



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Winter Meeting

Report

Vienna
21-22 February 2002

Standing Committee Meeting

The Standing Committee OSCE PA met in Vienna on 21 February 2002, prior to the first Winter Meeting of the Assembly.

Standing Committee delegates were addressed by the Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Dr. Heinz Fischer as well as by OSCE PA President Adrian Severin, who reported on the Assembly's activities since the last Standing Committee Meeting in Portugal and on his visits to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, FYROM, Bulgaria and Norway. The President emphasized the importance of the upcoming Conference on Terrorism to be held in St. Petersburg by the CIS at the end of March 2002. OSCE PA Treasurer Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada) told Delegates that he was pleased to report that the International Secretariat was run extremely efficiently and within the allocated annual budget during the last fiscal year. The external KPMG auditors used by the Assembly had found the OSCE PA finances to be in good order.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported on the preparations for the next Annual Session to be held in Berlin next July, as well as on the ongoing efforts to establish a Vienna sub-office of the International Secretariat to strengthen communication between the Parliamentary and Governmental dimensions of the OSCE. Mr. Oliver's report gave an overview of the main activities of the Assembly since the 10th Annual Session in Paris, including the particular work of International Secretariat officials.

The Standing Committee heard presentations by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, Congressman Steny Hoyer (United States) and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus, Mrs. Uta Zapf, MP (Germany). Mr. Hoyer outlined the work already carried out by the Committee during recent meetings in Bucharest and Washington as well as the upcoming retreat in Salzburg with selected representatives from the governmental side of the OSCE. Mr. Hoyer emphasized the importance of Assembly recommendations being properly considered by OSCE Governmental representatives as well as the need for more transparency in the OSCE decision-making process. Mrs. Zapf reported on the recent visit to Minsk by the Ad Hoc Committee on Belarus and on the current situation and developments in the country.

Vice-President Bruce George offered, on behalf of the United Kingdom Delegation, to host the Annual Session in 2004 in Edinburgh. The Committee decided to accept the United Kingdom's offer.

The Standing Committee approved three changes to the Rules of Procedure. One related to providing a procedure for compromise supplementary items, in cases when more than one supplementary item is presented on the same issue. The other two amendments clarify procedures with regard to tabling amendments.



Joint Session of the Three General Committees



Opening remarks and address by the President of the OSCE PA Mr. Adrian Severin

President Severin welcomed participants to the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, expressing his hope that this first Winter Meeting would increase the level of contact between participants and provide greater continuity in the work of the Assembly. He also noted the opportunity to follow up on decisions and recommendations from the previous Annual Sessions.

He thanked the President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Thomas Klestil, for attending the Joint Session and the Austrian Parliament for its kind assistance in the preparation of the event.

President Severin stressed that the principal objectives of the winter meetings were: to allow increased interaction with the governmental side of the OSCE, to follow-up the Assembly's decisions taken during the Annual Sessions and to present and debate outlines of the reports, which will be put forward for adoption at the July Session.

Mr. Severin also pointed out that the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE had significantly developed its structure and activities since its creation, and that this was an ongoing process. He said that there were still many ideas to develop in the near future. Implementing these initiatives would require a reinforcement of the International Secretariat's human resources, a reassessment of the budgetary policies and an increase in the number of parliamentarians taking part in the Assembly's activities. He encouraged parliamentarians to discuss these issues during their debates.

On the topic of terrorism President Severin argued that the fight against terrorism *"should not in any way undermine the basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms that form precisely the foundation of our civilization."* In this context he drew attention to the concept of "multicultural security". *"We, the OSCE parliamentarians could contribute to the fight against terrorism not only by adopting the necessary legislation, but also by networking across various cultures and by promoting inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue through inter-parliamentary dialogue."*

Address by the President of the Austrian Republic Dr. Thomas Klestil

President Klestil opened his speech by commenting that the OSCE PA has progressively obtained greater and greater significance. *"I see the holding of the First Winter Meeting in the premises of the OSCE as a further step towards strengthening the parliamentary dimension of OSCE activities"*. Dr. Klestil stressed the vital role of parliamentarians in forming dialogue within civil society. He also addressed the topic of terrorism, stressing that fighting terrorism should not be allowed to undermine human rights and democratic principles. Dr. Klestil concluded by remarking that the expansion of OSCE activities required a strengthening of the Organization as an institution. One central aspect of this strengthening would be to grant the OSCE legal status, providing the OSCE with the same level of standing as other international organizations.

Address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Mr. Jaime Gama

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama began his address by announcing that the Portuguese Chairmanship had decided to set the fight against terrorism as a priority. He made it clear that the OSCE had a role to play in this fight and pointed out that one of the main goals of the Organization at the moment was to make good use of the instruments for fighting terrorism including the Bucharest Plan of Action and the Bishkek Programme of Action. In this context he told delegates that he had appointed former Danish Defence Minister Jan Trøjborg as Personal Representative of the CiO for Preventing and Combating Terrorism.

Mr. Gama emphasized that it was vital that the commitments of the Organization, namely to ensure democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the OSCE region.

The CiO also commented on the need to rebalance the three dimensions of the OSCE. He reminded delegates that the Bucharest Ministerial Council meeting decided to foster the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue. The full development of this political dialogue requires an enhancement of all three OSCE main dimensions.

Mr. Gama expressed concern over the delay in approving the OSCE's 2002 budget. He said that a prolongation of this situation could severely undermine the work of the OSCE's various Institutions and Missions.

The CiO pointed out that South-Eastern Europe would continue to be a priority area for the OSCE. In Central Asia the Chairmanship's strategy would be based on

achieving a greater balance between the activities of all three dimensions of the OSCE. In this context he informed the delegates that he had appointed Ambassador Herbert Salber (Germany) as "Special Advisor" on Central Asia.

Mr. Gama added that the Portuguese Chairmanship fully endorses the objective of enhancing the role of the Parliamentary Assembly. He concluded by emphasising that he would continue to work closely with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the pursuit of common objectives.

Discussion

The discussion that followed dealt with a wide variety of issues. Concerning the OSCE budget, members of the Assembly pointed out that parliamentarians could assist the governmental side in preventing budgetary crises and that the budget adoption process should be more open to parliamentarians. One parliamentarian also stressed that it would have been prudent to consult with parliamentarians regarding mission closures. A more balanced division between the three baskets in the activities of the OSCE was urged. Some parliamentarians also stated that the OSCE should avoid concentrating its activities exclusively on the CIS region, and should strive to act in a more geographically-balanced way. In the context of the fight against terrorism, a member of the Assembly also pointed out that parliamentarians have a role to play in ratifying anti-terrorist conventions and in harmonizing anti-terrorist legislation across the OSCE. Finally, it was remarked that security measures should never undermine democratic values.



The President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Thomas Klestil (Right) and the President of the Austrian Parliament Dr. Heinz Fischer

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

The Chairman of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security (First Committee), Mr. András Bársony opened the meeting by stressing the importance of this occasion as an opportunity for parliamentarians to be introduced to the theme of the upcoming Annual Session in Berlin, the role of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism, and to hear how the Committee Rapporteur intends to approach this issue in his Report to be presented at the next First Committee Meeting during the Annual Session. Mr. Bársony also introduced two guest speakers, the Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, Ambassador João de Lima Pimentel and the Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation, Ambassador Pavel Vacek.

Ambassador João de Lima Pimentel, Chairman of the Permanent Council

Ambassador Pimentel's presentation gave a general overview of the current challenges facing the OSCE. He stressed that the OSCE was by no means paralyzed, despite current budgetary difficulties. He made it clear that the problems could present certain practical difficulties for the Organization's work, but he was convinced that the issue could be surmounted through co-operation. He stressed the fact that it was a highly political issue, and thus recommended a gradual approach to solving the current problems. Mr. Pimentel took the opportunity to remind the Assembly of the unique role the OSCE plays as a pan-European security organization.



Vice-President Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom)



However, he made it equally clear that the organization does not function in a vacuum: decisions made by the OSCE and the OSCE PA affect the rest of the world. The OSCE region is often looked upon as a model, and as such there is a corresponding responsibility to ensure that it continues to function effectively.

On the issue of fighting terrorism, the Ambassador suggested a two-level approach. Firstly, it is vital to ensure the implementation of decisions taken at the Bucharest Conference of December 2001. Secondly, he stressed that it is vital for the OSCE to work in conjunction with other organizations within the framework of the United Nations, and mentioned an upcoming meeting of Secretaries-General of relevant organizations.

Ambassador Pimentel concluded his address by commenting on the value of continued dialogue between the OSCE PA and national parliaments.

Ambassador Pavel Vacek, Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)

Ambassador Vacek began his address by stating how pleased he was to be the first Chairman of the FSC ever to address a Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He hoped that providing an overview of the FSC's work could help increase useful co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the Organization.



First Committee Vice-Chair Yiorgos Lillikas, MP (Cyprus)

Mr. Vacek described the FSC's focus on the challenge of terrorism in the wake of 11 September 2001. The FSC initiated a discussion on fighting terrorism that contributed to the Bucharest Plan of Action of December 2001. This document now sets the overall policy for the OSCE as regards the fight against terrorism.

The FSC has continued its work on confidence and security building measures, also focusing on the work to be done under the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The FSC held a SALW Workshop in early February 2002, which yielded concrete recommendations as to how to improve the implementation of the Document. Some implementation measures underway on the Document include formulation of a template for information exchange, and a best-practice handbook on increased transparency.

Ambassador Vacek explained that the FSC was also engaged in preparing a 'road map' for implementation of the Bucharest Action Plan. In conjunction with this, a seminar of experts on terrorism will be convened in May or June 2002 to assess the OSCE's work on fighting terrorism.

Mr. Theo van den Doel, Rapporteur of the First Committee

Mr. Van Den Doel's presentation gave a general outline of the central ideas that will feature in his Report to the Annual Session in Berlin, July 2002. He began by stressing the need to recognize that terrorism can strike anywhere. He stated that fighting terrorism requires a combined and concerted effort by the entire international community and that the OSCE has a key role to play.

The broad aim of the coming Report will be to produce a list of possible measures to be used to fight terrorism. Mr. Van Den Doel also stressed the need to reinforce existing legal measures for fighting terrorism.

One part of the report will outline what has already been done in other international fora in the fight against terrorism, in order to avoid any duplication of efforts. Also, an analysis of how entities such as private companies and organizations aid terrorism is considered important in order to counteract such activities.

Given the results of past conferences, Mr. Van Den Doel mentioned some of the measures to which the OSCE can contribute, including: Preventive action, institution building, strengthening legislation, fighting organized crime, improving border controls, arms control and information exchange.

Discussion

The delegates took advantage of having members from the governmental side present to discuss the voting procedures of the OSCE governmental side, in particular, secret consensus voting. A discussion followed as to the advantages and disadvantages of this voting system, and whether it can in fact lead to paralysis of the Organization. Also, there was some discussion as to the amount of follow-up that had been done on certain issues specified in previous years. There was specific discussion of the details of the coming 'road map' for implementation of the Bucharest Action Plan. Other issues raised included inter-parliamentary co-operation on the issue of women's slave trade, the possibility of declaring September 11 a Day for the Victims of Terrorism, and the need to increase overseas development aid in order to attack the root causes of terrorism.



Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, MP (Russian Federation)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment



The Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment (Second Committee), Mr. Oleg Bilorus opened the meeting of the Second Committee by stressing that security issues in general, and terrorism in particular, should be dealt with in a more concerted way. Mr. Bilorus suggested that sustainable development policies should be implemented in the OSCE region and that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should play a central role, helping countries and populations to co-operate in order to avoid dangerous deviations in policies towards security threats such as terrorism.

Terrorism is economically and financially rooted and should be fought with this in mind, stressed Mr. Bilorus. Therefore, the OSCE should develop a strategy focused on tackling the economic and environmental roots of terrorism. As part of this strategy, he suggested concrete initiatives such as supporting small and medium sized firms and enterprises, fighting corruption and money laundering as well as further developing regional co-operation on environmental issues.

Mr. Marc Baltes, Deputy Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Baltes began his presentation by stressing the need for the OSCE participating States to reinforce the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension

as a way of facing global security concerns. Mr. Baltes applauded the creation of a Sub-Committee for Economic and Environmental affairs during the Ministerial Council Meeting in Bucharest. He stressed that the formation of such a Committee is needed in order to ease communication and co-operation within the OSCE region as well as with other partners. Mr. Baltes reminded the Committee that the social aspects and the financing of terrorism were other themes addressed during the Bucharest Meeting.

Mr. Baltes continued by emphasizing other initiatives contributing to co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, such as the implementation of a programme in South-Eastern Europe as well as a joint operation together with the UNESCO and the Green Cross International.

Finally, Mr. Baltes underlined upcoming initiatives broadly aimed at achieving better understanding between neighbouring countries on economic and environmental matters. For instance, the Stability Pact in Central Asia has launched an initiative consisting of gathering the five Central Asian governments in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to discuss the themes of corruption and the relationships between States and small and medium sized firms and enterprises. On this matter, Mr. Baltes expressed the same opinion as Mr. Bilorus, insisting on the need to support the development of the private sector as a way of preventing security threats.

Ambassador Gantcho Gantchev, Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent

Mr. Gantchev explained that the OSCE Centre in Tashkent has been focusing its work on improving trans-border co-operation and Uzbekistan's economy as well as on implementing environmental legislation. However, despite the increase of economic and environmental initiatives taken by the OSCE Centre, Mr. Gantchev strongly emphasized that the OSCE should put emphasis on balancing its three main dimensions in order to effectively prevent and face security threats globally.

Mr. Gantchev also spoke in favour of intensified OSCE involvement in Central Asia, especially in building economic and environmental institutions, supporting civil society and regional projects, and in co-ordinating efforts on economic and environmental affairs.

Mrs. Barbara Haering, Rapporteur of the Second Committee

Mrs. Haering first reminded delegates of the resolutions adopted at the Annual Session in Paris dealing with Second Committee affairs. In general these were aimed at the promotion of sustainable development in order to curb the perverse effects of globalization. She underlined that one of these effects has very direct consequences on gender issues, as, in her opinion,



Mr. Giovanni Kessler, MP (Italy)



Senator Anne-Marie Lizin, (Belgium)

“women are the losers of globalization” and should therefore be more fully integrated in the decision-making process on economic and environmental concerns.

Finally, Mrs. Haering presented the general concept of her coming report to the Annual Session in Berlin. Given the theme chosen for this Annual Session, the OSCE's role in the international struggle against terrorism, she will focus her report on the economic and environmental strategies to be followed in the OSCE region in order to prevent terrorism.

Discussion

The discussion that followed focused mainly on members' concerns regarding the prevention of terrorism through economic and environmental means. It was discussed whether OSCE initiatives aimed at preventing terrorism should be launched strictly within the OSCE region or also in surrounding countries, which could otherwise provide a fallback region for terrorist groups. Some members of the Committee also underlined that adopting a regional approach might be needed, as OSCE participating States represent a very diverse range of security concerns.

Certain members of the Assembly stressed that in order to effectively fight terrorism, the OSCE should face the threat with a balanced approach of its three dimensions. In this context, it was noted that within the Second Committee itself, the importance given to its different fields of interest should be balanced in order to give more attention to the science and technology aspects.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Mr. Weisskirchen welcomed delegates to the Third Committee meeting. He reminded those gathered that the meeting of the Third Committee was in preparation for the Annual Session in Berlin where the topic of terrorism would be the primary topic of discussion.

Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, Director of the ODIHR

Ambassador Stoudmann expressed some concern about the respect of international commitments in the sphere of human rights in the post-September 11 world. He stressed that even if tough security measures were necessary, standards of human rights must be upheld. He pointed out that there is no contradiction between security and human rights and that one need not infringe upon the other. He further expressed concern about recent violations of the Geneva Convention and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, committed in relation to the fight against terrorism.

The Ambassador informed the parliamentarians that in fourteen countries anti-terrorist legislation was adopted following September 11, some of which did not comply with international standards in the field of human rights. Ambassador Stoudmann particularly stressed that turning a “blind eye” to international commitments in the field of human rights could create lasting damage to the “web” of international laws that have developed in recent decades. He stressed that the alternative to international relations governed by the rule of law is chaos, law of the strongest and unpredictability; and if this were to happen, it would turn against those who initiated the process.

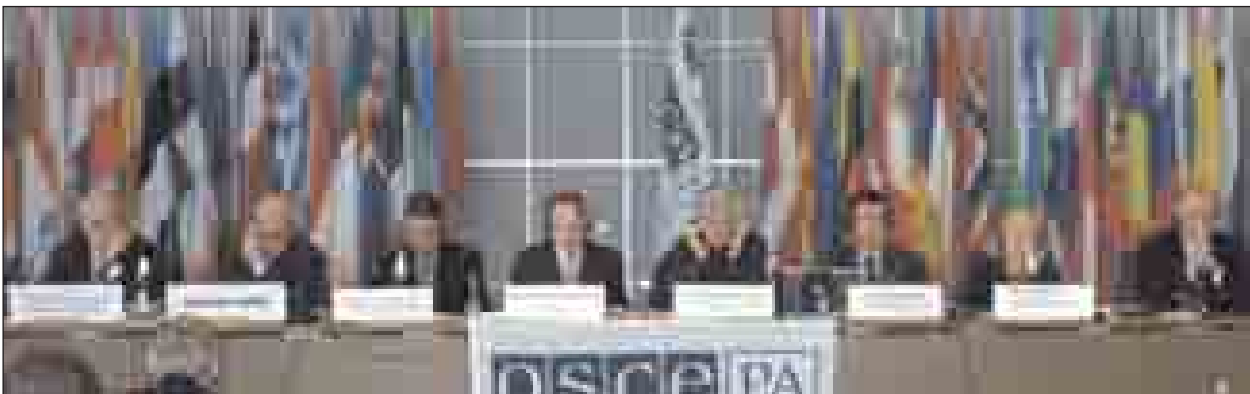
Regarding the current situation of the OSCE budget, Ambassador Stoudmann also expressed his concern.

However, he pointed out that, while the ODIHR is not directly affected, as its activities are mainly financed by voluntary contributions, the credibility of the Organization is adversely affected.

Ambassador Stoudmann stated that the Implementation Meeting in Warsaw suffers from decreasing levels of attendance and is becoming less relevant, thus becoming an “ivory tower” where participants come with prepared speeches and with no visible dialogue taking place. But he expressed hope that this year, partly thanks to the efforts of the Portuguese Chairmanship, the meeting would be more focused and more relevant.

Mr. Freimut Duve, Representative on Freedom of the Media

In his presentation, Mr. Duve focused on the consequences of September 11 for the work of his Office. He stressed that the fight against terrorism should not be allowed to kill general freedoms and in particular, the freedom of expression. He voiced concern that national security matters were taking priority over civil liberties, and were being used as an excuse to undermine human rights. He pointed out that this was happening in “old democracies”, which could severely undermine the fragile state of human rights in some of the OSCE States. Mr. Duve explained that in crisis situations, the flow of information tends to be controlled. While this is not a major problem in countries where there are numerous independent sources of information, it can represent a problem in countries where the state broadcaster is the predominant one, or where high officials actually control the media. He particularly underlined that, in the uneasy context of post-September 11, it is vital for the media to be freer than ever in order to encourage public debate.





Head of the Azerbaijan Delegation Mr. Sattar Safarov

Continuing his address Mr. Duve emphasized that one of his priorities would be to monitor and react to “hate speech” in the media. He also stressed that his Office would be monitoring and defending freedom of the media in the entire OSCE region, and would be “geographically blind.” As all participating States have signed up to OSCE commitments, all should be accountable for adhering to them.

Mrs. Paula Kokkonen, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

Mrs. Kokkonen made it clear that gender issues concern both women and men. These issues should be taken into account at all levels and at all times, and should be on the OSCE agenda on a permanent basis. Moreover, the OSCE PA should convene plenary debates focusing on these issues, thus providing political backing for concrete measures aimed at promoting equal opportunities for women and men. Mrs. Kokkonen particularly stressed that participating States should pay attention to the gender balance within the Organization at all levels, including field missions.

She outlined her task, saying that the Special Representative on Gender Issues should, among other things, send a political message and act as a focal point for gender issues within the OSCE system, “provoke” and promote discussion on gender issues, and initiate seminars and workshops on the issue.

Mr. Svend Robinson, Rapporteur of the Third Committee

Mr. Robinson presented a conceptual outline of his coming report to the Annual Session. He said that since

September 11 the world has been presented with a real challenge. In times of crisis and fear, human rights are at risk and particularly vulnerable.

Therefore, the underlining themes of the report will be tensions between freedom and security, multilateralism and unilateralism, respect for diversity and rigid authoritarianism. Mr. Robinson made it clear that he expected the report to be thorough and provocative. He said that the report would include three key issues:

1) Providing a definition of terrorism and an attempt to determine what terrorism is; giving an answer to this question will be particularly difficult since no one has ever succeeded in presenting one, though many, including the UN, have tried.

2) Determining the major concerns regarding human rights in the wake of September 11.

3) Providing recommendations for strengthening the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as strategies for preventing terrorism.

Discussion

The discussion that followed the presentations dealt with a large variety of issues. Issues related to internally displaced persons were raised, in particular, the need for states to reintegrate these people into society. The question of protection of human rights in Abkhazia was raised, where the UN/OSCE Human Rights Office has been registering violations. Another concern raised was the possibility that the gap in living standards between OSCE mission staff and local populations could jeopardize the credibility of the Organization. Support for Ambassador Stoudmann’s reform of the Warsaw Implementation Meeting was voiced and the advantages of broad participation herein were underlined. During the discussion, it was clarified that the Representative on Freedom of the Media has no mandate to act in Partner for Co-operation States. It was also proposed that at the forthcoming Annual Session, the situation of women should be discussed in the context of the fight against terrorism. The point was raised that gender issues were not only questions of human rights, but that these questions also have political and economic dimensions. In regard to the topic of terrorism, several delegates stressed that a superficial approach to finding a definition was unacceptable. Members of the Assembly also pointed out that the human dimension is essential to any definition of terrorism. It was proposed that the report make reference to the definition of terrorism prepared by the 15 states of the European Union, currently in circulation in European parliaments for ratification. Another point raised was that in combating terrorism it’s important not to use more violence than the terrorists themselves, because antiterrorist measures can in turn become terrorism.

Closing Meeting of the Three General Committees

Ambassador. Ján Kubiš, Secretary General of the OSCE

Mr. Kubiš expressed his pleasure being able to address the first Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, regarding it as an excellent opportunity for dialogue, and for exchanging ideas and impressions about the activities of the OSCE Institutions. The Secretary General outlined his main objectives during his tenure, namely institutional reform and the general management of the Organization. He considered these to be long-term tasks.



OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Jan Kubis

The most topical issue, in his opinion, was combating international terrorism. In this regard, a vital initiative underway by the Secretariat is a comprehensive and detailed 'road map' encompassing specific steps to be carried out in the coming months. He went on to explain the importance of co-operation with other international and regional organizations, highlighting that the current security threats can be successfully overcome only through a co-ordinated and coherent international effort.

The Secretary General also emphasized the role played by the Parliamentary Assembly in matters of management, accountability and transparency, referring specifically to the Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability and to its key task in improving the work of the OSCE. Moreover, he expressed his openness to all proposals brought by

the OSCE PA, and his conviction of its influential role at the national parliamentary level, as an "essential tool to promote reform and better management of the OSCE and to generate support for its activities".

A special concern mentioned was the impact of the current budgetary issues, and their consequences on field activities, financial reform, the budgetary process, the OSCE legal personality and staff security. Ambassador Kubiš stressed the need to have a "transparent and a sound budget as an instrument for planning, implementing and evaluating the work of the Organization, its Institutions and field operations" and called attention to the potentially negative effects on fieldwork and on the standing and credibility of the OSCE.

Additionally, Mr. Kubiš mentioned the recent appointment of a Senior Police Adviser to the Secretary General, emphasizing that this appointment will enhance the OSCE role in civilian police-related activities.

The Secretary General concluded by reiterating his belief that all misunderstandings between the governmental and parliamentary sides of the OSCE had been resolved, and expressed confidence in the future co-operation of the two sides.

Discussion

The ensuing discussion demonstrated an overall positive assessment of the Winter Meeting, the attendance itself giving a clear indication of success. The importance of co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary sides of the OSCE was restated, making it clear that the two sides are not adversaries but partners and that this meeting can be seen as a sign of the future fruitful collaboration between the two. The debate focused primarily on two issues: the apparent budgetary crisis within the OSCE and the need for legal personality for the Organization. The parliamentarians also showed interest in the impact of the non-adoption of the budget on the morale of OSCE staff, particularly staff working in the field.

Brief Report by Mr. András Bársony, Chair of the First Committee

Mr. Bársony's report on the Committee on Political Affairs and Security showed that the primary points of discussion in the First Committee were prevention of terrorism, the upcoming Road Map for the implementation of the Bucharest Action Plan, the need for dialogue at the national parliamentary level, followed by a debate on the current budgetary difficulties. Particular attention was given to the role played by parliamentarians and their ability to influence decisions in national parliaments.

**Brief Report by Mr. Oleg Bilorus,
Vice-Chair of the Second Committee**

The Acting Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment stated that the discussions in the Second Committee were focused on various possibilities for preventing financial and economic terrorism on the one hand, and the importance of implementing sustainable economic development within the OSCE region on the other hand.

**Brief Report by Mr. Gert Weisskirchen,
Chair of the Third Committee**

According to the report presented by Mr. Weisskirchen, the major issues of debate in the Third Committee were countering and preventing terrorism, and particularly the need for a clear definition of terrorism. Moreover, the necessity of tracking down the roots of terrorism as a premise for combating terrorism was also mentioned. The second part of the debate concentrated on the issue of gender balance, receiving encouragement and enthusiasm from participants.

All in all, for the three Committees, the Winter Meeting in Vienna began the preparations for the Berlin Session, in terms of agenda and preparatory documents.

**Mr. Adrian Severin,
President of the OSCE PA**

President Severin closed the Winter Meeting by thanking the host, the Austrian Parliament, for

contributing to a successful meeting and to the parliamentarians for their input, interest and ideas vis-à-vis institutional reform and development of the OSCE. Furthermore, he expressed his gratitude to the governmental side of the OSCE, the Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Jaime Gama, Secretary General Ján Kubiš for his active participation and logistical support to the Meeting, and praised the International Secretariat, the Fellows and the interpreters for their excellent work. In conclusion, President Severin mentioned two of the main achievements of this first Winter Meeting: Firstly, agreement was reached on a yearly meeting in Vienna of the OSCE PA, and secondly, the establishment of a liaison office of the OSCE PA in Vienna, regarding them as an “excellent tool to interact constructively with the governmental side”.

Although the Winter Meeting in Vienna was the first meeting of its kind, and as such a new experience for everybody, it fulfilled its main objectives: expanded dialogue among the parliamentarians themselves, interaction with the governmental counterparts, and preparation for the 11th Annual OSCE PA Session in Berlin. For the success of upcoming Winter Meetings in Vienna, Mr. Severin proposed in the future to collect in advance written questions for the guests from the governmental side in order to allow them to fully prepare themselves. This would better fuel the debates and provide the possibility for more “political substance” in discussions. He also suggested that the three Chairs of the Committees provide more detailed agendas, indicating in advance specifically the issues to be addressed in order to better structure debates.



**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE FIRST WINTER MEETING
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Vienna, 21-22 February 2002**

All meetings of the Standing Committee and the three General Committees will take place in the Congress Center Hofburg in Vienna.

Thursday, 21 February

- 09.00-11.00 **Standing Committee**
11.00-13.30 **Joint Session of the three General Committees:**
- Call to order;
 - Opening remarks by the President of the OSCE PA;
 - Address by the President of the Austrian Republic;
 - Address of the OSCE Chair-in-Office followed by a question/answer session;
 - Discussion
- 13.30-15.00 **Lunch break**
15.00-18.00 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**
- Opening remarks by the Committee Chair;
 - Address of the Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council followed by a question/answer session;
 - Address of the Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation followed by a question/answer session;
 - Discussion;
 - Follow-up to the Resolutions adopted by the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security;
 - Introduction by the Rapporteur of the concept of his Report to the Annual Session in Berlin followed by discussion
- 15.00-18.00 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**
- Opening remarks by the Committee Chair;
 - Address of the Acting Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities followed by a question/answer session;
 - Report of the Head of the OSCE Center in Tashkent followed by a question/answer session;
 - Discussion;

- Follow-up to the Resolutions adopted by the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment;
 - Introduction by the Rapporteur of the concept of her Report to the Annual Session in Berlin followed by discussion
- Evening**
- Buffet Reception hosted by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Dr. Heinz Fischer

Friday, 22 February

- 10.00-13.00 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**
- Opening remarks by the Committee Chair;
 - Addresses by:
 - Director of the ODIHR;
 - OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;
 - OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
 - followed by a question/answer session;
 - Discussion;
 - Follow-up to the Resolutions adopted by the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and humanitarian Questions;
 - Introduction by the Rapporteur of the concept of his Report to the Annual Session in Berlin;
 - Discussion
- 13.00-15.00 **Lunch break**
15.00-17.00 **Closing Joint Session of the three General Committees**
- Call to order;
 - Address by the OSCE Secretary General followed by a question/answer session;
 - Discussion;
 - Reports by the Chairs of the three General Committees;
 - Concluding statement by the OSCE PA President

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