

Canadian NATO
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire
canadienne de l'OTAN

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Meetings of the Standing Committee and the
Secretaries of Delegation**

Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)

**The Hague, Netherlands
March 28-30, 2008**

Report

The Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association has the honour to present its report on the Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Secretaries of Delegation, March 28 - 30, 2008. Canada was represented by Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P., Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, Senator Jane Cordy and Ms. Jodi Turner, Association Secretary.

SECRETARIES OF DELEGATION MEETING

The Secretaries of Delegation met on Friday, March 28, 2008 and the meeting was chaired by Mr. Leo Van Waasbergen, Secretary of the Netherlands Delegation. Topics discussed were as follows:

- Overview of the programme of the meetings in The Hague
- Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the Standing Committee meeting
- Discussion regarding preparation of the Spring Session in Berlin, Germany, from 23 to 27 May 2008
 - Draft Programme
 - Programme for Accompanying Persons
 - General Information
- Discussion regarding preparation of the 54th Annual Session in Valencia, Spain from 14 to 18 November 2008
 - Draft Programme
- Discussion regarding preparation of future sessions and meetings
 - Standing Committee meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, 3-5 April 2009
 - Spring Session in Oslo, Norway, 22-26 May 2009
 - Annual Session in the United Kingdom, 13-17 November 2009
 - Meetings in 2010 and 2011
- Discussion regarding the liaison between Delegations and the International Secretariat
- Any other business

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Standing Committee met on Saturday, March 29, 2008 and the meeting was chaired by Mr. José Lello (Portugal), President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. Bert Koenders, former President of the Assembly and now Minister for development Cooperation in the Netherlands opened the proceedings with a presentation. He spoke of the connection between development and security and underlined the imperative to assist fragile states that are the least likely to achieve the millennium development goals. He warned that where development and rule of law fails, the seeds of conflict and extremism are sown. Mr. Koenders focused on Afghanistan and the need for an approach based on diplomacy, defence and development.

Major Decisions Taken By the Standing Committee in Vilnius

Relations with the Russia Delegation:

- There was a general agreement to limit the Russian delegation to ten seats as currently agreed to.

Status of Non-Members

- It was generally agreed that the issue of the status of the Mediterranean Associates be directed to the Working Group on Assembly Reform which would then discuss and come back to the Standing Committee with recommendations.

Incorporation of New Members

- The process used for incorporating new members in the previous rounds of enlargement was discussed. In practical terms, this means inviting the new members to attend the Standing Committee meeting as observers once they have signed the accession documents. The Standing Committee will then decide on the number of seats to be allocated to the new members. There was a general agreement that this process be used in the event that new members are allowed to join the Alliance at the Bucharest summit.

The Assembly's Contribution to a New Strategic Concept

- The President began by noting that NATO's new Strategic Concept was not likely to be introduced at the 2009 summit. Instead, there would likely be an Atlantic charter, or statement of shared values and beliefs upon which the Alliance was founded, with a new Strategic Concept to follow in 2010. He emphasized that the Assembly could contribute to both documents.

The Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum:

- The Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum has become increasingly successful, so much so that it is becoming difficult to accommodate all of those who want to ask questions of the presenters. It was suggested that the Standing Committee consider some way of limiting participation. There was a general agreement that this issue, as well as the more general point of encouraging serious participation, be turned over to the Assembly Working Group on Reform.

Key Points in Assembly President's Address at Bucharest Summit

- The President outlined his proposed speech at the Bucharest Summit. It would have three themes: the importance of living up to our commitments as an

Alliance in Afghanistan, the enlargement of the Alliance and the need for a new Strategic Concept.

The Assembly's Consideration of Security and Gender

- It was noted that the Assembly had unofficial side events at the past two sessions focusing on women and security. Leon Benoit said the Canadian delegation would be willing to fund the side event on women and security in Berlin at the Spring Session. Mr. Lupoi said the Romanian delegation would fund the side event at the Annual Session in Valencia.

The Assembly's International Legal Status

- The Standing Committee adopted the plan for improving the legal status of the Assembly.

Goals, Priorities and Resources: Activities and Subjects in 2008 and Perspectives on 2009

- The committee reviewed activities in 2008 and 2009 and emphasized several issues that needed consideration and attention including the possibility of an election monitoring mission in Georgia, changes from planned Subcommittee visits agreed to at the previous Standing Committee meeting, and the proposed parliamentary forum in Pakistan.

Finances

- The Treasurer reviewed the Assembly's finances and the committee adopted a series of financial statements and documents.

Future Sessions and Meetings

- The meeting concluded with a discussion of future sessions and meetings,

Many other matters were discussed during the meeting, and where certain decisions could not be taken, the matters were deferred to the next round of deliberation at the forthcoming Standing Committee meeting in Berlin.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P.
Chair
Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)
ACTIVITY	Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Secretaries of Delegation
DESTINATION	The Hague, Netherlands
DATES	March 28-30, 2008
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Senator Pierre Claude Nolin and Senator Jane Cordy
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P.
STAFF	Ms. Jodi Turner, Association Secretary
TRANSPORTATION	\$12,509.29
ACCOMMODATION	\$3,251.44
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$2,446.26
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$0.00
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$18,206.99