Treasurer, he received a commemorative plaque thanking him for his ongoing contribution to the organization. At the end of the meeting, he was elected to the position of Vice-President.
- Raymond Simard spoke with members of the US Congress to make them aware of the importance Canadians attach to compliance with the original agreement on the Devil's Lake diversion project.
- Bev Shipley took an active part in the debate on the resolution introduced by a Ukrainian parliamentarian on measures to combat human trafficking. He was also invited to visit a variety of farms, to find ways in which Canada might support the farm industry in Ukraine, particularly the dairy industry.
- Borys Wrzesnewskij made a statement that brought the closing plenary session to an end, and in which he described the immense suffering endured by the Ukrainian people in the 20th century, and affirmed that Ukraine is now one of the most eloquent examples of transition toward democracy so that the people of the 21st century will not have to experience ever again the horrors of famine, genocide and hate (see Appendix 6).
- Francine Lalonde also made a key statement on Afghanistan, emphasizing the courage of the soldiers from Quebec who will soon be moving up to the front, and stressing the need to find new ways of enabling military invention to serve social development in Afghanistan, an international responsibility that must be shared more equitably.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Senator Consiglio Di Nino
 Director, OSCE
 Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

(i) Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations, Helsinki, 3 July 1973, para. 54, http://www1.osce.org/documents/mcs/1973/07/4136_en.pdf.

(ii) Charter of the United Nations, Chapter VIII, art. 52, para. 2 (<http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/index.html>). The Security Council may also use such regional arrangements to implement coercive measures it has adopted.

(iii) Charter for European Security, para. 9, in the Istanbul Document 1999, pp. 1-46, http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/1999/11/4050_en.pdf.

(iv) In extreme cases, the "consensus less one" rule may be invoked where there have been serious violations of the organization's principles. However, that rule has been used only once: in 1992, against

the former Yugoslavia; that country was readmitted as Serbia and Montenegro after the election in the fall of 2000.

Appendix 1 Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)
ACTIVITY	Sixteenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
DESTINATION	Kyiv, Ukraine
DATES	July 5-9, 2007
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Senator Consiglio Di Nino Senator Jerahmiel S. Grafstein
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mrs. Francine Lalonde, M.P. Mr. Peter Goldring, M.P. Mr. Bev Shipley, M.P. Mr. Raymond Simard, M.P. Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Jean-Rodrigue Paré Mr. Denis Robert
TRANSPORTATION	\$26,218
ACCOMMODATION	\$9,311
HOSPITALITY	\$0
PER DIEMS	\$3,627
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$429
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$640
TOTAL	\$40,225

APPENDIX 2

OSCE Participating States

THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Holy See
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Uzbekistan

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

- Afghanistan
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Mongolia
- Thailand

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Morocco
- Tunisia

APPENDIX 3

Address by Senator Di Nino on Transatlantic Trade

2007 OSCE PA ANNUAL SESSION IN KYIV SPEAKING POINTS ON TRANSATLANTIC TRADE

Gospodin Ivanchenko, Dear friends,

Canada's vision of international economic relations is based on a commitment to eliminate all unnecessary restrictions on trade and investment.

We already enjoy the benefits of a very fruitful North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Mexico. Bilateral trade between Canada and the US alone amounts to about \$625 billion a year.

The European Union is of course our second most important trade partner, with annual exports to Canada of \$50 billion.

Last month, Canada signed a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association – its first-ever free trade agreement with European countries. The four members of the Association – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – currently conduct about \$11 billion in two-way trade with Canada.

The ties between Canada and Europe are strong and deep. Our societies are bound together by history and common values. These values, which are also the foundation of the OSCE, include having market-based economies as a necessary condition for stability and security.

However, we must realize that trade between North America and Europe is far from what it should be.

On the question of tariff and market-access barriers, we are awaiting the outcome of WTO talks on the Doha Development Agenda, which we strongly support.

In the meantime, other issues also need to be addressed if we wish to achieve some real progress toward an integrated transatlantic partnership. The most important of these is greater convergence in standards and regulations. A regulatory cooperation agreement in goods and services with binding arrangements would discourage divergence in regulatory practices, reduce existing barriers, and improve collaboration in new areas.

Other discussions could include liberalizing air services, facilitating temporary admission for key business personnel, recognizing professional qualifications, and cooperating in science and technology initiative, among many others.

Of course, following the G8 Summit, the ongoing strategic dialogue on energy and climate issues should be pursued further.

In the OSCE, security is achieved through cooperation. Much has been achieved to guarantee more security to all participating states. We should never take that security for granted, and one of the best things we could do is to increase prosperity as a way of building security. The free flow of goods, services and capital

can create partnerships between countries that no single threat to security can ever untie. These partnerships yield very concrete benefits for the citizens of the nations involved: jobs, education, and health care. Let's not sacrifice the prosperity of future generations to short-term protectionist interests.

The liberalization of transatlantic trade, as well as the liberalization of all trade, will lead to more security and will guarantee a stronger democracy for the citizens of all partner states.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

APPENDIX 4

Address by Senator Di Nino on Afghanistan

PLENARY SESSION – SPEAKING NOTES ON AFGHANISTAN

Thank you for allowing me to make some brief comments on Afghanistan.

First I am happy to correct some misinformation from yesterday about a suicide bomber attack against Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. The attack did indeed take place, but it was not fatal as reported. The four Canadian soldiers were injured and not killed. Thank God.

I remind you that, last year, this Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution I presented supporting the Afghanistan mission.

Colleagues, since we have arrived in Kyiv, 6 more Canadian soldiers have died in Afghanistan. Proportionally, my country has suffered more casualties in that conflict than any other nation.

Dear friends, today I am asking for your support. I believe you will agree that Canada has done more than its share in trying to create a more stable environment for the people of Afghanistan, and in so doing protect the security of the citizens of all the world.

The Canadian public continues to support the objectives of the mission, and they do believe that a strong Canadian participation to the reconstruction of Afghanistan is without question the right thing to do, not only for the benefit of Afghans but also for the benefit of all peace-loving people of the world.

However, during the last year, support for the mission in Canada has weakened partly because of what people perceive to be a lack of participation of the other states in the dangerous areas of conflict in the southern regions of Afghanistan. They believe that Canada is carrying too much of the load. The enormous human costs of this mission and this lack of commitment from other ISAF countries is weakening their resolve to continue Canada's combat participation. The Canadian Parliament is divided on this.

It is becoming more and more difficult for its strong supporters to convince Canadians that this mission is important and to the benefit of Canadians. They are questioning whether risking the lives of our young men and women in the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan is worthwhile.

If the nations of the world who are fighting terrorism and injustice weaken their support, the Taliban will be the winner. It will make them stronger.

We must win this war against those who do not want democracy, justice and peace – and to achieve this victory all NATO states must contribute to its success.

Please implore your governments to do their part.

APPENDIX 5

Address by Borys Wrzesnewskyj on the Holodomor

SPEAKING NOTES ON THE UKRAINIAN HOLODOMOR

Fellow Assembly members,

This Parliamentary Assembly is symbolic of a new approach to world order, of which we are all co-architects and co-builders.

This multilateral assembly's patient yet principled debate first came together in the waning years of the 20th century, the most tragic century in the history of humanity. And this assembly is a shining example of how, on the cusp of the 21st century, we can cooperatively prevent the descent into the type of totalitarianism, xenophobia and hatred that has in the last century led humanity into the abyss of wars, famines and genocides.

It is therefore quite fitting that this particular assembly is taking place in Ukraine, arguably the OSCE participating state that has proportionately suffered the greatest human losses during the 20th century.

We should particularly note that this year, 2007, is the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, the famine-genocide of Ukraine's rural population. During this Holodomor, millions – perhaps as many as 7-10 million – were starved to death in the breadbasket of Europe. As the famine raged, Ukraine's lush countryside was denuded of its leaves and grasses as people ate anything that grew.

In this denuded, grey landscape, Ukrainians one by one, hundred by hundred, thousand after thousand, million after million, lay down their skin and bones onto its fertile black soils, their lives extinguished.

Stalin's march toward his communist, imperialist vision was fed by the corpses of millions, and by the appeasement of world leaders unwilling to face down evil. As millions starved, the Soviet Union exported grain from these fertile lands to the West. A West that, apart from a handful of brave politicians and journalists, turned its gaze away while eating the bounty, the bread, from these lands. A half-century has passed since Stalin's death, and his evil empire has been consigned to the history books of humanity's tragic 20th century. [Ukrainian]

Fellow assembly members, we can go back as far as UN General Assembly Resolution 96 (1) of 11 December 1946, and list international resolution after international resolution, decade after decade, condemning crimes against humanity and genocide. Yet the Rwandan genocide took place before our eyes. All of our resolutions are nothing more than fine-sounding rhetoric unless each and every one of us makes a pledge to act when hatred, conflict, or crimes against our fellow human beings occur.

Here in Kyiv, Ukraine, on the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor famine-genocide, let us all pledge to ourselves and to those who have placed their trust in our leadership, a pledge of two simple words: NEVER AGAIN.

Thank you.

APPENDIX 6

Address by Senator Grafstein on the Resolution Against Anti-Semitism

NOTES FOR SPEECH ON THE RESOLUTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM OSCE PA ANNUAL MEETING IN KYIV 5-9 JULY 2007

I would like to add my voice in support of the resolution that reiterates the ongoing leadership of the OSCE PA in the struggle against the oldest voice of hate: anti-Semitism.

At the PA annual meetings in Berlin in 2002, Rotterdam in 2003, Edinburgh in 2004, Washington in 2005, and Brussels in 2006, a rousing resolution on anti-Semitism was unanimously adopted.

In 1989, after the Berlin wall came down, I had hoped I would be able to close this dossier.

Regrettably, the ancient virus of hate is alive and spreading. So we must be ever-vigilant to inject constant antibodies to stem the growth, and hopefully destroy the roots of this social illness.

This week, the Canadian Delegation laid a wreath at Baby Yar – just 5 kilometres from the Rada, in the heart of Kiev – at an impressive monument at the edge of a beautiful ravine where hundreds of thousand of Jews were massacred and thrown into a mass grave during World War II.

After the lessons of World War II every civilized person believed the post-war world would be free of such ancient hatreds. There was hope for a future free of hate. It was not to be.

Ukraine was the home of a great Jewish community. Some of world's leading 20th-century cultural figures of Jewish origin came from Ukraine: the violinist Horowitz, the painter Chagall and the great writer Isaac Babel.

So it is fitting that here, in the ancient capital of Kyiv, we renew our collective efforts to remonstrate against anti-Semitism.

In my own multicultural model city of Toronto, over 60% of all hate incidents were anti-Semitic in nature last year.

Speeches and resolution are not enough. We must do more.

Here are five “mores” that are encapsulated in this resolution:

1. More statistics;
2. More effective anti-hate laws;
3. More sophisticated policing;
4. More education.

In Berlin, Elie Wiesel, that articulate witness to the Holocaust, spoke and emphasized education as a key. He reminded us that you can teach a child of three to hate or love.

5. Finally, more attention to the Internet, the modern media miracle, but also a modern machine for the proliferation of hate.

We need more surveillance and sensitive laws to focus on the Internet while not interfering with freedom of speech.

Finally, I want to commend the OSCE PA, which has led and continues to lead the world in this ongoing struggle against anti-semitism. Please forgive me if I single out three colleagues: our German colleague Gert Weisskirchen, the OSCE Special Representative against anti-Semitism, and our American colleagues, Ben Cardin and Alcee Hastings, who have diligently never flagged in their efforts against the challenges of suffocating the roots of anti-Semitism.

I urge the adoption of this comprehensive resolution on anti-Semitism.

APPENDIX 7

Kyiv Declaration