

Canada - Europe  
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire  
Canada - Europe

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
to Parliamentary Mission to the Country that will next hold  
the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the  
Fourth Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session of the  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

**Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association**

**Ljubljana, Slovenia and Strasbourg, France  
September 27 to October 5, 2007**

# Report

## I

### **Parliamentary Mission to the Country that will next hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

#### **A. Introduction and Overview**

A delegation of five parliamentarians from the Canada Europe Parliamentary Association travelled to Ljubljana, Slovenia, for high level meetings with members of the Slovenian National Assembly, government officials and a Member of the European Parliament in preparation for the upcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (henceforth EU Presidency).<sup>(i)</sup> The delegation was led by Association president the Hon. Lorna Milne, Senator, and included from the Senate the Hon. Yoine Goldstein and from the House of Commons Mr. Scott Simms, Mr. Brian Storseth, and Mr. David Tilson. The delegation was accompanied by association secretary Philippe Méla and advisor Marcus Pistor.

In addition to meetings on Slovenia's upcoming EU Presidency, the Canadian delegation had the opportunity to discuss political and economic relations between Slovenia and Canada, the two countries' participation in the international mission in Afghanistan, Slovenian involvement in the Council of Europe, and the growing importance of Slovenia in the European infrastructure network.

#### **B. Program**

##### **1. Briefing by H.E. Pierre Guimond, Canadian Ambassador to Hungary and Ambassador Designate to Slovenia<sup>(ii)</sup>**

Ambassador Guimond, who presented his credentials to the President of Slovenia during the delegation's visit, and Ms. Agnes Pust, Counsellor (Political and Public Affairs) at the Canadian Embassy in Budapest, briefed the delegation about bilateral relations between Canada and Slovenia and discussed the program for the visit. The Ambassador noted in particular the regularity of parliamentary exchanges as an important positive factor in bilateral relations. He also discussed preparations under way in Ljubljana and Brussels for Slovenia's EU Presidency, pointing out that this was an enormous challenge for a country of two million inhabitants and a comparatively small civil and diplomatic service. To enable the country to provide leadership to the EU and representation internationally, Slovenia has been working closely with Germany and Portugal, the two preceding EU Presidency countries, and it is receiving support from the United Kingdom and France who will represent the Presidency in countries where Slovenia does not have diplomatic missions.

## **2. Courtesy Meeting with the President of the National Assembly, Mr. France Cukjati, MD**

Mr. Cukjati welcomed the delegation's visit as a valuable contribution to the transatlantic dialogue and to Slovenia's preparations for the EU Presidency. He noted the good bilateral relations between Canada and Slovenia and our excellent cooperation internationally. The Assembly President discussed Slovenia's involvement in the Balkans, in particular in Kosovo, in some detail and explained how this will likely shape Slovenia's EU Presidency, including with regard to future EU enlargement. He also pointed out that Canadian involvement in the Balkans has been valuable, and that Canadian and Slovenian troops have been well received by all sides of the conflicts in the region. Mr. Cukjati expressed a desire for greater Canadian engagement in Europe and closer relations with the EU. Canadian delegates raised several issues, including the involvement in Afghanistan as the Canada's top foreign policy priority, the EU Neighbourhood Policy, and the likelihood of Turkish EU membership.

## **3. Meeting with the Vice Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs, Dr. Mitja Slavinec, and Committee Members**

The meeting with the Vice Chairman and several members of the all party Committee on European Union Affairs allowed for a wide ranging discussion of Slovenia's experience with EU membership, European policy debates in Slovenia, as well as the country's preparations for the upcoming EU Presidency. Committee members talked about bilateral relations between Canada and Slovenia, noting in particular that there is considerable room for growth in commercial relations. They argued that Canada should play an important role in the transatlantic relationship that, in their view, needs to be strengthened, and emphasized the need for a Canada EU summit during the Slovenian Presidency. They also pointed out that assuming the EU Presidency is a major challenge for a small country with a comparatively small bureaucracy. They take some pride in the fact that Slovenia is the first of the "new" members of the EU to assume the presidency. Finally, Committee members discussed what they see as Slovenia's major priorities for the Presidency with regard to the external relations of the EU, in particular the EU's role in the Western Balkans and the possibility of EU accession not only for Croatia but for Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania and, eventually, an independent Kosovo. According to Committee members, other issues on the agenda for the Slovenian Presidency include climate change, energy security and reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

Canadian delegates posed several questions regarding the EU Reform Treaty that has been drafted by the Inter Governmental Conference (IGC) and which is to be approved by the EU Heads of State and Government at a special summit in Portugal on 18 19 October 2007. The Slovenia parliamentarians explained their positions on the EU reform process, noting in particular the need for institutional reform to make the Union more efficient and democratic and to bring it closer to its citizens. Other topics discussed included the role of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and the possibility of Canadian delegations attending future COSAC meetings; EU fisheries policy; Canada US relations; the decision by the Organisation for Economic Co operation and

Development (OECD) to invite Slovenia to join; the EU Neighbourhood Policy; and the possibility of Canada opening an embassy in Ljubljana.

#### **4. Meeting with the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy, Mr. Jožef Jerovšek, and Committee Members**

In addition to discussing Slovenia's EU Presidency, the meeting with the Chairman and three members of the National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Policy allowed for a wide ranging discussion on Slovenian and Canadian foreign policy, including bilateral and transatlantic relations, the NATO mission in Afghanistan, the future of the Western Balkans, the situation in Iraq, and human security. Canadian delegates explained Canada's involvement in Afghanistan and the current political debate about its future, in particular with regard to the need for European allies to take on responsibilities in the more dangerous Southern parts of Afghanistan. Mr. Jerovšek explained that Slovenia's involvement in Afghanistan had had strong public support, but that, given the small size of Slovenia's military and the fact that about 10% of its forces are currently committed to the international mission in Kosovo, Slovenia does not have the capacity to commit additional troops to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. Both sides noted that Slovenian troops had worked closely and very effectively with Canadian forces in Afghanistan.

With regard to transatlantic relations, Committee members expressed the hope for improvements, in part because of the more cooperative approach taken by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. In the discussion of human security, there was considerable agreement about the importance of continuing cooperation in this area. In this context, Mr. Storseth asked about Slovenia's participation in the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions (OCCM), also known as the Oslo Process. Mr. Jerovšek explained that there is strong support in Slovenia for the Oslo Process and that all but one of the Members of the National Assembly had voted in favour of Slovenia signing the February 2007 declaration that commits signatories, including Canada, to

Conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will:

- (i) prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, and
- (ii) establish a framework for cooperation and assistance that ensures adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and their communities, clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and destruction of stockpiles of prohibited cluster munitions.<sup>(iii)</sup>

Finally, Committee members expressed the wish for Canada to open an Embassy in Ljubljana and for the Parliament of Canada to establish a friendship group for Slovenia.

#### **5. Meeting with the Head of the Delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mrs. Darja Lavtižar Bebler, and Delegation Members**

After a brief general discussion of Slovenia's preparations for the EU Presidency, this meeting focused on issues of particular relevance to the work of the Council of Europe,

including the protection of minorities, intercultural dialogue and the role of the Council of Europe in Slovenia's transition from a member state of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to a liberal democracy with a market economy. Members of both delegations highlighted the ability of their respective countries to contribute to the debates and development of policy concerning minorities and intercultural dialogue, since both are multi ethnic or multicultural societies. Participants also discussed the particular concerns of the Roma in Europe and how these might be addressed. Finally, Mrs. Bebler expressed her appreciation for the Canadian delegation's very positive attitude towards the Council of Europe and its very active involvement in PACE. Canadian delegates responded by noting that the Council of Europe deals with issues that do not only matter to Europeans, but that are of universal importance.

#### **6. Meeting with Mr. Roman Kirn, Head, Department for the Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Officials**

Mr. Kirn briefed the Canadian delegation on both, the government's priorities for the EU Presidency and the organization of preparations for next year. Stressing the importance of Canada for transatlantic relations, he welcomed the delegation's visit as very important for two reasons. First, according to Mr. Kirn, transatlantic relations do not receive the political attention they should. Strengthened parliamentary relations are therefore particularly important as a way to increase political attention and support needed to address global challenges. Second, he argued that increased parliamentary involvement is needed to support the executive branches' efforts and to put forward initiatives on how to address global challenges such as energy security and climate change. Mr. Kirn went on to discuss the framework for relations between the European Union and countries in North American, including the Canada EU summit expected during the Slovenian Presidency. Noting that both sides still have a lot of work to do to prepare for a summit in 2008, he told the delegation that it would build on the June 2007 summit in Germany,<sup>(iv)</sup> specifically on the three main pillars of Canada EU relations: (i) political cooperation, in particular in Afghanistan, but also with regard to achieving visa free travel for all EU citizens; (ii) economic partnership, specifically regulatory cooperation; and (iii) cooperation on global issues such as climate change and energy security.

In the discussion that followed Mr. Kirn's introductory comments, Canadian delegates addressed several issues, including the link between transatlantic and Canada US relations, tensions between Canada and the EU regarding the continuing visa requirements for citizens of several new EU member states, cooperation in Afghanistan, the Oslo Process aimed at achieving an international ban on cluster munitions, and barriers to a stronger transatlantic economic relationship.

#### **7. Meeting with Mr. Bogdan Benko, Head, EU Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Officials**

In the course of the meeting, Mr. Benko provided a detailed overview of Slovenia's preparations for the EU Presidency. He focused on the likely follow up to the adoption of the EU Reform Treaty at a summit of heads of state and government in October. The Treaty will then require ratification by all member states and subsequent implementation

in time for the 2009 elections to the European Parliament. He also discussed EU enlargement to include both Turkey and the Western Balkans, an issue that is “extremely important for Slovenia.” In response to questions from Canadian delegates, Mr. Benko explained the government’s position on the likely independence of Kosovo. He argued that for several reasons Kosovo cannot be compared to other situations of national or ethnic minorities in Europe. First, Kosovo had been an autonomous region under the 1974 Yugoslav constitution, but its autonomy was severely curtailed under President Slobodan Milosevic. Second, the situation is unique in that the current status of Kosovo is governed by UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which also states that the future status of Kosovo shall be determined by a political process that is now nearing its end. Third, Mr. Benko pointed to the Guiding Principles of the 6 nation Contact Group – consisting of France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, and the United States – which “make clear that there should be: no return of Kosovo to the pre 1999 situation, no partition of Kosovo, and no union of Kosovo with any or part of another country.”<sup>(v)</sup>

## **8. Meeting with Mr. Gregor Krajc, Deputy Director Office for the Government of European Affairs, and Officials**

Mr. Krajc of the government office responsible for coordinating preparations for Slovenia’s EU Presidency briefly went over some of the organizational and logistical issues involved. He then explained the five priorities for the Presidency, describing four as vertical and one as horizontal. First, the EU Reform Treaty to be approved at a special EU summit in October will have to be ratified by each member state. While the Presidency is not formally involved in this process, it can provide support by monitoring ratification, communicating the importance of the treaty and the nature of the ratification process, and helping member states exchange information on best practices. A closely related issue, according to Mr. Krajc, is enlargement, specifically the ongoing negotiations with Croatia and Turkey, because enlargement requires significant institutional reforms to go ahead. As other interlocutors pointed out to the Canadian delegation, this is an extremely important issue for Slovenia which supports both Turkish membership and the eventual accession to the EU of all countries in the Western Balkans.

Second, Slovenia will continue the work on implementing the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs first agreed to by EU members in 2000 and reviewed in 2005. This also involves implementing already agreed to policies on energy security and climate change, which are widely seen as being closely linked. The third priority for Slovenia is strengthening cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs, the so called ‘Third Pillar’ of the EU treaty structure.<sup>(vi)</sup> Here, Slovenia’s pending accession to the Schengen area is the primary focus. Member countries of Schengen have “abolished checks at the internal borders ...[,] created a single external border where immigration checks for the Schengen area are carried out in accordance with identical procedures [, adopted] common rules regarding visas, right of asylum and checks at external borders ... to allow the free movement of persons within the signatory States without disrupting law and order.”<sup>(vii)</sup> For Slovenia, joining the Schengen zone involves abolishing border controls on internal EU borders and assuming responsibility for the Union’s external borders, in other words with Croatia.

The fourth priority is the European Union's external policy, more specifically two areas of particular importance to Slovenia: The first is security and economic stabilization in the Balkans, specifically through a renewal and deepening of the Thessaloniki agenda for the Western Balkans, agreed to at the 2003 EU Western Balkans Summit in Thessaloniki, Greece.<sup>(viii)</sup> Of particular importance will be the future of Kosovo, which is expected to declare independence in December if ongoing negotiations with Serbia fail. The second is the EU Neighbourhood Policy, specifically relations with the countries of the Mediterranean and with Eastern European states (Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, and Ukraine). In addition to these two areas, there will likely be five summits under the Slovenian Presidency, including with Canada in June 2008, although this has yet to be confirmed by the Canadian side. When asked about the likely agenda for the summit, Mr. Krajc told delegates that it would build on the 2007 summit in Berlin. Since several actions agreed to this year will not be concluded until late 2007 or early 2008, it won't be until some time in the first quarter of next year that more will be known about the substantive issues to be discussed.

The fifth priority, which Mr. Krajc described as 'horizontal', is intercultural dialogue. The European Union has declared 2008 the year of Intercultural Dialogue.<sup>(ix)</sup> This will involve programs and events aimed at fostering dialogue at all levels, including between EU member states. Slovenia is planning major events together with the European Commission to present its experience with intercultural dialogue.

## **9. Meeting with Jelko Kacin, Member of the European Parliament, former Minister for Information and Defence Minister**

This meeting offered delegates an opportunity to discuss developments in the European Union, including with respect to the EU Reform Treaty, and the future of the Western Balkans with Mr. Jelko Kacin, Member of the European Parliament (EP) for the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe and member of the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Kacin served as Slovenia's Secretary/Minister for Information when the country declared independence and later as the country's Defence Minister. He was twice Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee. In 2003, he was a member of the Convention on the Future of Europe, which drafted the failed EU Constitutional Treaty.

After an introductory exchange on the EU Reform Treaty, the discussion quickly turned to the future of Kosovo and the prospects for EU membership for the countries of the Western Balkans. Drawing on his experience in the Slovenia government and parliament, Mr. Kacin explained the subtleties of accession negotiations and noted that Slovenia and other new EU member states can provide vital assistance to candidate countries – Croatia and Turkey – which are trying to cope with the enormous task of negotiating over 30 chapters of the so called 'acquis communautaire', "the body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all the Member States of the European Union."<sup>(x)</sup> Discussion then turned to the future of Kosovo and the prospects of EU membership for the Western Balkans. Mr. Kacin noted that, in light of Kosovo's history over the past three decades, independence was likely inevitable. He expressed the hope that all countries of the Western Balkans would be able to join the EU in the next ten years, not just Croatia, the only current candidate country from the region. Noting that it is not important when you start accession negotiations but when you complete them, Mr. Kacin suggested that expanding the number of candidate countries from the Western Balkans would lead to more productive and speedy negotiations between the EU and Croatia.

## **10. Official Visit of the Port of Koper, EU Corridor 5, and Briefing by Ihor Zajec, Honorary Consul of Canada in Ljubljana and Former Deputy Minister of Transportation**

During an official visit to the port of Koper on Slovenia's Adriatic coast, delegates were briefed on the Transportation Corridor 5, a network of railway lines and roads currently being built or expanded under the EU's Trans European Transport Networks – "TEN T" program.<sup>(xi)</sup> With its location on Slovenia's 47 km long Adriatic coast in close proximity to major central European cities and industrial regions and to the major emerging economies of Central and Eastern Europe, Koper occupies a strategic location in the rapidly evolving trading relationship between Europe and Asia. Because of its location – it is several days by container ship closer to Asian markets and producers than the large



ports in Northwest Europe such as Hamburg or Rotterdam – and because the rapid expansion of trade means that other ports already operate close to maximum capacity, Koper has seen a dramatic growth in container traffic. It is also now the leading export port for the Volkswagen Group and other manufacturers. Koper and the other major ports on the Northern Adriatic coast – in particular Trieste in Italy – are stepping up cooperation to deal with increased traffic and address common challenges, including developing links to road and rail networks. After the briefing, the delegation had the opportunity to tour the port. This was followed by a visit to the Karst region of Slovenia.

## **11. Other Program Elements**

The Canadian delegation was welcomed to the Slovenian National Assembly at a lunch hosted by Mr. Marko Pavliha, President of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Canada. This gave parliamentarians from both countries the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations, preparations for Slovenia's EU Presidency, and plans for a Canada EU summit during the Slovenian presidency. Mr. Pavliha expressed the hope that Canada would open an Embassy in Ljubljana and that parliamentarians in Canada would establish a parliamentary friendship group with Slovenia.

The Canadian delegation attended a plenary session of the National Assembly, where it was welcomed by the President of the Assembly. This was followed by a guided tour of the parliament building. Finally, delegates were honoured with a reception hosted by Ambassador Designate Pierre Guimond, where they met Mr. Rene Benedejcic, a Slovenian who had saved Canadian businessman Mark Kammerer from drowning during the floods and landslides which struck parts of Slovenia in late September. Senator Milne used the opportunity to thank Mr. Benedejcic on behalf of the delegation.

## II

### **Fourth Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

**Strasbourg, France, 30 September 2007 – 5 October 2007**

A delegation of five parliamentarians from the Canada Europe Parliamentary Association travelled to Strasbourg to participate in the summer session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in which Canada enjoys observer status along with Israel and Mexico. The delegation was led by Association president the Hon. Lorna Milne, Senator, and included from the Senate the Hon. Yoine Goldstein and from the House of Commons Mr. Scott Simms, Mr. Brian Storseth, and Mr. David Tilson. The delegation was accompanied by association secretary Philippe Méla and advisor Marcus Pistor., and was joined in Strasbourg by Ambassador Laurette Glasgow, Canada's Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe, and her deputy, François LaRochelle.

#### **A. Overview**

The fall session featured a full order of business<sup>(xii)</sup> with a wide range of topics being debated in committees,<sup>(xiii)</sup> political groups,<sup>(xiv)</sup> and in the Assembly.<sup>(xv)</sup> The Assembly held regular debates on the following topics:

- Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee, including reports on the observation of the parliamentary elections in Turkey (22 July 2007) and of the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (18 August 2007);
- The activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Regularisation programmes for irregular migrants;
- Assessment of transit and processing centres as a response to mixed flows of migrants and asylum seekers;
- The humanitarian crisis in Darfur;
- Member states' duty to co operate with the European Court of Human Rights;
- Honouring of obligations and commitments by Moldova;
- Realising both economic growth and social protection in Europe in an era of globalisation;
- Regionalisation in Europe;

- The OECD and the world economy 2007;
- Political dimension of the Council of Europe budget;
- For a European convention on promoting public health policy in drug control;
- Towards decriminalisation of defamation;
- The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations;
- Prostitution – which stance to take?;
- The dangers of creationism in education;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights – stock taking and perspectives; and
- “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women”: mid term assessment of the Campaign.

The Assembly convened a current affairs debate on “The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights: urgent action needed”<sup>(xvi)</sup> and it heard from several political leaders, senior officials and other guest speakers:

- Mr. Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro;
- Mr. Brunson McKinley, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and all Russia;
- Mr. Vojislav Koštunica, Prime Minister of Serbia;
- Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey;
- Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD;
- Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers;
- Mr. H. R. Agung Laksono, next President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA); and
- Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

There was a controversy surrounding the statement of Mr. Agung Laksono, next President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA). Initially, Mr. Gholamali

Haddad Adel, the current APA President, had been invited and was scheduled to speak to the Assembly. Mr. Haddad Adel is the Speaker of the Iranian parliament. He is known for supporting the hard line anti Israel stance of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and he has defended his President's denial of the Holocaust. On the day before the scheduled appearance of Mr. Haddad Adel, a group of 25 PACE members issued a written declaration which states:

1. Considering the invitation to the 4th part session in 2007 issued to Mr Haddad Adel, President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and Speaker of the Iranian parliament;
2. Observing that this invitation to the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly neither conceals nor defends the fact that he is an eminent representative of a radical Islamic regime which flouts all the democratic rules set forth in the Statute of the Council of Europe;
3. Underlining emphatically that any intercultural or inter faith dialogue presupposes at the same time respect for fundamental principles; this therefore precludes such contacts, even if only indirect, with representatives of the Iranian regime;
4. Point out that the Iranian regime obstinately continues to support the eradication of Israel, a member state of the United Nations and observer to our Assembly since 1957. Iran denies the Holocaust, and in so doing stands apart from the vast majority of civilised countries;
5. Refer to the efforts made by Iran and its allies such as Syria to obtain a military nuclear capability, a new threat to world peace;
6. Call on the Assembly, the authorities of the Council of Europe and staff members of the Organisation to stay away from the Council during Mr Haddad Adel's visit if it is maintained;
7. Call on the representatives of governments and the press to condemn this visit, in order to preserve the credibility of our Organisation.<sup>(xvii)</sup>

In the end, Mr. Haddad Adel decided to cancel his appearance. According to media reports:

The Speaker's decision was made after it was reported that a number of members of the Council of Europe parliament have met with the leader of the Mujahideen Khalq or People's Mujahedin of Iran organization (MKO), an Iraq based group that advocates the overthrow of Iran's current government.<sup>(xviii)</sup>

While the appearance of Mr. Agung Laksono, the incoming President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), was less controversial, his comments on the Iranian President and parliamentary speaker's views on Israel and the Holocaust elicited a strong rebuttal from PACE President René van der Linden. It is worth quoting the exchange on the Holocaust, including Senator Goldstein's intervention, in full:

Mr LAKSONO (Translation) – We have discussed quite frequently the statement made by the President of Iran about the Holocaust. We wonder why this matter, seventy years after the end of the Second World War, has become very important to be discussed.

Mr EÖRSI (Hungary) – Two thirds of my family were killed.

Mr LAKSONO (Translation) – We understand. Secondly, we understand that what the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted was not not to admit the existence of the Holocaust but to allow people to research and study the Holocaust with a purely scientific approach. We believe that in some countries in Europe, people are prosecuted when they make a study of the Holocaust. That is how we understand his position.

THE PRESIDENT – I must tell you that it is clear after the Second World War that there was an international investigation, and it was internationally recognised that there was a clear Holocaust, so nobody in this Assembly is in any doubt about what happened. I hope that everybody realises that the Council of Europe is built on the ruins, the bloodshed, the misery, and the pain of the First, and especially the Second, World Wars. We said, “Never again.”

I want to say from my deepest feelings that we have members in this Assembly who lost a great part of their family. We must be very happy that we live today in the Europe that, thanks to the great Europeans – Adenauer, de Gaspari, Schuman and others – has created structures that enable us to be an example, hopefully, for other regions in the world, so that we can live in peace, not only in Europe but everywhere in the world. I understand you very well when you say that we have to fight poverty. Poverty is one of the strongest violations of human rights. People have the right to live in dignity, but do not forget that in Europe, we cannot accept that any question should be asked about what happened in the Second World War.

Mr GOLDSTEIN (Observer from Canada) – Thank you, Mr President of the Assembly, especially for those kind remarks. The question that I was going to ask was essentially asked by Mr Eörsi, and was responded to by an interpretation that defies logic and reason and, regrettably, flies in the face of plain language.

THE PRESIDENT – Thank you for that remark.<sup>(xix)</sup>

Transcripts and summaries of all debates, the reports discussed, and the resolutions and recommendations adopted are available on the Parliamentary Assembly’s website: <http://assembly.coe.int/>.

## **B. Canadian Activities during the Session**

### **1. Overview**

Canadian delegates participated actively in meetings of several committees – Political Affairs; Economic Affairs and Development; Legal Affairs and Human Rights; Social, Health and Family Affairs; Migration, Refugees and Population; Culture, Science and Education; Environment, and Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs – and political groups – the Liberal, Democratic and Reformers Group (ALDE) and the European Democrat Group (EDG). The Canadian delegation was briefed by Ambassador Laurette Glasgow, Canada's Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe, and François LaRoche, her deputy, on the fall session, recent developments at the Council of Europe, as well as on Canada's involvement, in particular with regard to the government's input into the Committee of Ministers' response to the PACE recommendation on seal hunting. Delegates met with the Mexican delegation to discuss bilateral relations and issues of common concern to the two observer delegations, including proposed changes to the PACE Rules of Procedure (see below).

At its regular meeting with Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Canadian delegation had an opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including the political situation in Canada; Canada's involvement in the Council of Europe; proposed changes to the PACE Rules of Procedure; the Council's budgetary situation; and the organization's external relations, in particular with the European Union. Finally, Canadian delegates used the opportunity to meet with parliamentarians from other countries and Council of Europe staff to discuss a range of issues of common interest.

### **2. Proposed Changes to the PACE Rules of Procedure Concerning Observer Delegations**

Prior to the fall session, François LaRoche, Canada's Deputy Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe, informed the delegation that the review of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure currently under way in the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities includes two proposals affecting observer delegations. A proposed change to Rules 59.8 and 60.4 would allow observers to sign motions for resolutions and recommendations as well as written declarations, without however taking them into account for the number of signatures required. The second proposed change would require observer delegations to PACE to be named for a full session: Canadian delegates would be named in January for the calendar year, and the same delegates would be expected to attend all four part sessions of PACE. This proposed change raised serious concerns among Canadian delegates, but also in the Mexican observer delegation, and after some informal meetings with PACE staff, the leaders of the two delegations submitted a joint letter to the rapporteur, Mr. Erik Jurgens, which stated:

We ... agree with the spirit of the rule change regarding the composition of observer delegations to PACE (Rule 60.2). However, we would like to

note that requiring us to have fixed delegations of six observers each – the current size of our delegations – would be difficult to implement for several reasons. The parliamentary responsibilities of our delegates in our respective countries regularly make it difficult for them to attend Assembly sessions, in part because of the distance they have to travel to be here. In addition, it would be difficult to reflect the make up of the Mexican Congress and the Parliament of Canada – both have two houses with several political parties – in a delegation of six; we are currently able to offer the opportunity to participate in PACE sessions to representatives of smaller parties only on a rotating basis.

We therefore propose a clarification which would create a rule similar to the one traditionally used for the observer delegation from Israel, which has had an equal number of Representatives and Substitutes, while Canada and Mexico have not had Substitutes.

#### Rule 60.2

“The parliaments concerned are not required to submit credentials to the President of the Assembly. However, they shall submit to the President of the Assembly not less than one week before the opening of the Ordinary Session a list of members and an equal number of substitutes appointed for the whole duration of the Session, which would reflect the various currents of opinion within the parliaments.”

For Canada and Mexico, this would mean 6 members and 6 substitutes. In effect, it would allow us to establish – following our mandated practices for selecting delegates to international meetings and assemblies – a group of 12 parliamentarians each from Mexico and Canada, respectively, from which the delegations of 6 would be chosen for each part session.

The proposal was welcomed by the rapporteur. However, instead of amending the Rules of Procedure in order to specify the number of delegates and substitutes, the Committee instead opted to amend the resolutions granting the Canadian and Mexican parliaments, respectively, observer status with PACE, so that they would define each delegation as consisting of six observers and six substitutes.<sup>(xx)</sup> Mr. Jurgens’ draft resolution was adopted, as amended, by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities during the fall session. It is on the agenda for the next meeting of the PACE Standing Committee on 23 November 2007 in Bratislava (Slovakia).

If adopted, the new rules governing observer delegations will become effective in time for the opening of the 2008 Ordinary Session on 21 January 2008, and the Parliament of Canada will have to submit a list of six observers and six substitutes at least one week prior to the opening of the session. A letter to that effect will be sent to the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons.

### **3. Report on Observer Countries, including on the Role of Observers in the Parliamentary Assembly**

Following meetings of Canadian delegates in October 2006 and June 2007 with Mr. David Wilshire (United Kingdom), rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee for a report on “Compliance by observer countries with the standards of the Council of Europe,” Senator Milne provided the following comments on his draft report in writing:

- (i) Greater expectations regarding the involvement of observer countries and delegations, including compliance with the standards of the Council of Europe, would have to be accompanied by increased participatory rights of observers.
- (ii) Consider extending the Rules of Procedure for enlarged debates of the Parliamentary Assembly on the activities of OECD to other committee meetings and debates on issues or international organizations involving observer states. Example: The annual meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Assembly debate on the EBRD.
- (iii) Observers to PACE should be given the opportunity to participate more fully in studies, debates, and votes, when these directly affect the interests of their country. For example PACE should consider allowing observer delegates to propose revisions to draft reports, move and support amendments to draft recommendations and resolutions in committees and the Assembly.
- (iv) It would be helpful to have clearer rules, and a more consistent and transparent interpretation of rules by PACE staff, with regard to the participation of observer delegations and delegates in meetings of committees and the Standing Committee. In this context, it may be helpful for the PACE secretariat to provide committee secretariats and observers with written instructions that take into account the above comments and best practices in committees where observers have traditionally participated on a regular basis.

### **4. Enlarged Committee Meeting and Assembly Debate on the OECD and the World Economy**

Each fall, the Assembly holds a debate on a report on the OECD and the state of the world economy, prepared by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development. Preparatory meetings are held at the OECD in Paris in June.<sup>(xxi)</sup> This annual debate is unusual in that it allows delegations from non member OECD countries, such as Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the Republic of Korea,<sup>(xxii)</sup> full participation and voting rights – hence “enlarged” debate. It is, therefore, an important opportunity for Canadian parliamentarians to participate in international discussions of global economic affairs and to contribute to the parliamentary oversight of the OECD. The debate is preceded by an ‘enlarged’ meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, when the report was finalized.

During the ‘enlarged’ meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, the Canadian delegation proposed some revisions to the



explanatory memorandum and one amendment to the draft resolution. The amendment concerned a paragraph on the OECD and Council of Europe's efforts to fight corruption, which failed to mention the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In light of the importance of UNCAC to the international fight against corruption and the fact that Canada ratified the Convention on the day when the Enlarged Committee meeting took place, the Canadian delegation proposed to include a reference to UNCAC as follows:

15. In recent years, the OECD has become one of the leading institutional campaigners against international corruption – an issue that is all the more pressing in an era of rapid globalisation, with closely interconnected markets and the free and instantaneous movement of capital. Like the Council of Europe, a close working partner in this area, the OECD sees corruption as the leading contemporary threat to good governance, sustainable economic development, and fair democratic activity. The enlarged Assembly urges all OECD and Council of Europe member States to subscribe to, and enforce, the anti corruption standards set by OECD instruments, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Moreover, deeply concerned about the spate of counterfeiting and piracy in some countries, it invites the two institutions to extend their co operation to addressing the problem of counterfeiting and piracy, notably by taking concrete measures through their fruitful partnership in the framework of the Council of Europe's GRECO (Group of European states against corruption).(xxiii)

Prior to the Enlarged Assembly debate, the delegation had a working meeting with Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the OECD, and Mr. Aart de Geus, Deputy Secretary General. Mr. Gurría used the opportunity to inform Canadian delegates about ongoing developments and new projects at the OECD, in particular with regard to the new Political Economy of Reform project. This was described as a 'horizontal project' designed to provide "governments with analysis, comparable statistical data and policy content to help them build targeted messages that will make the benefits of reform more evident to their constituents."<sup>(xxiv)</sup> It is new type of project that goes beyond the policy development and analysis work the OECD has traditionally focused on. Mr. Gurría also talked about the state of OECD enlargement and enhanced engagement, which, he expects, will make the Organization more relevant globally. Finally, he noted the request from the Ministerial Council to increase work in the area of innovation performance as a "crucial determinant of competitiveness, productivity and national progress" and as "an important key to addressing global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development."<sup>(xxv)</sup>

In the discussion that followed, Canadian delegates raised several issues, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the status of the roadmaps for enlargement being developed for each OECD candidate country; corporate social responsibility; the so called Heiligendamm Process, "a dialogue between the member states of the G8 group of countries and the important

emerging economies [Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa] that deals with the biggest challenges the global economy is facing today,”<sup>(xxvi)</sup> and the G8’s request to the OECD to provide a platform for that dialogue; Canada’s role in the Heiligendamm Process; the OECD’s work in the area of foreign direct investment in the wake of the failure of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MIA); and the future of global trade negotiations.

One Canadian delegate spoke in the debate on the OECD and the world economy. In his intervention, Mr. Tilson addressed a number of issues, including the need for progress in global trade negotiations with a particular emphasis on liberalisation in agriculture. He focused his remarks on Canada’s efforts to ensure that the country can respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities created by globalisation: “Domestically, we have taken several measures to make Canada more competitive globally, including fiscal consolidation, tax reform, infrastructure investments and regulatory streamlining. Internationally, we are pursuing simultaneous efforts in our Americas strategy and elsewhere to strengthen human rights and democracy, to build strong sustainable economies through increased trade and investment linkages, and to meet new security challenges, including natural disasters and health pandemics. In our view, those are closely connected objectives, and we want to work with our European partners towards achieving them.” Mr. Tilson also spoke about the need for closer international cooperation in the area of regulatory reform, with the goal of eliminating unnecessary obstacles to economic growth “while ensuring that important social objectives can be served more efficiently by regulation.” In his response to Mr. Tilson’s intervention, OECD Secretary General Gurría noted that his organization is doing work in support of the regulatory reforms undertaken in its member countries.<sup>(xxvii)</sup>

## **5. Canadian Interventions in Assembly Debates**

In addition to Mr. Tilson, Canadian delegates made four interventions in Assembly debates and submitted two speeches in writing when debate was cut short due to a lack of time; those speeches are part of the official record.

Senator Goldstein spoke in the debate on the “Humanitarian crisis in Darfur.” He had worked closely with the rapporteur and staff of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population to prepare the report and draft resolution being debated.<sup>(xxviii)</sup> In his intervention, Senator Goldstein noted that, even though an agreement had been reached to send a UN African Union peacekeeping force to Darfur, and “notwithstanding the peace negotiations in less than a month, a new UN report, circulated barely three weeks ago, said that the number of grave violations against children in Sudan remains high and that children as young as six have been recruited, ... humanitarian aid workers have been denied access to the intended recipients of humanitarian aid, [and] ... Sudanese forces continue with population transfers of Sudanese Arabs into areas heretofore inhabited by Darfur residents.” Arguing that “the Council of Europe has an important role to play,” he called on the organization to do several specific things, including: encouraging all factions in Sudan to negotiate in good faith at the upcoming

peace negotiations; making rebel groups understand that these negotiations “may well be the last chance to avert a permanent and perpetual humanitarian crisis”; insisting in an immediate ceasefire; ensuring that humanitarians aid workers have access to the people in need; ensuring that Sudanese officials involved in war crimes, such as “population transfers of Sudanese Arabs into areas heretofore inhabited by Darfur residents,” are prosecuted; and helping to provide “independent, complete, all embracing and continuous” supervision of the implementation of any peace deal reached for Darfur. In their comments on the debate, the Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, and Mr. Hancock, rapporteur of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee (for opinion), thanked Senator Goldstein for his work on the report and for his remarks.<sup>(xxix)</sup>

In an intervention in the debate on “Regionalisation in Europe,” Scott Simms, M.P., told the Assembly about Canada’s experience with regionalisation, in particular with regard to the role of natural resources in regional development. He argued that Alberta “is an amazing example of how a province has used its own resources for its own people to allow its society to progress” and went on to discuss the experience of Newfoundland and Labrador. Because oil and gas resources there are extracted offshore, they fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government: “The problem is that although Newfoundland and Labrador has those resources, we have high unemployment and one of the highest rates of emigration the country has ever seen. That is where regionalism goes wrong.” However, the creation of a system of joint management, “whereby both Newfoundland and Labrador and the Federal Government would manage the resources,” has allowed the province to benefit substantially from offshore extraction of oil and gas: “Since then, we have managed to reverse the trends on emigration and on unemployment. Now we are part of the game, we are involved in not only the development of resources, but the development of our young people through skills training.” The lesson of this experience, according to Mr. Simms, is that regionalization should be about empowering people, so that they can make decisions about the future of their communities. It should not be primarily about “the symbols and the layers of bureaucracy that merely symbolize regionalism.”<sup>(xxx)</sup> Following his speech, European delegates expressed in interest in involving Mr. Simms in future discussions of regionalization in Europe.

Senator Goldstein made an intervention in the debate on a report titled “For a European Convention on Promoting Public Health Policy in Drug Control.” He congratulated the rapporteur for pointing “clearly to three principal and inter related objectives [of a proper drug control strategy] and [for suggesting] the incorporation of four elements: prevention and education, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration and, finally, monitoring and evaluation aimed at identifying best practice.” Noting that “the predominant interest in proper drug control strategy is precisely and solely to minimize individual and societal harmful effects” he went on to describe Canada’s experience in this area. According to Senator Goldstein, “Canada’s drug strategy is not dissimilar to that proposed in the report. It is based on four main pillars, but the dominant pillar has to be harm reduction where we must adopt a value neutral approach to

substance use and abuse.” He illustrated this approach with several examples of harm reduction strategies used in Canada. In his concluding comments on the debate, the rapporteur, Mr. Paul Flynn stated that he “was especially struck by the contribution from North America. We are aware of the great strides made in Canada on harm reduction.”<sup>(xxxix)</sup>

In his intervention in the debate on “The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations,” Brian Storseth, M.P., used the example of Canada’s mission in Afghanistan to illustrate the importance of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine. Noting that the nature of security and threats to national security had changed in the age of globalisation and that, as a result, “the tribulations of one state have the ability to affect stability in other states,” he focused on the ‘responsibility to rebuild’, one of the three responsibilities embraced by the R2P doctrine, and talked about Canada’s efforts to strengthen the rule of law by training police forces, to move towards gender equality, to respond to basic human needs, strengthen livelihoods and increase the capacity of local government in Afghanistan. Mr. Storseth concluded by linking the R2P doctrine to the United Nations Charter: “We have a duty under the charter – a duty that Canada fully endorses. When human rights are violated, it is our duty to intervene. When human security is at risk, it is our obligation to intervene. When the rule of law is being trampled, it is our responsibility to intervene. Those core principles lie at the heart of our democracy. The United Nations and NATO are upholding those principles in Afghanistan today. As a successful example of the responsibility to protect, it is imperative that each of our individual nations continues to enhance its role on the international stage and increase its commitment to responsibility to protect.”<sup>(xxxii)</sup>

The intervention in the debate on “Prostitution – which stance to take?” submitted in writing by Senator Goldstein, focused on the approach taken in Canada to voluntary prostitution. Noting that “the Canadian model does not readily fit into the three categories which this report envisages – prohibitionist, regulationist and abolitionist,” he explained that “a state of ‘quasi criminalization’ of prostitution remains in Canada. While the act itself of prostitution is not illegal, it is virtually impossible to engage in prostitution without breaking the law, because solicitation of prostitution or living off the avails of prostitution is illegal. This contributes to a marginalization of sex trade workers and creates an illicit market that exposes prostitutes to exploitation, encourages the convergence of prostitution with other illicit markets such as the drug trade, and removes prostitutes from the protective services of the police.” In concluding his intervention, Senator Goldstein argued: “It is imperative that an appropriate blend of legal and social instruments be developed to address the negative effects of the sex trade on society, to assist those who wish to leave the sex trade, and to make prostitution safer for those who freely choose to make their living in that manner.”<sup>(xxxiii)</sup>

Senator Milne submitted a written intervention to the debate on “The dangers of creationism in education.” She expressed concern about the fact that a growing “number of people [are] calling for creationism to be taught in public schools ... in

Europe” and about the fact that many Canadian students hold misconceptions about evolution. She also made reference to debates during the Ontario provincial election campaign about public funding of religious schools and about the teaching of creationism in these schools. Noting that “science is based on systematic methodology and objective, evidence based study,” while creationism is a faith based theory, she argued that “we must not allow a representation of the origins and development of life and of humanity which is based solely on faith to be disguised as science. Faith based teaching belongs in the religious institutions of our societies ... . It does not belong in the science curriculum of our public schools funded by money from tax payers of all faiths.” Senator Milne concluded that, since the role of public schools is “to prepare our children to live in the future” and therefore to “provide them with a broad fact based scientific background – a solid foundation of scientific knowledge and methodology on which they can build, ... the faith based concepts of creationism and intelligent design have no place in the publicly funded schools of the modern tolerant democratic societies we all cherish.”<sup>(xxxiv)</sup>

The complete texts of the Canadian interventions are available at:  
[http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/CRListingSession\\_E.asp?IDSession=221](http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/CRListingSession_E.asp?IDSession=221).

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Lorna Milne, Senator  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

### III

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation which aims:

- to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law;
- to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity;
- to find common solutions to the challenges facing European society: such as discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance, bioethics and cloning, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organised crime and corruption, cybercrime, violence against children; and

to consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform.<sup>(xxxv)</sup>

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe has now reached a membership of 47 countries from the Azores to Azerbaijan, and from Iceland to Cyprus, with Montenegro joining as its newest member in May 2007. The Council's main objective is to promote and defend democratic development and human rights, and to hold member governments accountable for their performance in these areas. However, it is also very active in fostering international cooperation and policy coordination in a number of other areas, including legal cooperation, education, culture, heritage, environmental protection, health care, and social cohesion. The Council of Europe is responsible for the development of 200 legally binding European treaties or conventions, many of which are open to non member states, in policy areas such as human rights, the fight against organised crime, the prevention of torture, data protection, and cultural co operation.<sup>(xxxvi)</sup>

The Council's main institutions are the Committee of Ministers (the CoE's decision making body, composed of member states' foreign ministers or their deputies), the Parliamentary Assembly, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Human Rights Court, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The Parliamentary Assembly consists of 636 members (318 representatives and 318 substitutes), who are elected or appointed by the national parliaments of the 47 Council of Europe member states from among their members. The parliaments of Canada, Israel and Mexico currently hold observer status with PACE. The special guest status of Belarus, which had applied for membership in the Council of Europe in 1993, was suspended in January 1997 in the wake of the adoption of a new constitution in Belarus, which was widely seen as undemocratic.

The Assembly elects the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the judges of the European Court of Human Rights and the Council's Commissioner for Human Rights. It is consulted on all new international treaties drafted by the Council, holds the Council and member governments accountable, engages in studies of a range of issues of common interest to Europeans, and provides a

forum for debate for national parliamentarians. The Assembly has played an important role in the process of democratization in Central and Eastern Europe and actively monitors developments in member countries, including national elections. It meets four times a year in Strasbourg, with committee meetings taking place more frequently.<sup>(xxxvii)</sup> Council and Assembly decisions and debates are often reported widely in the European media.

The Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly bring together policy – and decision makers from a range of politically, culturally, and geographically diverse countries. Together, the Council and Assembly provide the primary forum for the formation of a trans European political community committed to democracy and human rights. The Parliamentary Assembly also provides parliamentary oversight functions for several key international organizations, including the OECD, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This wide ranging role in international policy making and in the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights makes the Council and Assembly an important venue for pursuing and advancing Canada’s multilateral and bilateral engagement in Europe.

Canada is an observer to both the Committee of Ministers, where it has participated actively in a number of policy areas (the other observers are the Holy See, Japan, Mexico, and the United States), and the Parliamentary Assembly (where the other observers are Israel and Mexico).<sup>(xxxviii)</sup>

(i) “The Council of the European Union ... is the Union’s main decision-making body. Its meetings are attended by Member State ministers, and it is thus the institution which represents the Member States. ... The Council meets in different configurations (nine in all), bringing together the competent Member State ministers: General Affairs and External Relations; Economic and Financial Affairs; Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs; Competitiveness; Cooperation in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA); Transport, Telecommunications and Energy; Agriculture and Fisheries; Environment; Education, Youth and Culture.

Each country of the European Union presides over the Council for six months, by rotation. ... Decisions are prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Member States (Coreper), assisted by working groups of national government officials.

The Council, together with the European Parliament, acts in a legislative and budgetary capacity. It is also the lead institution for decision-making on the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), and on the coordination of economic policies (intergovernmental approach), as well as being the holder of executive power, which it generally delegates to the Commission. In most cases, the Council’s decisions, based on proposals from the Commission, are taken jointly with the European Parliament under the codecision procedure. Depending on the subject, the Council takes decisions by simple majority, qualified majority or unanimity, although the qualified majority is more widely used (agriculture, single market, environment, transport, employment, health, etc.),”  
[http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/eu\\_council\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/eu_council_en.htm);  
[http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/union\\_presidency\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/union_presidency_en.htm).

(ii) Canada does not have an Embassy in Slovenia. Canada’s Ambassador to Hungary is also accredited to Slovenia, but resides in Budapest, Hungary. Ihor Zajec is the Honorary Consul of Canada in Ljubljana.

(iii) Declaration signed on the 23 February 2007 by 46 states in Oslo, Norway.  
Handicap International,  
<http://www.clusterbombs.org.uk/the-oslo-process/the-declaration/>.

(iv) 2007 EU-Canada Summit Statement,  
<http://www.international.gc.ca/canada-europa/mundi/summit-Berlin2007-en.asp>.

(v) Kosovo Contact Group Statement, London, 31 January 2006,  
[http://www.eupt-kosovo.eu/new/pressreleases/docs/060130-KOSOVO\\_CONTACT\\_GROUP\\_STATEMENT.pdf](http://www.eupt-kosovo.eu/new/pressreleases/docs/060130-KOSOVO_CONTACT_GROUP_STATEMENT.pdf).

(vi) “The concept of ‘pillars’ is generally used in connection with the Treaty on European Union. Three pillars form the basic structure of the European Union, namely:

- the Community pillar, corresponding to the three Communities: the European Community, the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the former European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) (first pillar);
- the pillar devoted to the common foreign and security policy, which comes under Title V of the EU Treaty (second pillar);



- the pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which comes under Title VI of the EU Treaty (third pillar).

The Treaty of Amsterdam transferred some of the fields covered by the third pillar to the first pillar (free movement of persons). The three pillars function on the basis of different decision-making procedures: the Community procedure for the first pillar, and the intergovernmental procedure for the other two. In the case of the first pillar, only the Commission can submit proposals to the Council and Parliament, and a qualified majority is sufficient for a Council Act to be adopted. In the case of the second and third pillars, this right of initiative is shared between the Commission and the Member States, and unanimity in the Council is generally necessary,”

[http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/eu\\_pillars\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/eu_pillars_en.htm). The EU Reform Treaty, which is currently being negotiated, will recast this system. It will give the EU a single legal personality, create a permanent presidency of the Council of the European Union for a two-and-a-half years term in place of the current rotating Presidency, and create the post of a High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, which will replace the two existing positions of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.”

(vii) European Union, “The Schengen area and cooperation,”  
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l33020.htm>.

(viii) See for example: EU-Western Balkans Summit, Thessaloniki Declaration,  
<http://www.stabilitypact.org/reg-conf/030621-thessaloniki/declaration.asp>; European Commission, “The Thessaloniki agenda for the Western Balkans,”  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/enlargement\\_process/accession\\_process/how\\_does\\_a\\_country\\_join\\_the\\_eu/sap/thessaloniki\\_agenda\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/enlargement_process/accession_process/how_does_a_country_join_the_eu/sap/thessaloniki_agenda_en.htm).

(ix) European Commission, “Intercultural Dialogue,”  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/dialogue\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/dialogue_en.html);  
<http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/>.

(x) “The *acquis* is the body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all the Member States of the European Union. It is constantly evolving and comprises:

- the content, principles and political objectives of the Treaties;
- legislation adopted pursuant to the Treaties and the case law of the Court of Justice;
- declarations and resolutions adopted by the Union;
- instruments under the Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- instruments under Justice and Home Affairs;
- international agreements concluded by the Community and those entered into by the Member States among themselves within the sphere of the Union’s activities,” [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/glossary/terms/acquis\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/glossary/terms/acquis_en.htm). For information on enlargement, candidate and potential candidate countries and

negotiations with Croatia and Turkey, see: European Commission, "Enlargement," [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm).

(xi) European Commission, "The Trans-European Transport Networks 'TEN-T'," [http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm).

(xii) The Order of Business is available at: [http://www.assembly.coe.int/Sessions/2007/Agenda/ECALSES2007\\_4.PDF](http://www.assembly.coe.int/Sessions/2007/Agenda/ECALSES2007_4.PDF).

(xiii) There are 10 committees dealing with substantive matters: the Political Affairs Committee; the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights; the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development; the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee; the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography; the Committee on Culture, Science and Education; the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs; the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men; the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities; and the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe.

(xiv) A political group is the equivalent of a parliamentary party or caucus. There are five political groups in PACE: the Socialist Group (SOC), the Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD), the European Democratic Group (EDG), the Liberal, Democratic and Reformers Group (ALDE), and the Group of the Unified European Left (UEL).

(xv) Regular Assembly debates focus on a draft resolution (a decision or statement by the Assembly) and/or recommendation (a proposal addressed to the Committee of Ministers), as well as an explanatory memorandum, which are prepared by a rapporteur for the relevant standing committee. The committee adopts – and usually amends – the resolution prior to the Assembly debate. Assembly debates open with a statement from the rapporteur(s), followed by statements from representatives of the five political groups, after which the debate is opened to other speakers. Speakers have to register in advance. Speakers unable to participate in the debate due to time constraints can submit their intervention in writing, so it becomes part of the official record.

"*Recommendations* contain proposals addressed to the Committee of Ministers, the implementation of which is within the competence of governments." "*Resolutions* embody decisions by the Assembly on questions, which it is empowered to put into effect or expressions of view, for which it alone is responsible,"

[http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/DocumentGuide\\_E.asp](http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/DocumentGuide_E.asp).

(xvi) "The Assembly may hold only one current affairs debate in the course of a Part-Session on a subject matter which is not on its Agenda and for which the Assembly has not decided on urgent procedure." (*Rules of Procedure of the Assembly*, Rule 52.1.)

(xvii) "Presence of the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament at the Council of Europe" (Doc. 11412), Written declaration No. 402, 3 October 2007, <http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc07/EDOC11412.htm>.

(xviii) "Iran parliament president cancels Council of Europe visit," *European Jewish Press*, 4 October 2007, <http://www.ejpress.org/article/20558>; "Iranian parliament

speaker cancels speech to Council of Europe,” *International Herald Tribune*,  
<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/04/europe/EU-GEN- Council-of-Europe-Iran.php>.

(xix) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirty-Fifth Sitting, Thursday 4 October 2007 at 3 p.m.,  
<http://www.assembly.coe.int/Documents/Records/2007/E/0710041500E.htm>.

(xx) Resolution 1125 (1997) on the request by the Canadian Parliament for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly,  
<http://assembly.coe.int/documents/adoptedtext/ta97/eres1125.htm>.

(xxi) The report on the OECD and the World Economy is available at:  
<http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc07/EDOC11357.htm> (emphasis added).

(xxii) Of the OECD countries that are not members of the Council of Europe, these are the four that send delegations to the enlarged debate on a regular basis, although the delegation from South Korea did not attend this session. Legislators from the United States do not normally attend.

(xxiii) The resolution adopted by the Enlarged Assembly is available at:  
<http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/ERES1574.htm>.

(xxiv) This description is taken from a summary of a speech given in February 2007 on “Benefits that Member Countries can Draw from the OECD, in Particular on the Political Economy of Reform,”  
[http://www.oecd.org/LongAbstract/0,3425,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_38151961\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/LongAbstract/0,3425,en_2649_201185_38151961_1_1_1_1,00.html).

(xxv) Chair’s summary of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level, Paris, 15-16 May 2007 – Innovation: Advancing the OECD Agenda for Growth and Equity,  
[http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_38379933\\_38604566\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_21571361_38379933_38604566_1_1_1_1,00.html).

(xxvi) “Heiligendamm Process,”  
[http://www.g-8.de/Content/EN/Artikel/\\_\\_\\_g8-summit/2007-06-08-heiligendamm-prozess\\_\\_en.html](http://www.g-8.de/Content/EN/Artikel/___g8-summit/2007-06-08-heiligendamm-prozess__en.html).

(xxvii) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirty-Third Sitting, Wednesday, 3 October 2007 at 3 p.m.

(xxviii) Available at:  
<http://www.assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta07/ERES1570.htm>.

(xxix) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirtieth Sitting, Tuesday 2 October 2007 at 10 a.m.

(xxx) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirty-Third Sitting, Wednesday, 3 October 2007 at 3 p.m.

(xxxi) Ibid.

(xxxii) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirty-Fourth Sitting, Thursday 4 October 2007 at 10 a.m.

(xxxiii) Report, 2007 Ordinary Session (Fourth part), Thirty-Fifth Sitting, Thursday 4 October 2007 at 3 p.m., ADDENDUM.

(xxxiv) Ibid.

(xxxv) Council of Europe website: [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/About\\_COE/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/About_COE/). For a detailed discussion of the Council's history and role, see The Council of Europe, 800 million Europeans, available on that website.

(xxxvi) For a complete list of the Council of Europe's treaties, see:  
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ListeTraites.asp?CM=8&CL=ENG>.

(xxxvii) "The Assembly in brief,"  
<http://assembly.coe.int/Communication/Brochure/Bro01-e.pdf>.

(xxxviii) Canadian officials from several federal government departments and agencies and from one provincial government participate in more than 20 meetings annually of committees, expert groups, and steering committees of the Council of Europe. Canadian parliamentarians attend all four parts of the annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as parliamentary committee meetings at the EBRD in London and the OECD in Paris.

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Parliamentary Mission to the Country that will next hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Fourth Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Ljubljana, Slovenia and Strasbourg, France
<b>DATES</b>	September 27 to October 5, 2007
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	Hon. Lorna Milne, Senator Hon. Yoine Goldstein, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Scott Simms, M.P. Mr. Brian Storseth, M.P. Mr. David Tilson, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Philippe Méla, Association Secretary Dr. Marcus Pistor, Advisor
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$ 45,557.01</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$ 14,214.97</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 1,214.16</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$ 3,691.88</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ 336.27</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$ 643.87</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 65,658.16</b>