

Canada - Europe
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire
Canada - Europe

**Report of the
Canadian Parliamentary Delegation of the
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association to the
Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)**

to the

**Meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and
Development at the OECD
Paris, France
June 23, 2006**

and

**Third Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg, France
June 26 to 30, 2006**

A delegation of three parliamentarians from the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association travelled to Paris, France, to participate in the annual meeting of the PACE Committee on Economic Affairs and Development at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held on June 23, 2006.

A delegation of five parliamentarians from the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association also 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.

Report

I

Meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development at the OECD Paris, France June 23, 2006

A delegation of three parliamentarians from the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association travelled to Paris, France, to participate in the annual meeting of the PACE Committee on Economic Affairs and Development at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The delegation was led by Association vice-president Francine Lalonde, M.P., and included from the Senate the Hon. George Baker and from the House of Commons Mr. Gerald Keddy. They were accompanied by association secretary Philippe Méla and advisor Marcus Pistor.

The purpose of the Committee's meeting in Paris was to provide parliamentarians with an overview of the OECD and the state of the world economy in preparation for the enlarged PACE debate, which will be held during the fourth part of the Assembly's annual session in early October. This debate is unusual in that it allows delegations from non-member OECD countries, such as Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the Republic of Korea, ⁽¹⁾ 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.

Briefing by Canadian officials

Meetings at the OECD were preceded by a briefing by two representatives from the Permanent Canadian Delegation to the OECD: David Chatterson, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative, and Angela Nembavakis, First Secretary. The briefing covered a wide range of topics. It began with an examination of the current state of the OECD, which is faced with several challenges. The most important of these is that, with 23 of its 30 member countries being European and with a number of other European countries – particularly those that recently joined the European Union – having expressed an interest in joining, there are concerns that the OECD is too Eurocentric at a time when countries in other regions – notably China, India, Brazil and Russia – are becoming increasingly important, both politically and economically. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that some of the emerging powers are also playing a growing role in areas traditionally dominated by OECD members, such as development assistance. As a result, OECD enlargement, cooperation with key non-member countries, as well as internal governance issues have been central to discussions

among member countries in recent years, including at the May 2006 meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level.

A related challenge is the relationship between the OECD and other international organization, in particular the international financial institutions (IFIs), which has been characterised by competition in some of the core areas of OECD activity, including macro-economic analysis. Angel Gurría (Mexico) who took over as Secretary-General of the OECD in June 2006, has made improving co-operation between the OECD and other international organization one of his priorities, to avoid duplication and to strengthen the organization's role in areas where it can make the greatest contribution.

Committee meeting with OECD officials on the OECD and the world economy

Presentations by OECD experts and subsequent discussions with Committee members focused on a report and draft resolution prepared in advance by Mr. Ignacio Cosidó (Spain), who serves this year as its rapporteur for the OECD debate. His report examines prospects for the world economy, the situation in key economies, and key challenges facing the global economy such as energy, financial stability, trade liberalisation, the effectiveness of international development assistance, and corruption. Detailed information on the topics addressed by the presenters and in the discussion that followed each presentation is available on the OECD Web site: www.oecd.org

Program

09:30	Welcome by Chairs	<i>Antigone Pericleous Papadopoulos</i> , Vice-Chair of the PACE Committee on Economic Affairs and Development
		<i>Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir</i> , Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
09:40	The World Economic Situation ⁽²⁾	<i>Robert Price</i> , Head of Monetary and Fiscal Policy Division, OECD Economics Department (ECO) <i>Fatih Birol</i> , Chief Economist, International Energy Agency (IEA)
10:30	The role of financial instruments and markets in managing risk ⁽³⁾	<i>Sebastian Schich</i> , Principle Economist, Financial Affairs Division, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF)
11:15	OECD outreach, particularly major	<i>Jan Schuijjer</i> , Counsellor, OECD Centre for Co-operation with

	emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China) ⁽⁴⁾	Non-Members (CCNM)
11:4 5	Development and the global geopolitical situation ⁽⁵⁾	<i>Alexandra Trzeciak-Duval</i> , Head of the Policy Co-ordination Division, OECD Development Directorate (DCD)
12:1 5	Prospects for success in the Doha Development Agenda ⁽⁶⁾	<i>Jean-Marie Metzger</i> , Director of the OECD Trade Directorate (ECH) <i>Anthony Kleitz</i> , Acting Deputy Director, OECD Trade Directorate (ECH)
13:0 0	Working Lunch	Hosted by OECD Deputy Secretary- General <i>Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir</i>

Summary of Canadian interventions and responses by OECD officials

Following the presentations by Robert Price, Head of Monetary and Fiscal Policy Division, OECD Economics Department (ECO), and Fatih Birol, Chief Economist, International Energy Agency (IEA), Mr. Keddy asked about the use of bio-fuels in OECD countries. Mr. Birol noted that, while these fuels require government assistance at least in terms of research and development costs, at oil prices of \$50 a barrel, they are a viable alternative in the transport sector. Increasing reliance on bio-fuels can help slow down the growth of demand for oil.

Pointing to the consequences of higher oil consumption for the environment, in particular with regard to climate change, Mme. Lalonde asked whether the OECD and / or the IEA are evaluating the economic consequences of global warming. Mr. Birol agreed with her concern about global warming and stated that increasing oil consumption could lead to a 50% rise in carbon dioxide emissions resulting in severe climate change effects. Action is therefore needed both to implement the Kyoto Protocol and to take additional steps such as including India and China in the development of a global response to climate change. He also emphasized the importance of technology transfer to developing countries and the need to develop alternative energy sources (renewable energy and nuclear power). Mr. Birol pointed out that the cost of fully implementing the Kyoto Protocol is estimated to be no greater than 0.5% of GDP growth. To him, this suggests a lack of international political will rather than concerns about economic costs as the main obstacle to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

In the discussion on prospects for success in the Doha Development Agenda, which followed the presentation by Jean-Marie Metzger, Director of the OECD Trade Directorate (ECH), Mr. Keddy raised the issue of non-tariff barriers and the Canadian supply-management system for some agriculture products. He asked whether the OECD had looked at allowing agriculture subsidies to support self-sufficiency while not allowing export subsidies to be used to facilitate exports of goods produced under such a domestic subsidy regime. In his response, Mr. Metzger agreed that non-tariff barriers are very important and argued that the real question is whether subsidies are actually intended to distort trade or not. The OECD's position on this issue is that production management does distort trade, but that one can differentiate between different types of subsidies. However, self-sufficiency should not be used to completely exclude foreign products from domestic markets. He also noted that the issue of self-sufficiency is the subject of much debate among OECD member countries.

II

Third part of the 2006 ordinary session of the parliamentary assembly of the council of Europe Strasbourg, France, 26-30 June 2006

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 House of Commons Ms. Francine Lalonde, Mr. Gerald Keddy, Mr. Patrick Brown, and Mr. Scott Simms. The delegation was accompanied by association secretary Philippe Méla and advisor Marcus Pistor, and was joined in Strasbourg by Alain Hausser, Deputy Permanent Observer of Canada to the Council of Europe, and his colleague, Jarrett Reckseidler, Political Attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Belgium.

Overview

The summer session featured a full order of business ⁽⁷⁾ with a wide range of topics being debated in committees ⁽⁸⁾ political groups ⁽⁹⁾ and in the Assembly ⁽¹⁰⁾ The Assembly held regular debates on the following topics:

- Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee;
- Observation of the Referendum on the State Status in the Republic of Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro) (21 May 2006);
- Implementation of Resolution 1480 (2006) on the challenge of credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan;
- External relations of the Council of Europe;
- Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states;
- The contribution of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to economic development in central and eastern Europe;
- Human rights of irregular migrants;
- Freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs;
- Follow-up to the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of member states of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005), including:
 - Implementation of the decisions of the Third Summit;
 - Migration, refugees and population in the context of the Third Summit; and
 - Priority for cultural co-operation.

- Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women;
- Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer states which have not abolished the death penalty;
- Progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (May 2005-June 2006);
- Preventing forest fires; and
- Academic freedom and university autonomy.

The Assembly convened two debates under urgent procedure, the first on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the second on consequences of the referendum in Montenegro. Finally, the Assembly heard from several political leaders and senior officials:

- Mr. René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Mr. Franco Frattini, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security;
- Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- Mr. Jean Lemierre, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD);
- Mrs. Nouzha Chekrouni, Minister-Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Morocco in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad;
- Mr. Sergey Mironov, President of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;
- Mrs. Yakin Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women;
- Mr. Alexander Grushko, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, representing the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

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

Meeting of the committee on the environment, agriculture and local and regional affairs – draft recommendation on seal hunting (discussion and vote)

In April 2004, the PACE Bureau referred a motion for recommendation on “Seal Hunting” to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs. In October 2004, it held a hearing involving Canadian and Norwegian seal hunt experts, as well as NGOs, and it appointed Mr. Nessa (Italy, Group of the European People's Party) as rapporteur. One year later, in October 2005, Mr. Nessa's first draft report and the response from the Canadian delegation (which included as an annex the Report of the Independent Veterinarians' Working Group on the Canadian Harp Seal Hunt) were discussed by the Committee. A revised report was submitted by the rapporteur in February, and the Canadian delegation submitted a detailed response in

April. These two documents were discussed at a Committee meeting in Paris on May 12th, which was attended by three Canadian parliamentarians as well as representatives of two non-governmental organizations involved in the campaign to end the seal hunt – the Brussels office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Italian Lega Anti Vivisezione (LAV).

On 9 June, the Committee met again in Paris to discuss a newly revised report and a preliminary draft recommendation. Two Canadian delegates participated in that discussion and suggested revisions which were subsequently submitted to the Committee secretariat in writing. The secretariat then revised the preliminary draft recommendation in consultation with the rapporteur. The Committee discussed and adopted this text with one amendment during this PACE session. While initial plans foresaw a full assembly debate on the draft recommendation during the fall session in October 2006, the PACE Bureau decided in early September to send it to the Standing Committee instead. (This committee “consists of the Bureau, the Chairpersons of national delegations and the Chairpersons of the general committees.”(11) The Standing Committee acts on behalf of the Assembly when the latter is not in session. It does not normally meet in public, and observers do not participate in its meetings.) The Standing Committee is expected to consider and vote on the draft recommendation at its meeting in San Marino in November 2006.

The draft recommendation (12) that was adopted is somewhat more balanced than previous reports and a notable improvement over the motion for recommendation presented to the Assembly in 2004. It endorses the recommendations of the Independent Veterinarians’ Working Group on the Canadian Harp Seal Hunt and notes the Canadian government’s efforts to strengthen regulations and enforcement as well as the fact that the “management objectives for seal hunting announced by the Canadian government are to ensure species conservation, long-term sustainable exploitation, humane hunting methods and the maximum possible use of the seals killed.” However, our delegation has two serious concerns about the text adopted: first, the recommendation calls for a complete ban on the use of hakapiks and clubs, at least in the commercial seal hunt; second, it “call[s] on member and observer states to inform consumers and encourage information campaigns by non-governmental organizations on seal-derived products, their origin and the hunting methods used, in order to enable them to make a fully-informed choice taking account of the ethical aspects of respect for animal life.” The original paragraph welcoming efforts in several European countries to legislate or implement a complete ban on the import of seal products now “notes” such efforts.

In preparation for the committee meeting, Senator Milne and Mr. Simms met with PACE President René van der Linden to discuss whether the recommendation would be sent to the Assembly or to the PACE Standing Committee for debate and a vote. Several delegates also spoke with Mr. Schmied, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, about the content of the draft recommendation and about the ability of observers to propose changes to the text prior to its adoption by the Committee. Finally, delegates and staff discussed the draft recommendation with key PACE members and staff of several national delegations in an effort to inform them about Canada’s position on the seal hunt and our concerns

about the draft recommendation and to alert them to the possible implications for their respective countries.

Other Canadian activities during the session

Canadian delegates participated actively in meetings of committees – Political Affairs; Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs; and Economic Affairs and Development – and political groups. The delegation met with Alain Hausser, Canada's Deputy Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe, and his colleague, Jarrett Reckseidler. It also held its regular meeting with the Mexican observer delegation. At a meeting of the PACE Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, Senator Milne extended an invitation from the Québec National Assembly to the Committee to hold a regular meeting in Québec in October 2006. Finally, Canadian delegates used the opportunity to meet with delegates from other countries and Council of Europe staff to discuss a range of issues of common interest.

Canadian delegates made interventions in four Assembly debates and submitted the text of one intervention in writing to a debate where the speakers' list was cut short due to time constraints.

Speaking in the debate on "External relations of the Council of Europe," Mme. Lalonde emphasized the importance of the Parliamentary Assembly as a "true parliament of parliamentarians" whose work stands out among international and inter-parliamentary assemblies, not only in terms of the breadth of subject areas addressed in reports, inquiries and debates, but because the Assembly and its members are not afraid to deal with difficult or controversial issues: "the principle strength you exercise in the world today is your ability" to say things as they are, "to be a beacon of light." Mme. Lalonde ended her intervention by commenting on the proposals contained in the report for an expanded role for observers in the Council of Europe and its Assembly. She argued that, while it is at times frustrating to be limited to that role, observers to PACE have many opportunities to participate actively in the work of the Assembly and its committees and political groups. It is not therefore necessary to change the status quo.

(13)

Senator Milne intervened in the debate on "The contribution of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to economic development in central and eastern Europe." Her intervention focused on the difficult task of effectively fulfilling the Bank's mandate "to promote, in the full range of its activities, environmentally sound and sustainable development." She argued that its "decision on whether and how to support the revised [Sakhalin II energy] project will have a significant impact on the Bank's legitimacy as an organisation committed to the environment and sustainable development." Senator Milne also pointed to other major environmental challenges in the EBRD's countries of operation, for example "with regard to the effects of their highly inefficient use of energy," a challenge recognized and addressed by the Bank. Given the importance of this and other environmental issues, Senator Milne suggested that "a future report on the EBRD's contribution to economic development in central and eastern Europe could focus on sustainable development and draw on the considerable

expertise of the Assembly's Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs.”⁽¹⁴⁾

In his written submission to the debate on “Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women,” Mr. Brown noted that this is “one of the most challenging and complex issues facing both European and Canadian societies.” Pointing to the profound effects of domestic violence on the lives of the victims as well as the significant costs resulting to a country's economy, healthcare system, social services, and the criminal justice system, he explained the Government of Canada's approach to combating domestic violence. This includes legal reform (specifically imposing mandatory minimum sentences and ending conditional sentencing “for the most dangerous criminals including domestic abusers”), public and professional education, research and support for programs and services. Finally, Mr. Brown argued that “combating domestic violence also means supporting the traditional family union and working to strengthen the institution of marriage.”⁽¹⁵⁾

Mme. Lalonde intervened in the debate under urgent procedure on the consequences of the referendum in Montenegro. She congratulated Montenegrins on having achieved independence and emphasized that “the conduct of the referendum, the report of the [PACE] rapporteur and the observation of the vote by the Council of Europe once again highlighted the extraordinary importance of the Council of Europe” and that its “knowledge, expertise, wisdom, and good judgement served to reassure the parties and the communities.” Noting that in the 1995 referendum in Québec those supporting sovereignty had lost by a very narrow margin (54,000 votes) and that 94% of those eligible had participated in the referendum, Mme. Lalonde told the Assembly that the pressure exerted by the European Union on Serbia and Montenegro to establish a 55% threshold had had great resonance in Québec and in Canada: “In Québec, whether it is the federalists or the sovereignists, everyone said that the threshold could not be anything but 50% plus one vote.” She concluded her intervention by expressing her hope that “in a few years, when we will need your monitoring, your wisdom and your experience,” this principle of 50% plus one would still be the same, as called for by the rapporteur.⁽¹⁶⁾

Mr. Keddy began his intervention in the debate on “Preventing forest fires” by commenting on the previous day's meeting of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, which had adopted a Draft Recommendation on Seal Hunting (see above): “We have a huge vested interest in seal hunting and we are the major participants in the world. We wanted to hear the debate; we were not as pleased as we might have been with the outcome of the discussion but we thank you again for being able to participate in it.” With regard to the issue of fighting forest fires, he pointed to Canada's experience of using “a highly mechanised and co-operative approach to fighting fires across the country” and warned the Assembly “against believing that you can simply pass laws nationally that would have an effect locally without a buy-in. You have to start at the local level, work up to a regional response and, if crossing provincial boundaries and international borders, take a national approach.” Noting the links between climate change and forest fires, Mr. Keddy concluded his intervention by calling for closer co-operation and “a serious multilateral approach” to addressing climate change and its effects.⁽¹⁷⁾

The complete texts of the Canadian interventions are available at:
<http://assembly.coe.int/>

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Lorna Milne, Senator
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

III

Background: the council of Europe

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 seek solutions to problems facing European society (discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance, environmental protection, human cloning, AIDS, drugs, organised crime, etc.); and

to help consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform. ⁽¹⁸⁾

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe has now reached a membership of 46 countries from the Azores to Azerbaijan, and from Iceland to Cyprus. The Council's main objective is to promote 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 over 190 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. 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 315 members and 315 substitutes, who are elected or appointed by the national parliaments of the 46 Council of Europe member states from among their members. 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. Council and Assembly decisions and debates are often reported widely in the European media. ⁽¹⁹⁾

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 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (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).⁽²⁰⁾

End notes

- (1) 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. Legislators from the United States do not normally attend.
- (2) The most recent OECD Economic Outlook (May 2006) is available on the OECD Web site at: <http://www.oecd.org>. Up-to-date information and analysis is available on the Web site of the OECD Economics Department at: www.oecd.org/eco. Information about international energy markets and prices is available on the Web site of the International Energy Agency (IEA) at: <http://www.iea.org/>.
- (3) Information covered in this session is available on the Web site of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs at: www.oecd.org/daf.
- (4) Information about the OECD's outreach and enlargement strategy is available on the Web site of the OECD Centre for Co operation with Non-Members at: <http://www.oecd.org/ccnm>
- (5) Information on this topic is available on the Web site of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DAC) at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac>.
- (6) Information about this topic is available on the Web site of the OECD Trade Directorate at: www.oecd.org/ech. See, for example, "Doha: the low hanging fruit," 21 August 2006, http://www.oecd.org/document/4/0,2340,en_2649_33705_37295108_1_1_1_1,00.html.
- (7) The Order of Business is available at: http://assembly.coe.int/Sessions/2006/Agenda/ECALSES2006_3.PDF.
- (8) 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.

- (9) 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 Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), and the Group of the Unified European Left (UEL).
- (10) 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.
- (11) http://assembly.coe.int/committee/SC/Role_E.htm.
- (12) The draft recommendation – available at:
<http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc06/EDOC11008.htm>.
- (13) 2006 Ordinary Session (Third part), Report, Sixteenth Sitting, Monday 26 June 2006 at 3 p.m.,
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2006/E/0606261500E.htm>
- (14) 2006 Ordinary Session (Third part), Report, Eighteenth sitting, Tuesday 27 June 2006 at 3 p.m.,
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2006/E/0606271500E.htm>
- (15) 2006 Ordinary Session (Third part), Report, Twentieth Sitting, Wednesday 28 June 2006 at 3 p.m., ADDENDUM 2,
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2006/E/0606281500EAD2.htm>

- (16) 2006 Ordinary Session (Third part), Report, Twenty-second Sitting, Thursday 29 June 2006 at 3 p.m.,
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2006/E/0606291500E.htm>
- (17) 2006 Ordinary Session (Third part), Report, Twenty-third sitting, Friday 30 June 2006 at 10 a.m.,
<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2006/E/0606301000E.htm>
- (18) Council of Europe Web site, 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 Web site.
- (19) "The Assembly in brief," <http://assembly.coe.int/Communication/Brochure/Bro01-e.pdf>.
- (20) 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

NAME OF ASSOCIATION	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	Meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development at the OECD and the Third Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
DESTINATION	Paris and Strasbourg, France
DATES	June 23 and June 26 to 30, 2006
NAMES OF SENATORS	Hon. George Baker
NAMES OF MEMBERS	Ms. Francine Lalonde Mr. Gerald Keddy
NAMES OF STAFF	Mr. Philippe Méla Dr. Marcus Pistor
TRANSPORTATION	AIR \$ 34,166.85 GROUND \$ 1,685.17
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 4,396.84
HOSPITALITY	\$ 0
PER DIEMS	\$ 6,664.94
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 0
MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 28.50
TOTAL	\$ 46,942.30