

## **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2009**

### **I. Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2009**

The Commission was created on June 3, 1976, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, codified as 22 U.S.C. ' 3001, et. seq. This statute authorizes and directs the Commission ". . . to monitor the acts of the signatories which reflect compliance with or violation of the articles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with particular regard to the provisions relating to human rights and Cooperation in Humanitarian Fields." Information on the Commission's activities in 2007 is submitted pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. ' 3006.

The Final Act was agreed to in Helsinki in 1975 by 35 countries, including the United States, Canada, West and East European states, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The states which emerged as a result of the break up of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia subsequently joined the Helsinki process, at which time each new participating State signed the Helsinki Final Act and explicitly and unconditionally agreed to all commitments of the Helsinki process. In 2006, Montenegro was admitted as the newest participating State, bringing total membership to 56 countries.

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, and Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand are Partners for Cooperation. (See Appendix (C) for a list of OSCE participating States and Partners).

As of January 1, 1995, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The organization is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Specialized offices of the OSCE are also in The Hague and Warsaw, and the OSCE maintains field offices in a number of other countries. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In accordance with section 3 of Public Law 99-7 (March 27, 1985), codified as title 22 U.S.C. ' 3007(a), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its duties and functions.

For fiscal year 2009, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,610,000 for salaries and expenses, in keeping with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2009.

### **II. Commission Membership**

The Commission is composed of twenty-one Commissioners, nine each from the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, appointed respectively by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. In addition, there are three Commissioners from the executive branch, one each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce, appointed by the President of the United States.

At the beginning of each odd-numbered Congress, the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Chairman and the Speaker designates a House Member as Co-Chairman. At the beginning of each even-numbered Congress, the Speaker designates a House Member as Chairman and the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Co-Chairman. (See Appendix (A) for the list of Commissioners in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress).

### **III. Commission Personnel**

The Commission's staffing consists of eighteen permanent positions. Staff responsibilities are noted in Appendix (B). Over the years, the Commission has benefited from the assignment of a Senior Foreign Service Officer, detailed from the Department of State on a full-time basis. The Government Printing Office also details a printing clerk to the Commission on a full-time basis.

Since its establishment, the Commission has maintained a small but highly motivated and exceptionally capable professional staff. In addition to their expert knowledge in the geographical areas of the OSCE and in the human rights, military security, economic and legal dimensions of the Helsinki process, current staff members are proficient in languages including Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Chinese, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish and Ukrainian.

Moreover, due to the extensive service of the Commission staff and their primary focus on OSCE issues, the Commission provides a continuity and unmatched reservoir of institutional knowledge within the U.S. government, and helps contribute to the development of a consistent and principled policy in keeping with its statutory mandate. This institutional knowledge has been utilized by the Congress and U.S. government agencies, most especially the Department of State in its preparation for and participation in a wide variety of OSCE meetings, as well as by non-governmental organizations and private sector institutions and think tanks. The OSCE community has also recognized the Commission's unique leadership, knowledge and talent, consulting with Commission staff in preparation for meetings and the drafting of documents, and other OSCE-related initiatives.

### **IV. Implementing the Commission's Mandate in the 110th Congress, 1st Session**

The Commission has the responsibility, the international credibility, and the expertise to make a significant difference on issues that potentially threaten peace, security, and stability in the expansive OSCE region stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Commission engagement at home and abroad offers a unique avenue for promoting U.S. national interests in the security, economic, and human dimensions. The Commission's unique composition allows it to affect both U.S. foreign policy and congressional support for specific policies, while its expert practice of public diplomacy vigorously advances American values, ideals, and principles.

The Commission is mandated to monitor participating States' compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements, with particular attention to human rights. These human rights commitments encompass a broad array of issues, including the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association and movement; religious liberties; and the treatment of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities. In the wake of the failed 1991 coup attempt in

Moscow, the OSCE participating States specifically recognized “the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the [Helsinki process] are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.”

Of the 56 OSCE participating States, the Commission pays particular attention to those where persistent violations of human rights or democratic norms occur (especially states where authoritarian regimes cling to power); to countries and regions in which there is potential, ongoing or residual conflict; and to countries where particular political developments open windows of opportunity to advance specific human rights improvements. Additionally, the Commission focuses on the United States’ own implementation record, engaging with relevant officials with the aim of bringing laws, policies and practices into conformity with OSCE commitments.

Protracted conflicts in the OSCE region, such as in Transdnistria, Chechnya (where some of the most egregious violations of international humanitarian norms in recent years occurred), and areas of the Caucasus and the Balkans, also present significant ongoing challenges.

The Commission pursues this mandate in a variety of ways. First, specific instances of human rights abuses or shortcomings are often raised with the country of concern. Members of the Commission may intercede directly with that country's officials and representatives (at home and abroad), and through correspondence. Commissioners occasionally offer relevant legislation, resolutions and Congressional Record statements. When warranted by human rights improvements, Commissioners draw attention to positive developments as well.

Members of the Commission regularly communicate their views to the Department of State and other relevant U.S. government agencies and, when necessary, seek to raise or improve the level of official U.S. engagement regarding specific countries, cases or issues, or on OSCE policies. Ongoing staff contact with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, the State Department country desk officers and human rights officers at U.S. Embassies abroad – posts with noticeably high turnover – helps ensure that these offices are kept informed of issues of concern. This, in turn, strengthens the human rights reports issued by the Department of State. Significantly, the work of the Commission has resulted in considerable success in helping to resolve individual cases of human rights violations, and in ameliorating specific problems in this fashion.

Hearings and briefings offer the most public forum to highlight violations of human rights. For certain topics, Administration officials testify on U.S. government policies, and Commissioners have also utilized these hearings to press the Executive Branch to take more resolute actions where necessary. These hearings find an audience among other U.S. government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the media, the general public, and among embassy personnel and other officials from OSCE participating States. Moreover, as a tool for applying international pressure on their own officials, the records of these public hearings and briefings are highly valued by human rights activists in countries which violate human rights. (For a complete listing of Commission hearings, briefings, reports, and articles, see Appendix (D).)

Commissioners or Commission staff members have served as members of every U.S. delegation to every major OSCE meeting since the Commission was established, a fact which strengthens

the Commission's institutional knowledge and influence. The multilateral context affords the Commission an important venue for advancing its mandate to monitor and promote compliance by OSCE participating States with their freely undertaken commitments. In particular, within the context of OSCE fora, specific violations of commitments are consistently raised directly with the States concerned. Finally, participation in these meetings uniquely enables the Commission to contribute to the process of standard-setting and establishing priorities and goals to advance implementation of the OSCE commitments, and to monitor the organizational development of the OSCE.

Although an independent agency of the U.S. government with Commissioners from both the executive and legislative branches, the Commission's leadership rests in the Congress and its membership is primarily provided by the Congress. This structure reinforces an understanding in foreign capitals that the Congress and the American people attach high priority to respect for individual human rights and other aspects of the Helsinki process. The Commission's bipartisan and bicameral nature, its tenure, and its relentless efforts reaffirm that respect for such rights is a matter of basic principle for Americans. Equally importantly, the Commission's work facilitates an understanding by foreign governments of the singular involvement of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs, an aspect of American politics that is often not well understood overseas. (In fact, no other legislature of any other OSCE country has a body analogous to the Commission.)

The Commission continues to be an active and highly effective proponent of public diplomacy, reaching out to the private sector, think tanks, media, public groups and individuals to explain and promote the principles of the Helsinki documents. Members and staff attended public fora, delivered presentations, lectured at the Foreign Service Institute and other venues, participated in panel discussions, made media appearances in both the domestic and foreign press – especially the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty – in an effort to heighten public awareness of the Helsinki commitments and of issues involving specific OSCE participating States, and engaged both organizations and individuals in the promotion of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as essential components of European security and cooperation. Again, these activities reinforce in the public mind the leadership of the Congress on individual rights, issues the American people care about very deeply.

The Commission has been particularly instrumental in introducing private citizens directly into the activities of the OSCE by supporting the inclusion of public members on U.S. delegations to OSCE meetings, seminars and specialized events. Under the guidance and assistance of Commission staff, these individuals have made important contributions to these meetings and have acquired for themselves a unique awareness of the value and mission of the OSCE. The Commission has also been the single most active voice for ensuring that the meetings and processes of the OSCE are as transparent as possible, and that non-governmental organizations can have full participation in appropriate OSCE activities.

The Commission's Internet web site <[www.csce.gov](http://www.csce.gov)> has been a portal for public diplomacy and serves as an important distribution point for the Commission's message at home and abroad. Commission publications – including hearing and briefing transcripts, articles, reports, press releases, and Congressional Record statements – may be viewed online by country, issue, or date. The website also allows access to an extensive archive of materials on the Helsinki process.

An increasing number of individuals and officials around the globe have subscribed to receive Commission materials via the Internet. The Commission continues its outreach to U.S. government employees, foreign government officials, non-governmental organizations, scholars and other individuals monitoring the countries and issues central to the Commission's mandate. The Commission has bolstered its utilization of information technology to enhance its automated e-mail distribution system with the aim of offering a more effective, user-friendly message delivery system. The subscriber base has expanded significantly as a result of these initiatives. Data collection reveals a diverse audience for Commission materials extending well beyond the OSCE region.

## **V. U.S.-OSCE Policy and Engagement with OSCE Leadership**

The Commission continues to focus attention on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy, human rights, and the OSCE. Engagement with Senior Department of State officials, including Secretary Condoleezza Rice, provides an important avenue for Commissioners to help influence related U.S. policy. In this regard, regular contact is maintained especially with the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs; South and Central Asian Affairs; and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. During 2007, a particular focus on these exchanges centered on Kazakhstan's bid to chair the OSCE.

Similarly, the Commission leadership has placed importance on direct engagement with the top political leader of the Vienna-based organization, having convened a hearing with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office annually since 2001.

Spain's Foreign Minister, Miguel Angel Moratinos, appeared before the Helsinki Commission on October 29, in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to discuss developments in the 56-nation OSCE prior to a meeting of ministers from the participating States held in Madrid, in late November.

In prepared remarks, Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings noted, "While the participating States may share a common view of Europe on paper, translating that vision into reality is another matter altogether. While all OSCE commitments have been agreed to by all of the countries, the fact is that there are human rights commitments that have been on the books for many years that would not be agreed to by some today." Commission Co-Chairman Benjamin L. Cardin, also in a prepared statement, commended the Government of Spain for organizing the 2005 Córdoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance. He noted that the Helsinki Commission has been particularly active in the face of the spike of anti-Semitism and related violence in the OSCE region. "We appreciate your efforts to keep this important issue on the OSCE agenda with the reappointment of the personal representative on different aspects of tolerance as well as the related conferences convened this year in Bucharest and Córdoba," said Cardin. The October 2007 Córdoba Conference focused on intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, a priority concern of the Spanish chairmanship.

Commissioner Louise McIntosh Slaughter, who chaired the hearing, expressed particular appreciation for the Minister's recognition of the distinctive contributions of parliamentarians to

the Helsinki process. Slaughter has been a long-time active participant in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE PA has provided important leadership on issues from combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance to promoting projects aimed at protecting the environment, to combating the scourge of human trafficking and advancing security among the participating States. As one of Congress' leading voices on equal rights for women, Commissioner Slaughter also commented on the OSCE PA's trailblazing work in this area, as well.

Moratinos' testimony covered a wide range of accomplishments during the Spanish chairmanship as well as the numerous outstanding and potentially contentious issues on the OSCE's agenda, including developments in Kosovo and longstanding conflicts elsewhere in the OSCE region. Afghanistan, the OSCE's newest Partner for Cooperation, was also discussed, with Mrs. Slaughter noting that one of the lessons of September 11 is that events in seemingly faraway lands do matter for the people there and ultimately for our own security.

Broaching concerns about observation of Russia's planned parliamentary elections for December 2, Slaughter expressed apprehension regarding attempts by Russian officials to limit the size and scope of the OSCE observation mission. On the thorny issue of Russian intransigence in the OSCE, Ranking Minority Member Christopher H. Smith, in a prepared statement, underscored that the power of ideas remains a meaningful force today as witnessed by the drama being played out in the OSCE arena between those committed to pluralistic democracy and those pursuing authoritarianism, euphemistically termed "managed democracy," and dictatorship, as in Belarus and elsewhere.

Moratinos concluded by focusing on the future of the OSCE against the backdrop of discontent among some participating States, notably Russia, Belarus and like-minded countries, with some of the activities of the Organization and its direction as well as uncertainty over sustained funding of OSCE, including potential gaps between U.S. rhetorical support and actual commitment of resources.

## **VI. The Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE**

Helsinki Commissioners and staff participated in activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and actively solicited the involvement of other Members of Congress in these activities. Representation at these events demonstrates a solid and continuing commitment to United States-European relations.

The primary task of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is to promote parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE and to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians from the 56 participating States. Other important objectives of the Assembly are to: assess the implementation of OSCE commitments by participating States; discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and summit meetings of OSCE Heads of State or Government; develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts; support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States; and contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations and cooperation between existing OSCE institutions.

A total of 320 parliamentarians, including as many as 17 members of the U.S. Congress, can participate in its major meetings, which include a Winter Meeting in Vienna, an Annual Session in changing locations, and a Fall Conference/Mediterranean Forum which also changes location from year to year. The Bureau, an equivalent of an executive committee, also meets every April and December. Beyond these meetings, parliamentarians also contribute their political and regional expertise by serving as Special Representatives, members of Ad Hoc Committees and on election observation missions throughout the year.

In 2007, Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings continued to serve as President Emeritus of the OSCE PA, and Co-Chairman Benjamin L. Cardin continued his term as one of nine OSCE PA Vice-Presidents. At the Annual Session, Commissioner Hilda L. Solis was elected Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's (Third) General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. While Chairman Hastings continued his appointment as a Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Commissioners Solis and Christopher H. Smith were appointed Special Representatives on Migration and on Trafficking, respectively, subsequent to the Annual Session.

Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings and Commissioners Mike McIntyre and Hilda L. Solis represented the United States at the Winter Meeting on February 22-23, 2007. Energy Security was the topic of a special debate, during which Commissioner Solis made a presentation noting changing views on energy and environmental issues in the newly elected 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Session took place in Kyiv, Ukraine, from July 5-9, 2007. The U.S. Delegation was led by Chairman Hastings and Co-Chairman Cardin and included House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, Ranking Minority Member Christopher H. Smith, and Commissioners Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Robert B. Aderholt, Mike McIntyre, Hilda L. Solis and G.K. Butterfield, as well as Representatives Marcy Kaptur, Michael R. McNulty, Doris Matsui and Gwen S. Moore.

Altogether, 234 parliamentarians from 50 OSCE participating States, representatives from several Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, as well as delegates representing Afghanistan, a

Partner for Cooperation, participated. Five delegations were headed by parliamentary leaders. Members of the U.S. Delegation actively participated in the work of the Assembly's three General Committees, each of which considered its own resolution as well as nine of the 10 supplementary items registered before the session. One supplementary item was debated in plenary. Senator Cardin introduced a supplemental item on "Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of Intolerance against Muslims and Roma," and seven other U.S. delegates introduced a total of 25 amendments to either a committee resolution or to a supplementary item. All were adopted.

During the Annual Session, Chairman Hastings convened a special meeting on the Mediterranean Dimension of the OSCE, attended by approximately 100 parliamentarians from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the OSCE participating States. Members of the U.S. Delegation participated in a special event focused on gender issues. The U.S. Delegation held a series of formal as well as informal bilateral meetings, including talks with parliamentarians from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, parliamentary delegations from the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, including Israel, and Afghanistan. Additionally, the U.S. Delegation organized and hosted a reception for parliamentary colleagues from the United Kingdom and Canada.

While in Kyiv, Members of the U.S. Delegation met with Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko for lengthy talks on bilateral issues. Wreath-laying ceremonies were held at two significant sites in the Ukrainian capital -- the Babi Yar (Babyn Yar) Memorial and the Great Famine-Genocide (*Holodomor*) Memorial. While in Ukraine, members of the delegation traveled to the Chernobyl exclusion zone and visited the site of the world's worst nuclear accident, which occurred in April 1986.

The United States has contributed assistance to address the health, safety and environmental legacy of the accident. The group was briefed by experts on progress with The Chernobyl Shelter Implementation Plan, a multilateral effort to transform the deteriorating sarcophagus that currently covers the destroyed reactor.

Chairman Hastings participated in the Fall Conference/Mediterranean Forum, which took place in Portoroz, Slovenia, from September 29 to October 2, 2007. He also attended the additional Bureau meetings, the first with Co-Chairman Cardin on April 23 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the second on November 28 in Madrid, Spain in conjunction with the OSCE Ministerial Council. Commission staff attended the OSCE PA's Economic Conference in Andorra from May 23-26, 2007.

Commission staff participated actively in OSCE PA election observation efforts in Serbia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine during the course of 2007. (For a complete listing of election observation activities, see Section X, 2 on Election Observation, below.)

The Helsinki Commission also held two congressional hearings in 2007 featuring the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. On June 21, Belgian Senate President Anne-Marie Lizin, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantánamo, presented her findings at a hearing on "Guantánamo: Implications for U.S. Human Rights Leadership."

On October 18, the Commission convened a hearing on “A Parliamentary Perspective on Security and Cooperation in Today’s Europe” which featured Goran Lenmarker, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag). President Lenmarker discussed a variety of OSCE topics of concern, including Russia’s attack on OSCE election observation efforts, Kazakhstan’s bid to chair the OSCE, and regions of conflict or tension in the Balkans, the Caucasus and elsewhere in the OSCE region.

## **VII. OSCE Partners for Cooperation and Mediterranean Partners**

The 56-nation OSCE now has 11 Partners for Cooperation, including the six Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia; and five Partners in Asia: Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea and Thailand. Partner countries, while not participating in regular political negotiating fora of the OSCE, nevertheless attend and observe many OSCE meetings. In 2007, at the invitation of the Spanish Chairmanship, the Partners were seated with the participating States during the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council in Vienna and participate fully in discussions. The OSCE and its Partners for Cooperation maintain close relations and hold frequent seminars to explore ways to strengthen cooperation on issues of mutual interest and to meet OSCE principles, goals and values. The Partners of the OSCE were active throughout the year sending representatives to all major meetings and seminars.

The Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE was reformulated in the mid-90s as “Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation” to include Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia. Such “partner” status does not require commitment to Helsinki principles by these countries. In 1998, Jordan was accepted as a Mediterranean Partner, and Afghanistan, which many consider to lie within the broader Middle East region and which borders the Central Asian states of the OSCE, was accepted as a Partner for Cooperation in 2003.

In an effort to broaden and intensify this relationship, the OSCE, including the Parliamentary Assembly, has convened numerous seminars, conferences and forums emphasizing the issues of the Partner States and allowing full participation of Partner countries from the region. Additionally, two contact groups exist within the OSCE to provide an ongoing opportunity for participating States and the Partners to maintain dialogue on pertinent issues. One contact group is for the Asian Partners, and the other for the Mediterranean Partners; monthly meetings of the group are typically held at the ambassadorial level.

As Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Chairman Hastings actively engaged the Mediterranean Partner States throughout 2007. During the Assembly’s Annual Winter Meeting in Vienna, Austria in February he and the other members of the U.S. delegation hosted a meeting of representatives from the parliaments and foreign ministries of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship, the incoming Finnish Chairmanship and the Parliamentary Assembly to discuss enhancing security in the Mediterranean through the partnership between countries in the region and the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly.

The OSCE holds one major seminar in each Partner region annually. In 2007, Mongolia hosted a meeting on “Strengthening the Cooperative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Cooperation.” For the first time, the OSCE held its Mediterranean Partners seminar in Israel, on “Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding.” The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE convened two major meetings with Mediterranean Partners. Mr. Hastings chaired meetings of the Mediterranean Partner States held in conjunction with the July Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine and its Fall Conference in Portoroz, Slovenia, September 30, where the session was focused on Minority Protection and Non-Discrimination in the Mediterranean.

Chairman Hastings traveled to the Mediterranean region in both June and December 2007. On both occasions he met with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Ms. Colette Avital, Head of Israel’s delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. During the June visit, Chairman Hastings also traveled to the West Bank and Jordan. The 2007 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar on “Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding” was the first Mediterranean seminar to be held in Israel (December 17-19), a venue which Mr. Hastings had avidly promoted in his meetings throughout the region. He chaired the third seminar of the two-day OSCE seminar which focused on “Countering Discrimination in the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.”

Deeply concerned by the flood of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, particularly OSCE Mediterranean Partner Jordan which has accepted more than 500,000 refugees, and the impact of this humanitarian crisis on the region, Chairman Hastings introduced the Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2007 (H.R. 3674). This legislation authorizes substantially increased humanitarian assistance for Iraqi refugees and IDPs, expedited processing of Iraqi refugees for resettlement in the United States, funding for border security for Jordan and increased international cooperation to address the crisis.

Chairman Hastings attended the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Madrid in November 2007 during which the Ministers adopted Declarations supporting greater involvement of Partners for Cooperation in OSCE activities, including the establishment of a Partnership Fund, as well as increased engagement with Afghanistan, particularly on drug interdiction, policing and improving border security.

## **VIII. Military Security and Emerging Threats in the OSCE Region: Twenty-First Century Security in the OSCE Region**

The Commission monitors implementation of the fundamental commitments of the Helsinki Final Act, including those provisions in the field of military security.

From its inception in the early 1970s, the Helsinki process – which includes the original Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, follow-up activities after 1975 and, since 1995, the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – has been a multilateral, politically binding security arrangement. The original focus was on enhancing security through transparency. Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) – such as

prior notification of troop maneuvers and observation of military exercises – formed the core of this work on military aspects of security, overcame barriers of secrecy and diminished the threat of surprise attack or misunderstanding of military activity.

Having addressed successfully the challenges of the Cold War, the OSCE has maintained its relevance by combining a uniquely comprehensive definition of security with flexibility and innovation of response, which includes maintaining an active dialogue on security issues, addressing issues like the trade in small arms and light weapons as well as excess stockpiles of arms and ammunition, addressing regional conflicts and training civilian police. Many of these activities are integrated into a larger OSCE effort to combat terrorism.

The underlying principle of security in the OSCE region is that true stability is based on upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual. Besides human rights, the principles encompass key aspects of relations between states which have gained new urgency in the post-Cold War period: refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of states; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; cooperation among states; and fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law. Traditionally, the OSCE has worked to develop agreements that increase confidence and cooperation between and among states, forming a web of mutual interests that is not easily broken.

In 2007, the Helsinki Commission continued to encourage OSCE work on a wide-range of security issues. First and foremost, the Commission continued to focus on frozen conflict areas, particularly the instability created in Georgia and Moldova by Russia's lingering military presence in those independent participating States. In conjunction with the signing of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) in 1999, and in light of realities associated with the break-up of the Warsaw Pact and the demise of the Soviet Union, Russia made parallel commitments (adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit) to withdraw Treaty-Limited Equipment as well as military personnel from Moldova, to withdraw or destroy excess equipment and munitions, and to close two bases and to negotiate the future of remaining Russian bases and facilities in Georgia. To date, these commitments remain unfulfilled; accordingly, NATO allies have been unwilling to ratify the Agreement on Adaptation which would bring the revised treaty into force. Russian intransigence on its Istanbul commitments has, in turn, created a stumbling block to progress on other issues at several OSCE Ministerial Council meetings. At hearings held in 2007 with senior U.S. policymakers and the Chair-in-Office, Commissioners continued to press for implementation of Russia's Istanbul commitments and progress on frozen conflicts.

Discussion of arms control issues throughout most of 2007 centered on the CFE Treaty and the U.S. proposal to establish a missile defense system in Europe. Russia and the U.S. were in disagreement on both issues. Russia linked the two issues, in an apparent attempt to portray the U.S. as thwarting regional arms control. On July 14, President Putin announced that Russia would institute a "moratorium" on its implementation of CFE in 150 days. On November 30, he signed legislation from the Duma that suspends Russian compliance with CFE, effective December 12, 2007.

Commission staff participated in the OSCE's fifth Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) in Vienna, Austria, June 19-20, 2007. The ASRC serves as a framework for participating States to review the OSCE's work in the political and military dimension on an annual basis. It also promotes dialogue on arms control, confidence building measures, and other security issues among participating States and with other international organizations. Previous ASRCs have launched OSCE initiatives to address new security threats, including travel document security and container security.

The 2007 ASRC came just days after an extraordinary Conference on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) which ended in little more than an agreement to continue dialogue. (Although the CFE is not an OSCE agreement, it was negotiated within the framework of the OSCE.) Discussion of the CFE Treaty continued at the ASRC, but there was also discussion on other regional arms control issues, counter-terrorism, and the so-called "frozen" conflicts. The United States used the ASRC to promote ideas on fighting terrorism through increased OSCE border management work and involvement in Afghanistan, to stress the importance of the CFE, and to provide detailed information on the need for a missile defense system in Europe. While there was general agreement on the need to strengthen border security and resolve ongoing regional conflicts, Russia pushed back against the United States and EU on the CFE Treaty and blatantly disagreed with the U.S. on the need for a missile defense system in Europe.

Russian Representative Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Grushko expressed his regret that the previous week's extraordinary conference on the CFE concluded without a resolution of the concerns regarding the Treaty. He observed that the OSCE's work on arms control and confidence building initiatives has stalled. He warned that the current CFE Treaty was not congruent with the present military-political reality and that the Adapted CFE Treaty is in danger of being outdated if not ratified soon. He alluded to U.S. and EU views that the CFE Treaty cannot be ratified while Russian troops remain in Georgia and Moldova and contended that such "artificial political linkages" to the Adapted CFE have led to the impasse.

In contrast to the polarized arms control discussion, there was general support for OSCE's counterterrorism work. The U.S. proposed that greater attention be paid to cyber security, initiatives to reduce vulnerability to terrorist acts, and border security.

The Commission convened a hearing "Twenty-First Century Security in the OSCE Region" on November 5, 2007 to examine the impasse over the CFE Treaty and other aspects of the military security dimension. Among issues raised during the hearing were the security implications for the OSCE region and beyond; Russia's suspension of compliance with the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Convention (CFE); the status of the Istanbul Commitments regarding Georgia and Moldova and their relationship to CFE; and the proposed U.S. deployment of ground-based missile defense installations in Poland and the Czech Republic. Additionally, issues such as the effectiveness of OSCE efforts to monitor weapons trade, enhance border security and combat terrorism were also considered.

## **IX. Cooperation in the Field of Economics and the Environment: Achieving Energy Security in the OSCE Region**

The Commission has been instrumental in advancing U.S. initiatives within the OSCE aimed at combating corruption, responding to environmental disasters and outlining a broad approach on the critical issue of energy security. These issues will continue to be a focus of the Commission's work in 2008, with expected emphasis on issues such as immigration/labor migration and environmental security.

The 15th OSCE Economic Forum, "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management," was convened in Prague, Czech Republic, May 21-23, 2007. The Forum focused on sustainable water management with an emphasis on strengthening cooperation among upstream and downstream countries in water projects, which could contribute to reducing environmental and societal tensions. The Commission has been actively engaged with the OSCE and the Department of State in seeking public members from the United States to participate on the U.S. delegation to the EEF meetings. Members of the U.S. delegation participate in all aspects of the Forum by actively engaging in discussions and by networking with business representatives and government officials from the participating States.

The Commission focused specific attention on the issue of energy security in the OSCE region. In June 2007 the Commission convened a hearing titled, "Pipeline Politics: Achieving Energy Security in the OSCE Region." The hearing featured three State Department witnesses, one Department of Energy witness, the Ambassadors from Azerbaijan and Belarus, as well as public sector experts. The hearing examined the geopolitical aspects of energy security with an emphasis on conflict prevention and the security of supply and transit of energy. The topic was timely in that it followed two gas shut-offs by Russia to Ukraine and Belarus, actions which highlighted the potential for political and economic conflict inherent in the quest for energy supplies.

A second hearing, convened in July 2007, on "Energy and Democracy: Oil and Water," focused on the development of democracy and civil society in countries with abundant energy resources, several of which are OSCE participating States. This problem is often referred to as "the resource curse." In an economic sense, energy resources are a blessing, as they provide countries with needed income. But these resources can also lead to unintended consequences such as stunted economic and political development. The hearing highlighted the fact that only two of the world's top 10 oil exporters are established liberal democracies and examined the implications of that fact for energy security as well as for the future of democratic development. Specifically, witnesses at this hearing discussed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as a global initiative to help combat corruption in the energy sector.

A third hearing in this series will take place in 2008 and will address the nexus between energy security and environmental security, focusing on the diversification of energy supply and sustainable technologies.

In follow-up to the July energy security hearing, Commissioner Hastings sponsored an amendment to H.R. 3221, the "New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security and Consumer Protection Act." The amendment, which passed the House of Representatives unanimously, calls on the United States to further efforts regarding global energy security and

promote democratic development in resource-rich foreign countries. The amendment also requires that the Secretary of State submit an annual report to Congress on the progress made in promoting transparency, including U.S. participation in EITI. The amendment was adopted by the conference committee and became part of Public Law 110-140, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

In September 2007, the Commission initiated a letter to Secretary Rice urging her to send a high-level representative to the EITI Board Meeting and to ensure the integrity of the EITI process. The letter was signed by 11 Members of Congress. In October 2007, the Commission organized a briefing for Members and staff on EITI featuring the Chairman of the EITI Board of Directors.

The theme of migration was emphasized during the 16th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Kyiv, Ukraine, in July 2007. Commissioner Hilda Solis introduced six amendments to the Second Committee resolution. The Amendments focused on the vulnerability of female migrants, the importance of integration of migrants into the community, the importance of economic development in the migrant's home country as a long-term solution to labor migration, encouraging the creation of legal frameworks for labor migration and calling on the President of the Parliamentary Assembly to appoint a special representative on migration. The amendments were all adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly and included in the concluding declaration. In September 2007 Commissioner Solis was appointed by the President of the OSCE PA to be the OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration.

As part of the Commission's focus on migration issues within the OSCE, Commission staff participated in an OSCE, International Organization on Migration and International Labor Organization conference on migration in Rabat, Morocco. The specific focus was best practices in formulating effective labor migration policies in the Mediterranean region. Staff participated in a panel discussion on "Labour Migration Policies in Destination countries: regulating labor migration, protecting migrant workers and ensuring social cohesion" and presented the U.S. experience on labor migration.

## **X. Protection of Human Rights**

### **1. U.S. Leadership at the 2007 Human Dimension Meetings**

#### ***The Annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting***

From September 24 to October 5, 2007, the OSCE participating States met in Warsaw, Poland, for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). The HDIM is Europe's largest human rights gathering, convened to discuss the compliance of participating States, with the full range of human dimension commitments they have previously adopted by consensus.

The HDIM is the only multinational human rights meeting in Europe where non-governmental organization representatives and government representatives have equal access to the speakers' list. The implementation review meetings are intended to serve as the participating States' principal venues for public diplomacy and are important vehicles both for identifying continued areas of poor human rights performance and for shaping the OSCE decision-making process with respect to human dimension concerns.

As at past meetings, the Commission's preparations for, contributions to, and participation in the HDIM was substantial. In advance of this meeting, the Commission staff met with Department of State officials regarding the U.S. approach to the meeting, suggested specific human rights questions to be raised, recommended prospective public members, and provided draft U.S. interventions. In doing so, the Commission was able to draw on its institutional memory of the Helsinki process, its regional expertise, and its specialization in human rights matters to advance U.S. interests. At the meeting itself, Commission staff participated in all aspects of the U.S. delegation's work, including the delivery of U.S. interventions, bilateral meetings with other countries' delegations held to raise specific human rights concerns, meetings with NGO representatives, and consultations on the overall direction of OSCE human dimension activities.

At the 2007 HDIM, senior Department of State participants included Ambassador Richard Williamson, Head of Delegation; Ambassador Julie Finley, Head of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE; Mr. Jonathan D. Farrar, Acting Assistant Secretary State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; Mr. John Christian Kennedy, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues; and Dr. Gregg Rickman, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. Members of the staff of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe also participated in the delegation.

In accordance with the OSCE procedures, the meeting also included focus on three special topics. This year, those subjects were combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding – implementation of commitments; the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination; and gender aspects of security. Ms. Gael Strack, Executive Director, National/International Family Justice Center Alliance, and Mr. Nathan Mick, a Romani American political advisor, served as Public Members to bring expertise to the special topic discussions.

The United States continued its practice of naming specific countries and cases of concern.

As at other OSCE fora, the United States was criticized for retaining the death penalty, contrary to the abolitionist trend among the OSCE participating States. Other issues of concern raised with the United States included the status and treatment of detainees.

#### ***Other Human Dimension Meetings***

Chairman Alcee L. Hastings, Ranking Minority Member Christopher H. Smith and Commission staff participated in the OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, held in Bucharest, Romania June 8-9, 2007. Chairman Hastings, representing the OSCE PA, delivered remarks at the opening plenary session; Commissioner Smith delivered remarks at the closing session. A central goal of the Bucharest Conference was to continue to provide high level political attention to the efforts of participating States and the OSCE to ensure effective implementation of existing commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

Commission staff also participated in the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, held in Vienna, July 12-13. Nearly a hundred human rights advocates representing dozens of NGOs and national human rights institutions gathered to discuss the role of national courts in promoting and protecting human rights; the role

of civil society in addressing human rights violations; and, the role of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights. (Although Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings have traditionally been held in Vienna, the Commission has supported moving them to different countries to make them more accessible to a wider segment of the public.)

In October, Commission staff attended the first OSCE Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, held in Cordoba, Spain. The OSCE participating States have begun to pay increasing attention to issues relating to this minority group, including through the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

The Commission's Staff Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE in Vienna, Austria, participated in the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council (the OSCE's main decision making body) as well as its working groups. She also participated in the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, the annual OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Ukraine, Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in Vienna as well as the Madrid Ministerial. Her presence in Vienna affords the Commission a unique opportunity to provide input into the daily work of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and fosters understanding by other delegations of the role of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs.

## **2. Election Observation**

On January 21, Serbia held elections for the 250-seat parliament, the National Assembly. Monitored by more than 300 international observers under OSCE auspices, including two members of the Helsinki Commission staff, the elections were overwhelmingly viewed as being conducted in a free and fair manner. The Serbian Radical Party (SRS) led by indicted war criminal Vojislav Seselj, came in first, garnering 28.7 percent of the vote, while the Democratic Party (DS) of President Boris Tadic came in second with 22.9 percent of the vote. And the coalition led by the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) of the current Prime Minister, Vojislav Kostunica, received 16.7 percent.

The outcome and related institutional questions, on the other hand, indicated that Serbia's political development remained burdened by the legacy of the Milosevic regime that ruled for over a decade before its ouster in 2000, even as the country moves in an increasingly democratic direction.

On July 26, 2007 the Commission held a briefing on "The 2007 Turkish Elections: Globalization and Atatürk's Legacy."

The Commission undertook several initiatives in connection with Ukraine's September 30th pre-term parliamentary elections, including deploying staff to observe the elections, sponsoring a Congressional resolution on the elections, and convening a public briefing on their implications. The elections – the fifth national balloting in less than three years -- came on the heels of a political crisis that had engulfed Ukraine's president, government and parliament for much of 2007. The elections to the 450-seat parliament, the *Verkhovna Rada*, were judged by the OSCE-led International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) to have been conducted "mostly in line

with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections and in an open and competitive environment.” The September elections were monitored by some 800 international observers under OSCE auspices, including Helsinki Commission staff members who observed the balloting in western Ukraine’s Ivano-Frankivsk oblast and Kyiv’s Polilskiy District. The elections – with 60% voter turnout -- saw the pro-Western Orange coalition of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc and President Victor Yushchenko’s NUNS bloc create a razor-thin majority in the new parliament and elect Ms. Tymoshenko as Prime Minister.

On October 25, the Commission convened a public briefing: “The Ukrainian Elections: Implications for Ukraine’s Future Direction” with Ukraine’s Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur, as well as former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller, and Stephen Nix of the International Republican Institute, who had both been present at the elections as international observers. All of the participants agreed that, despite some deficiencies such as poor voter lists, the elections confirmed Ukraine’s democratic credentials.

The Russian Federation continued to accuse the OSCE Office of Human Rights and Democratic Institutions of maintaining a double standard in election monitoring by 1) being overly critical of post-Soviet states, and 2) allegedly promoting regime change (i.e., the Rose and Orange Revolutions in Georgia and Ukraine respectively) in countries whose governments were unpopular with Washington and western Europe. The ODIHR had criticized many elections that have taken place in the states of the former Soviet Union for their failure to meet OSCE standards.

Moscow and some of its allies tabled an unsuccessful proposal for the November 2007 Madrid Ministerial that would have subjected the ODIHR to greater control by the OSCE Permanent Council, where it could be more easily controlled by Russia and its allies, especially given the OSCE’s consensus rule.

This simmering controversy came to a head during the run up to Russia’s parliamentary elections of December 2007, when Moscow cut the number of invitations to ODIHR monitors to seventy – as opposed to approximately 450 that attended the parliamentary elections in 2003. Under these circumstances and facing Moscow’s dilatory action on processing entry visas for long-term monitors, ODIHR declined to participate in monitoring activities.

In a letter to Russia's central election commission of November 16, ODIHR Director Christian Strohal said that despite efforts to secure Moscow’s cooperation “entry visas have continuously been denied” and Russia appeared “unwilling to receive international observers” or to fully cooperate with them. Russian election and Foreign Ministry officials contended that Russia had complied with OSCE obligations and blamed “chaos” at ODIHR for the contretemps.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly sent a delegation of approximately 30 short-term monitors. The State Duma elections in the Russian Federation on December 2, 2007 were not fair and failed to meet many OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections, according to an observation mission of parliamentarians from these two bodies.

The observation, bringing together over 70 parliamentarians from 28 countries, was a joint effort of delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), led by Luc

van den Brande, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), led by Göran Lennmarker.

On December 7, 2007, the Helsinki Commission held a Capitol Hill briefing on the Russian parliamentary elections entitled “The Duma Elections, Politics and Putin: Where is Russia Going?”

Commission staff joined OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observers deployed to observe parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan on August 18, 2007. The elections for seats in the lower house of parliament (the *Majilis*) resulted from the early dissolution of the parliament that was elected in 2004. It also followed the adoption of significant amendments to the Constitution and Election Law, including a new proportional representation system. The OSCE has deemed some of the new amendments as contrary to the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, marking a step backward in a number of provisions of the election legislation.

The threshold for a party to win seats in parliament is 7 percent of votes cast. Only the party of President Nazurbayev, Nur Otan, surpassed the threshold, which means they now hold all 98 directly elected seats in the 107 member Majilis. The OSCE noted that despite some progress in the process during the pre-election period and in certain aspects of voting, the election did not meet a number of OSCE commitments, in particular with regard to elements of the legal framework and to the vote count and tabulation. OSCE observers found problems with the vote count in over 40 per cent of polling stations visited, mainly due to procedural problems and lack of transparency.

Commission staff also joined the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on December 16, 2007, as voters in Kyrgyzstan chose from a ballot of 12 parties to elect a new parliament. The result of the election was 71 of 90 seats in parliament for the current president’s party, *Ak Zhol*, and the remaining seats for what are considered “pro-government” opposition parties (the Communist Party and the Social Democrats).

The main opposition party, *Ata Meken*, finished second nationwide with about 8.3 percent of the vote, but did not win any seats because it didn’t clear the 0.5 percent regional barrier (a new requirement that has been contested by the political parties). The conduct of the pre-term election was marred by press censorship, dubious legal maneuverings and vote count irregularities. Because of this, observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) called the elections a “missed opportunity” for deepening democracy and political pluralism in Kyrgyzstan.

### **3. Regional Developments**

#### ***Southeastern Europe/Western Balkans***

Countries of Southeastern Europe/Western Balkans formerly part of the former Yugoslavia generally continued to make progress in recovering from a decade of conflict which caused major human rights violations, economic collapse and fragile democratic transition. Albania,

affected by neighboring Yugoslavia's violent demise in the 1990s but facing its own, unique set of problems as well, also demonstrated progress. Approaching realization of Euro-Atlantic integration coaxed the three Adriatic Charter states -- Albania, Croatia and Macedonia -- to undertake specific reforms and find common ground for otherwise polarized political factions. Montenegro, one year after achieving independence, demonstrated its firm desire to catch up, while UN-administered Kosovo was similarly encouraged by the growing prospects for achieving independence by early 2008, although these prospects have also contributed to tensions. While not regressing, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina nevertheless felt the reverberations of the approaching decision of Kosovo's status, negatively affecting politics in both countries to the detriment of otherwise achievable progress.

Ongoing Commission efforts sought to encourage further progress through U.S. policy as well as OSCE activity, with a particular focus on combating trafficking in persons, encouraging the return of displaced persons, responding to discrimination against and harassment of Roma, and calling for the prosecution of those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. These efforts were reflected in Commission participation in various seminars, conferences and other events, as well as in engagement with the U.S. State Department, diplomatic representatives of the countries concerned, representatives of OSCE institutions and field missions, various human rights and ethnic non-governmental organizations and the press.

Kosovo unquestionably took center stage in 2007. The February proposal of former President of Finland and UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari on status compelled the Helsinki Commission leadership to take a stand on the issue, despite the traditional focus on advocating human rights and promoting democratic development regardless of the course or outcome of status negotiations.

In order to do so, Commission Chairman Hastings visited Kosovo in May, where he received comprehensive briefings by the U.S. Office, the OSCE Mission and the U.S. Army contingent to the KFOR international peacekeeping force. He also met Kosovo's Prime Minister and Minister for Communities and Returns, along with those participating on the "Unity Team" which had been negotiating status issues with their Serbian counterparts. The Chairman also traveled to the city of Mitrovica and the Serb-controlled area of northern Kosovo, where he met with representatives of the Serb community and visited different locations accommodating the return of Serbs and Roma displaced by violence. Upon his return, Chairman Hastings announced his support for the Ahtisaari plan, which balances a supervised independence as desired by the overwhelming majority of the population with the extensive rights and protections for the Serb and other minority communities. As a result, he co-sponsored House Resolution 309, which supports Kosovo's independence.

In September, the Helsinki Commission organized a luncheon on diplomatic developments regarding Kosovo's status, hosted by Chairman Hastings and Co-Chairman Cardin and attended by several Commissioners as well as other interested Members of Congress. Featured speakers were the ambassadors of Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia, all of which are contiguous to Kosovo, as well as five Balkan experts who participated in a event the previous day at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. While there were differing views on how to resolve the situation, there was considerable agreement that further delay posed definite risks and that the United States needed to be active in supporting a European lead in finding a solution, and minority communities in Kosovo must be protected no matter what.

Closely related to developments in Kosovo were those taking place in Serbia. The legacy of extreme nationalism from the 1990s continued to challenge Serbia's reform efforts necessary for European integration, but the prospect of formally losing Kosovo as the direct result of nationalist-inspired conflict and repression from that period certainly served to strengthen that legacy's grip on the country. In January, two members of the Helsinki Commission staff observed Serbia's parliamentary elections and found that, while the electoral process was essentially free and fair, an unhealthy legacy of nationalist thinking dominated the country's politics. Upon their return the staff reported their findings in the Helsinki Commission's newsletter, as well as in a meeting with the Serbian embassy and a presentation at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Later in the year, these issues were also raised in a November meeting in Washington between Helsinki Commissioner Smith and the Serbian Foreign Minister's chief of staff.

The Helsinki Commission elevated its focus on Bosnia-Herzegovina in light of that country's ongoing struggle to achieve the internal integration necessary to make its further external integration into Euro-Atlantic and European institutions possible. Up until 2006, the country had achieved considerable progress given the recent memories of ethnic cleansing and genocide from the 1992-1995 conflict. The failure of constitutional reform in the context of election politics and the difficult post-election formation of a new government set reform adrift in 2007. Moreover, Bosnian Serb politicians sought either to hinder or to capitalize on Kosovo's moves toward independence from Serbia by calling it a potential precedent for their entity, Republika Srpska, to separate from Bosnia-Herzegovina. A February decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirming that genocide had been committed in the UN-designated safe haven of Srebrenica in July 1995 served to sharpen ethnic Bosniak calls for reversing the compromises made in the Dayton Agreement to end the conflict, including an abolition of the Republika Srpska.

These issues first came up in a May meeting between Chairman Hastings and the Bosnian Foreign Minister, as well as at a meeting Co-Chairman Cardin had that same month with the American Bosnian Association. They were also particularly highlighted at a Commission hearing in November on "Bosnia-Herzegovina: Outstanding Issues in Post-Conflict Recovery and Reconciliation," which featured senior international officials from Bosnia and experts on issues relating to the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, the return of persons displaced by the conflict and the search for missing persons from that period. The hearing was particularly important in underscoring Commission support for Bosnia's unity and integration at a time it was viewed as the most vulnerable to division and tension in many years.

The ICJ confirmation of genocide at Srebrenica in July 1995 led to a sharpening in ethnic tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosniaks in particular felt frustrated that 12 years after this crime had been committed, its principal perpetrators, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, were still at large. At the State Department's request, the Commission made its senior Foreign Service advisor available to serve in a temporary assignment to help respond to this deteriorating political situation. He worked to coordinate efforts to address the concerns of Srebrenica's residents and future returnees for justice, security and a better life. By the end of 2007 local authorities and the international community were working more constructively together to improve conditions in Srebrenica on the ground, but longer term reconciliation in Srebrenica and

throughout the country will require bringing the principal war criminals to justice.

Throughout 2007, OSCE efforts in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia were part of the portfolio of Commission staff seconded to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE. A major achievement for the year was the closing of the OSCE Mission in Croatia and its replacement by a smaller presence to help track remaining issues relating to war crimes and returns. OSCE field activities in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to encourage the development of democratic institutions, the rule of law of ethnic tolerance at the national and local levels.

Trafficking in persons, a longstanding Commission concern in the Balkans and elsewhere was the focus of a May briefing co-sponsored by the Commission and the Albanian Issues Caucus in the U.S. Congress, featuring Albania's national coordinator for efforts to combat trafficking to highlight this important issue. The coordinator reported on efforts by her government to thwart trafficking persons by prosecuting the culprits and protecting victims. She was joined by a State Department official responsible for providing assistance to Albania to fight trafficking, as well as by a senior representative of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Efforts to combat trafficking in persons in Macedonia, along with other gender-related issues, was a topic in July, when Commissioners Christopher Smith and Hilda Solis each met a visiting delegation of six women parliamentarians from Macedonia, sponsored by the International Republican Institute.

### *Ukraine and Belarus*

Ukraine continued to be designated as “free,” and not merely “partly free,” according to Freedom House's widely respected “Freedom in the World” report, the only non-Baltic post-Soviet country to earn that designation. Despite the real progress made in Ukraine, many of the promises of the Orange Revolution are only partially fulfilled. The rule of law, including a truly independent judiciary, remains to be consolidated. Corruption, though not quite as egregious as in past years, remains a serious problem.

Throughout 2007, the legacy of Ukraine's November 2004 Orange Revolution remained mixed. Ukraine's political scene was tumultuous, yet democratic. Its leadership was engulfed in a political conflict for much of the year, the result of a power struggle between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich, rooted in weak constitutional delineations of their respective powers. On April 2, Yushchenko issued a decree dissolving the *Verkhovna Rada* (Parliament), asserting that the Prime Minister was attempting to monopolize power by forming a veto-proof parliamentary majority through illegal means, and called for new elections. The parliament refused to disband and questioned the legality of the presidential decree. After nearly two months of tension and standoff, violence was averted and an agreement reached between the President, Prime Minister and Parliamentary Chairman in support of holding pre-term parliamentary elections. Democratic, transparent elections, observed by the international community under OSCE auspices, were held on September 30. (see Section X, 2 on Election Observation, above.).

Chairman Hastings introduced three resolutions on Ukraine during 2007. H. Con. Res. 115, introduced April 17, shortly after the onset of the crisis, urged all sides in Ukraine to act

responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis and ensure a free and transparent democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law

H. Con. Res. 189, introduced July 24, calls for the leadership and political parties of Ukraine to abide by the May 27th agreement and conduct elections as scheduled for September 30th. It stressed that the dispute between the president and prime minister must be resolved in a manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national interest, and in keeping with its OSCE commitments.

Earlier in July, Chairman Hastings led a 14 member Congressional delegation to the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. (see Section VI: Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE, above).

H. Res. 713, introduced October 4, 2007, congratulates the Ukrainian people for the holding of free, fair, open and transparent parliamentary elections in a peaceful manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national interest, in keeping with its commitments as a participating State of the OSCE. The Commission held a briefing on the Ukrainian elections on October 25 (see Section X, 2: Election Observation, above.).

In neighboring Belarus, attempts at democratic expression continued to be trampled upon by the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka. The Commission held a briefing on December 4, "The Future Belarus: Democracy or Dictatorship?" which focused on the prospects for change in a country that is widely considered to have Europe's worst record with respect to human rights and democracy. Participating in the briefing were a delegation of leading Belarus human rights and democracy activists, including Mr. Aleksandr Milinkevich – leader of the Belarusian "For Freedom" movement; candidate of the leading opposition parties in the March 2006 presidential elections and recipient of the 2006 Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament, and Anatoly Lebedka, chair of the opposition United Civic Party and Co-Chair of the United Democratic Forces (UDF). The delegation also met with President Bush and Secretary of State Rice. Another participant, youth leader Dmitry Fedaruk was beaten to unconsciousness by police at an otherwise peaceful demonstration few days after the delegation's return to Belarus. The Commission issued a press release in which Chairman Hastings harshly condemned the beating and strongly reiterated support for Belarusian freedom fighters. During the OSCE PA Annual Session in Kyiv, Commissioner McIntyre introduced an amendment expressing particular concern over violations of religious freedom in Belarus.

## ***Russia***

The reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power in the world has been accompanied by a cooling of relations with the United States over a number of issues, such as foreign policy, human rights, and the war in Iraq. Russia remains interested in cooperation with the U.S. in the war on international terrorism and other issues, but the recent chill in relations has curtailed expectations on both sides. With respect to human rights, troubling trends continued throughout 2007, including a crack down on some public demonstrations, the brief detention of a

leading opposition figure, pressure on selected human rights organizations, activists and media as well as actions reducing the transparency of elections.

In mid-March, Chairman Hastings presented remarks on “Russia and Central Asia: The Growing Policy Challenges for the International Community, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

In April 2007, the Commission sponsored the Capitol Hill screening of the film “The Crying Sun,” a description of the travails of the non-belligerent population of war-torn Chechnya. Overall in 2007, reports of kidnapping and other violent crimes against the population of Chechnya diminished as the putatively pro-Moscow Ramzan Kadyrov tightened his hold on a war-weary population. However, the regions west and east of Chechnya experienced serious social discontent. Major demonstrations against the corruption and incompetence of the political leadership of Ingushetia ended in violence and the arrest of journalists reporting the events.

In mid-May, Chairman Hastings addressed The World Russia Forum, a major gathering of policy makers and academics held annually in Washington to discuss developments in the Russian Federation.

Also in May, more than a dozen Commissioners wrote to Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitriy Medvedev urging the timely accreditation of U. S.-based adoption agencies seeking to operate in the Russian Federation. The letter stressed humanitarian considerations for the Russian children awaiting placement with American families.

On May 24, 2007 the Commission held a hearing on “Russia: In Transition or Intransigent?” Thursday, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power in the world and examining current trends in Russia today, and consider the implications for United States’ policy.

In July 2007, President Putin signed into law additional amendments to Russia's criminal code allegedly intended to deal with extremism (this, in addition to amendments adopted a year earlier). These developments prompted fears that such measures might be misused as a pretext to stifle dissent.

In September 2007, the Helsinki Commission held a Capitol Hill briefing on “Human Rights Defenders in Russia,” featuring Katerina Moskalenko, a prominent Russia attorney whom federal authorities in Moscow attempted unsuccessfully to have her disbarred. (Ms. Moskalenko now works primarily out of Strasbourg.) Another prominent Russian human rights lawyer, Boris Kutnetsov, fled Russia in July 2007.

In November the Helsinki Commission held a briefing entitled “Combating Hate Crimes and Discrimination in the OSCE,” focusing, in part, on troubling developments and attacks in the Russian Federation.

On Thursday, December 6 the Commission held a briefing entitled, “The Duma Elections, Politics and Putin: Where is Russia Going?” The briefing focused on the December 2 parliamentary elections, which saw President Vladimir Putin’s United Russia Party win an

absolute majority of votes. The lead up to the elections were fraught with many problems that led to significantly less election monitors as well as authorities intimidating the opposition and pressuring voters to support the de facto ruling party – United Russia.

### *Central Asia*

In Central Asia, there were no large-scale military hostilities between or inside states or significant terrorist episodes. However, executive branch dominance continued to hold sway domestically, as “super-presidents” retained their tight grip on the political arena. At the extremes, Turkmenistan -- the most authoritarian OSCE state -- gingerly began tinkering with the legacy of its deceased dictator, while Kazakhstan pursued its goal of chairing the OSCE.

In Kazakhstan, President Nursultan Nazarbaev has been running that oil-rich nation since the late 1980s. He was re-elected for a third 7-year term in December 2005 with 91% of the tally, according to official figures; the OSCE said the election “fell short of a number of international standards.” Kazakhstan has yet to hold an election which met OSCE standards.

That record continued into 2007. Until 2007, there were a few opposition members in parliament, where Nazarbaev’s *Nur Otan* Party has been dominant. But in the election of August 2007, which Helsinki Commission staff observed, only *Nur Otan* passed the threshold. The OSCE noted some improvements but concluded that the election “did not meet a number of OSCE commitments.”

While the emergence of a one-party parliament does not enhance Kazakhstan’s democratic credentials, the presence of some more opposition figures would not have changed the basic dynamic: the executive controls the legislature and the judicial system, as well as regional and local governments. There are no independent institutions or checks and balances in Kazakhstan. Moreover, parliament in 2007 adopted amendments to the constitution effectively allowing Nursultan Nazarbaev to remain in office indefinitely.

Virtually no voices critical of Nazarbaev are permitted in the electronic media. Kazakh authorities have selectively used civil and criminal libel cases to punish political opponents and harass opposition newspapers. Two opposition parties, *Atameken* and *Alash*, remain unregistered.

In 2003, Kazakhstan announced its intention to become OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2009. Many European capitals voiced support but objections by the U.S. and U.K. governments, which pointed to serious problems with human rights and democratization, blocked a favorable decision. However, at the Madrid Ministerial of November 2007, after much diplomatic activity by the Spanish Chairman-in-Office, a deal was reached allowing Kazakhstan to become CiO in 2010.

In May, a meeting between Commission Chairman Hastings and Kazakhstan’s Foreign Minister Tazhin focused on Astana’s OSCE candidacy. In September, Chairman Hastings discussed the issue with Assistant Secretaries Fried and Boucher and in October, the Commission held a hearing on Kazakhstan’s bid to chair the OSCE, at which advocates and opponents of Astana’s

bid had the opportunity to present their case.

The chairmanship was granted without any formal conditions, though Astana promised to reform media and electoral legislation, and pledged to preserve the mandate of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), whose election monitoring Russia has sought to undermine.

Kyrgyzstan has been unpredictable since the Tulip Revolution of 2005, as the executive and legislative branches have sought to amend the constitution to rework the relationship between them. Throughout, the possibility of large-scale street demonstrations – which had become a defining feature of the country's politics – lurked in the background.

To resolve the issue, President Bakiev called for a referendum in October on a new draft constitution and changing to a party-list system of electing parliament. The referendum passed, which led to a parliamentary election in December. The new party Bakiev formed to contest the elections won a majority, giving him in effect a ruling party. Helsinki Commission staff monitored the election, which the OSCE described as “a missed opportunity” to make progress towards democracy.

In January, Chairman Hastings met with the Speaker of Kyrgyzstan's parliament and with the country's Foreign Minister in September to discuss these ongoing developments.

While Saparmurat Niyazov ruled Turkmenistan (1985-2006), he strove to keep his country isolated and insulated while imposing his own arbitrary, increasingly erratic obsessions on the country's benighted population. For example, he cut education and banned popular forms of entertainment, such as the circus and opera. Meanwhile, state media praised him in a cult of personality that rivaled North Korea's.

Niyazov's death in December 2006 brought to power Gurbanguly Berdymukhamdov, who defeated 5 other nominal candidates in a February 2007 election. During his first year in office, there has been much talk of reforms, but Turkmenistan is hardly more open now than before.

In August, Commission staff traveled to Turkmenistan to investigate the extent of the change under the country's new leadership. Berdymukhamedov restored a 10-year education system and expanded university education to five years instead of two. But the curriculum remains unreformed and Niyazov's *Ruhnama* remains the chief textbook throughout Turkmenistan's education system. Berdymukhamedov also opened internet cafes across Turkmenistan. But the costs are very high and Turkmen rightly assume the state is monitoring their communications.

In short, despite Berdymukhamedov's reformist rhetoric, the state's grip on the society remains tight and basic freedoms severely restricted. There has been no improvement in freedom of speech and access to information. Turkmenistan remains the only one-party state in the OSCE.

Uzbekistan, under President Islam Karimov, remains one of the world's most repressive states. No opposition is permitted, and Soviet-era censorship effectively continues. In May 2005, Uzbek security troops attacked demonstrators in Andijon, killing hundreds. Ever since, U.S.-Uzbek relations have been in a deep freeze and Uzbek authorities have intensified their

crackdown on human rights activists and opposition figures. Throughout the year, the European Union discussed whether to maintain the sanctions imposed on Tashkent.

In May, the Commission held a briefing on Uzbekistan, focusing on the prospects for reform two years after the Andijon massacre. In December 2007, to nobody's surprise, Karimov was "re-elected" to another 7-year term. The OSCE declined to observe the election.

### *The Caucasus*

Azerbaijan, an energy-rich nation benefiting from oil prices approaching \$100/barrel is well placed to pursue development projects. Nevertheless, there has been little if any political liberalization. Azerbaijan's president and executive branch continue to control the rubber stamp parliament while the judiciary rules as instructed in politically sensitive cases.

Freedom of speech has been under severe attack in Azerbaijan. For much of the year, there were more journalists in prison in Azerbaijan than in any other OSCE state, which several times drew the criticism of the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media. In December, after considerable international pressure, the authorities released some journalists.

In light of the above, Chairman Hastings introduced a resolution calling for the release from jail of former Minister of Economic Development Farhod Aliev during his trial, which featured violations of due process. The resolution also urged an end to attacks on journalists and respect for freedom of speech.

Georgia witnessed dramatic events in 2007, where President Mikheil Saakashvili has dominated politics since the 2003 Rose Revolution. With his National Movement controlling parliament, he could pursue his reformist agenda with little pushback from a weak and largely dispirited opposition, which accused him of increasingly dictatorial tendencies.

But in September, a former Minister of Defense accused Saakashvili of tolerating high-level corruption, fostering authoritarianism and seeking the murder of a political opponent. The allegations revived the opposition, which began organizing street rallies. In November, after several days of a peaceful protest demanding accelerated parliamentary elections, riot police attacked demonstrators in Tbilisi. Saakashvili accused the protesters of trying to stage a coup, at Moscow's behest. But the brutal crackdown, including the closing of the country's most popular television station, badly damaged Saakashvili's image. He promptly resigned and, seeking to renew his mandate, called for snap elections on January 5.

Helsinki Commission Chairman Hastings, along with Co-Chairman Cardin and Ranking Minority Members Smith and Brownback issued a press release in November expressing regret over the resort to violence. The outgoing and incoming OSCE Chairs-in-Office asked Chairman Hastings to lead the international observation mission. It remains to be seen whether Georgia's chances for getting into NATO, a key Saakashvili priority, will suffer. The prospect was complicated enough for Georgia before November, considering the country's poverty and unresolved conflicts with separatist regions Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

#### **4. Other Areas of Concern**

##### ***Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism: U.S. Practices and Policies Regarding Detainees***

Although the Helsinki Commission largely focuses its attention on issues relating to the other OSCE participating States, the Commission has periodically examined domestic compliance issues. In recent years, no other issue has been raised as vocally with the United States at OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meetings than the status and treatment of detainees captured or arrested as part of U.S. counter-terrorism operations. In 2007, the Helsinki Commission held two hearings related to this subject.

On June 21, 2007, the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on “Guantánamo: Implications for U.S. Human Rights Leadership.” Testimony was received from John B. Bellinger III, Legal Advisor to the Department of State; Senator Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) Special Representative on Guantánamo; Tom Malinowski, Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch; and Gabor Rona, International Legal Director, Human Rights First. In addition, written testimony was received from the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.

In the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, the OSCE participating States agreed to “ensure that all individuals in detention or incarceration will be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.”

On December 10, 2007, the Commission held a hearing, on the campus of the University of Maryland, entitled, “Is It Torture, Yet?” The hearing focused on what constitutes torture or other forms of prohibited ill-treatment, what legal norms apply, and what is known about the effectiveness of various interrogation methods. During the hearing, both Senator Cardin and Congressman Hastings were critical of United States policy on torture and expressed their concerns over the destruction of CIA videotapes of terror suspects under interrogation.

Testimony at the Commission’s hearing was received from Devon Chaffee, an attorney with Human Rights First (who also served, at the invitation of the Department of Defense, as Human Rights First’s official observer at the military commissions in Guantanamo); Thomas C. Hilde, a professor at the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland; Christian Davenport, a Professor of Political Science, University of Maryland and Senior Fellow and Director of Research at the Center for International Development and Conflict Management; and Malcom Wrightson Nance, Director of Special Readiness Services International and a 20-year veteran of the U.S. intelligence community’s “Combating Terrorism” program.

Human rights and counter-terrorism issues were addressed elsewhere during the year as well.

Beginning in 2006 (at Russia’s initiative), “human rights and counter-terrorism” has been included as a regular agenda item for the OSCE’s annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. In 2007, the Spanish Chair-in-Office organized several meetings in Vienna related to terrorism: a follow-up workshop on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters to counter terrorism (March); a political conference on public-private partnership in countering terrorism (May); and a High-level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism (September).

The September meeting was notable for decision by the Spanish Chair to exclude a non-governmental organization, the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society, from participating in the meeting. That move, in turn, prompted the U.S. delegation to walk-out of the meeting in protest. The Russian-Chechen Friendship Society had previously participated in a number of OSCE meetings, and the Spanish decision to exclude them – in violation of OSCE rules governing public participation in such meetings – was apparently taken to placate the Russians.

***Monitoring and Combating Intolerance and Discrimination in the OSCE Region:  
Anti-Semitism, Racism and Xenophobia***

The Commission maintained a high level of activity in 2007 focused on efforts to monitor and combat intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region.

In late January, Chairman Hastings presented key note remarks during a special panel discussion entitled “Holocaust Denial and Human Rights,” organized in New York City by B’nai B’rith International in conjunction with United Nations’ second International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The Chairman was joined by Thomas Matussek, Ambassador to the United Nations from Germany, David Matas, B’nai B’rith Canada’s Honorary Counsel, lawyer, and human rights activist, and Juan E. Mendez, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

In April, Chairman Hastings delivered remarks at the Anti-Defamation League’s national leadership council titled “Confronting Global Anti-Semitism: A Transatlantic Partnership.”

In May, Chairman Hastings travelled to Poland to participate in a conference on “Security and Democracy in the Middle East: Towards a Common Euro-American Approach.” While there, he met with the Director and Deputy Director of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. This Museum commemorates the three million Polish Jews who died in World War II, and celebrates the nearly one thousand years of Jewish culture in Poland. It is estimated that eighty percent of all Jews and over 9 million Americans trace some of their ancestry to the Polish Jewish community. Commission staff subsequently attended, in June, the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of this Museum.

In June, Chairman Hastings also attended the OSCE Bucharest Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, where he opened the conference and also served as a panelist.

In July, Co-Chairman Benjamin L. Cardin introduced a resolution in the OSCE PA on combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance co-sponsored by members of the Commission. The resolution was unanimously passed and focused on the need for OSCE participating States to honor and implement the commitments made at the 9 OSCE meetings and related events on combating anti-Semitism, following efforts begun in the OSCE PA in 2002.

Chairman Hastings and Co-Chairman Cardin also continued to support the public release of an estimated 30-50 million Holocaust-era documents from the Bad Arolsen archives in Germany.

Constituting the largest and most important collection of Holocaust-era documents not yet available for research, those archives are now being transferred to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other designated repositories.

In November 2007, the Commission held a briefing entitled, “Hate Crimes and Discrimination in the OSCE region,” where the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of racism reported on his visits to seven OSCE countries (Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Canada, Italy, and Switzerland). An expert on prejudice, immigration, and Muslim communities, Dr. Tiffany Lightbourn of the Department of Homeland Security, and representatives from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which reports on hate crimes in the former Soviet Union, also participated. The Ambassador of Switzerland was also in attendance and spoke at length about his country’s election of an openly xenophobic political party that ran on an anti-migrant and anti-Muslim platform.

In December 2007, Chairman Alcee Hastings led efforts to convene, for the first time, an OSCE Mediterranean Partners seminar on tolerance, focused on anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia, and discrimination against Muslims, in Tel Aviv, Israel. Chairman Hastings, wrote letters encouraging the participation of all Mediterranean Partners at the Seminar and led a session at the seminar, noting that the “Protection of minority rights and combating discrimination [...] are core principles of the Helsinki Process and are essential to stable, productive, democratic societies.”

Commission staff also actively worked with Commissioner Hilda Solis, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Migration. Racial and ethnic minorities -- often African, Asian, and Muslim migrants -- in the OSCE region have increasingly been the targets of hate crimes, and discrimination in employment, education, and housing, with an increase in recorded racist crimes reported in 8 European Union Member States and throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union. This February, Commissioner Solis led two events at the OSCE PA Winter meeting addressing migration, including issues of intolerance and discrimination.

Commission staff also participated in the various OSCE and partner organization meetings and events held throughout 2007 to discuss efforts to combat all forms of intolerance. In September, Commission staff attended the Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw, Poland and drafted remarks on anti-Semitism and racism and xenophobia. In October, Commission staff attended the first OSCE Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims held in Cordoba, Spain.

The Commission has also raised concerns regarding the rise in intolerance and discrimination with interested non-governmental organizations and government representatives from countries including the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, and European Union.

### ***Situation of Roma in the OSCE Region***

During 2007, the Commission continued to follow closely the situation of the Romani minority throughout the OSCE region. With the most recent enlargement of the European Union, Roma

now constitute the largest ethnic minority in the European Union, estimated by the European Union Parliament to be 12-15 million people within the EU borders.

Early in the year, Chairman Hastings welcomed an announcement by Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu-Tariceanu, stating that the Romanian government will establish a commission to study the enslavement of Roma. This positive gesture was somewhat overshadowed by an anti-Roma comment made by Romanian President Traian Basescu shortly before Romania hosted an OSCE conference on tolerance in June. Chairman Hastings participated in that meeting and met with Romani representatives while in Bucharest.

The Commission leadership continued to encourage the Slovak and Czech governments to acknowledge the past practice of targeting Romani women forced sterilization without informed consent, and welcome the first Czech court decision in favor of a Romani sterilization victim. (In December 2006, Slovakia's highest court ruled that the investigation of three sterilization cases have been so faulty that it violated both the Slovak Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights.)

The Commission also welcomed a landmark decision of the European Court of Human Rights in a school desegregation case brought by 18 Romani children in the Czech Republic. In that case, Europe's highest court held that channeling Romani children into so-called 'special schools' constitutes, in fact, a form of pernicious race discrimination. Although that case originated in the Czech Republic, artificial barriers have been created in numerous OSCE participating States that impede access to education for Romani children. In April, arsonists burned down a Romani school in Greece, and in the fall, 29 Romani pupils in Csorog, Hungary, were left without a school when their own school closed and neighboring jurisdictions refused to enrol them.

The Commission also remained concerned for the particular plight of Roma in Balkans, especially in the still unsettled region of Kosovo. In May, Chairman Hastings travelled to Kosovo and visited Romani communities there. This included a visit to the Roma neighborhood being rebuilt in the northern city of Mitrovica and the camps where Roma have been living since that neighborhood was destroyed. Tens of thousands of Kosovar Roma fled the region after 1999 and remain displaced elsewhere in Europe.

Commissioners also raised concerns regarding the ethnically-based collection of data by law enforcement in Ukraine and threats of violence against Roma in Italy following the influx of significant numbers of Roma from Romania after Romania joined the European Union. (In August, a fire in a Romanian Roma make-shift campsite cost the lives of four children. An extremist group subsequently claimed credit for starting that fire and threatened to use the same means to drive every member of the Romani minority out of Italy. The Italian government remained silent in the face of these threats.)

### ***Combating the Trafficking of Humans***

The Commission continued to address the worldwide phenomenon of trafficking of human beings into slavery-like conditions of forced labor or commercial sexual servitude. Commission

staff also worked with the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit and the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking to influence the direction and scope of their work.

Trafficking in human beings remains a critical challenge in the OSCE region and a matter of priority for the Helsinki Commission. The Commission strongly supported the adoption of the OSCE action plan to combat trafficking in human beings and the establishment of the position of special representative and coordinator of combating trafficking in human beings. These mechanisms have given greater focus to addressing this critical challenge in the OSCE region.

Since the adoption of the OSCE anti-trafficking protocols, participating States have made significant strides in combating the sexual dimension of human trafficking. However, there has been a growing consensus that more needs to be done to understand the scope and challenge of humans trafficked for forced servitude.

During the OSCE PA Annual Session in Kyiv, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Christopher H. Smith introduced a several amendments to a measure on human trafficking, welcoming the ongoing work of the Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; urging adoption of comprehensive anti-trafficking laws; encouraging greater media attention to trafficking; calling for more attention to forced labor trafficking; and urging the aggressive prosecution of those responsible for trafficking infants, children, and youth. Smith, the sponsor of major U.S. anti-trafficking laws, was appointed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President to serve as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues.

Many participating States have still not adopted legislation to specifically address trafficking for forced labor purposes. In addition, much of the resources and early efforts to combat human trafficking have been directed at identifying and prosecuting sexual trafficking cases.

On October 11, 2007, the Commission held a hearing on Combating Trafficking for Labor Purposes in the OSCE Region,” examining the scope of forced labor purposes and the adequacy of resources dedicated to addressing this critical challenge. Witnesses included the Honorable Mark Lagon, Director, U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Ms. Charlotte M. Ponticelli, Deputy Undersecretary for International Labor Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor; Mr. Michael E. Feinberg, Acting Director, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Ms. Eva Biaudet, Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Mr. Roger Plant, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, International Labor Organization. From the testimony presented, a consensus emerged that increased research was required to adequately assess the scope of forced labor and determine where additional resources would more effectively address the problem.

In further support of anti-trafficking efforts, Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings and Commissioners Christopher H. Smith, Hilda Solis, Joseph R. Pitts and Mike Pence co-sponsored H.R. 3887, the Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007. The reauthorization bill marks another important milestone in preventing the inhumane practice of human trafficking, bolstering the resources needed to continue various anti-trafficking

programs; protecting trafficking victims, and prosecuting the criminals that perpetrate these crimes.

### ***Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children in the OSCE Region***

In 2007, Commission staff helped organize, and participated in, two OSCE conferences and assisted in drafting and negotiating another OSCE Ministerial decision to expand commitments by the participating States to combat child pornography on the internet, building upon earlier Commission initiatives.

During the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session, held in Kyiv, Ukraine in early July 2007, Commissioner Mike McIntyre, sponsored a resolution to encourage OSCE member nations to establish a hotline for reporting the commercial exploitation of persons involved in human trafficking.

Commission staff helped design the agenda for and participated in both the September, 20-21, 2007 police experts meeting on the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet and of the October 18-19, 2007 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on combating the sexual exploitation of children. The police experts meeting brought together law enforcement officials from the participating States with representatives of the private sector, including internet providers, computer software companies, and credit card companies, as well as NGOs specialized in monitoring the internet, running hotlines, and providing assistance to victims of sexual exploitation. The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting brought government representatives together with civil society to discuss ways to strengthen action to combat sexual exploitation of children.

Working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Commission staff helped identify gaps in participating States' legislation and policies to stop child pornography on the internet. These issues were incorporated into a Ministerial decision adopted in Madrid that commits OSCE States to establish national centers to coordinate action against sexual exploitation of children, create databases or registries of child sex offenders, establish a public alert system for missing children, criminalize the intentional possession of child pornography, increase research on the issue, work with the private sector to shut down child pornography providers, and step up specialized training for personnel likely to come in contact with abused children.

### ***Freedom of the Media in the OSCE Region***

Recognizing that freedom of media is a cornerstone of democracy, the OSCE participating States have adopted numerous commitments related to freedom of speech and freedom of the media. In practice, there is enormous diversity in the OSCE region with respect to implementation of these agreements.

In a major address in early May at conference on 21st Century Threats to Media Freedom,

Chairman Hastings focused on threats to media freedom in the OSCE region, including difficult working conditions for independent journalists in some participating States. He cited the extreme case of Belarus where the regime maintains a virtual monopoly on information and media freedoms are systematically stifled and have deteriorated over the past few years. In Russia, prominent investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya was gunned down in October 2006 and over 40 other journalists have been killed since 1992. Conditions elsewhere in the Former Soviet Union vary widely.

In a small number of countries, such as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, media freedom is virtually non-existent. In many other former Soviet countries, where the transition to democracy is still tenuous, respect for freedom of the media is not surprisingly also weak. In these countries, manipulation or control of the media is a particular concern in the context of efforts to hold free and fair elections. This is especially significant in light of agreement on Kazakhstan's bid to serve as OSCE Chair-in-Office in 2010.

Two former Soviet countries have generated particular concern. In Russia, various legislation has been promulgated (usually under the "anti-terrorism" rubric) to restrict media reporting, and journalists and media organizations face pressure from various levels of government, as well as from large private companies with links to the government. The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that since the year 2000, fourteen journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation in retaliation for their professional activities. None of these killings have been solved, although authorities claim some progress in some cases.

In Azerbaijan, the trends are negative and alarming. NGOs report that, in the first six months of 2007, more than 60 journalists have been charged with speech-related offences, usually criminal defamation or "insult;" and seven journalists are serving prison sentences for criticizing the government or addressing sensitive as the social subjects. Over 20 journalists have requested asylum from Western embassies in Baku.

The Helsinki Commission held two hearings on freedom of the media in 2007.

On August 7, the Commission held a hearing with Ms. Fatima Tlisova, an independent Russian journalist, and representatives of two leading organizations that monitor freedom of the media: Ms. Nina Ognianova, Committee to Protect Journalists, and Ms. Paula Schriefer, Freedom House. They discussed a variety of means used to restrict freedom of the media, including: violence against journalists; criminalization of journalist offences.

On December 13, the Commission held a follow-up hearing with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti. Haraszti also discussed the practice of some governments to punish journalists for their use of governmental data. He also expressed concern that the otherwise legitimate expectation that the media should be culturally sensitive has resulted in increased attempts to label offending or critical views as criminally punishable 'extremism' or 'hate speech'.

## Appendix (A)

### Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

110<sup>th</sup> Congress

#### *Legislative Branch Commissioners*

##### *United States Senate*

Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland  
Co-Chairman  
Russell D. Feingold, Wisconsin  
Christopher J. Dodd, Connecticut  
Hillary Rodham Clinton, New York  
John F. Kerry, Massachusetts  
Sam Brownback, Kansas  
Gordon H. Smith, Oregon  
Saxby Chambliss, Georgia  
Richard Burr, North Carolina

##### *United States House of Representatives*

Alcee L. Hastings, Florida  
Chairman  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, New York  
Mike McIntyre, North Carolina  
Hilda L. Solis, California  
G.K. Butterfield, North Carolina  
Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey  
Joseph R. Pitts, Pennsylvania  
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama  
Mike Pence, Indiana

#### *Executive Branch Commissioners*

*Vacant*, Department of State  
*Vacant*, Department of Defense  
*Vacant*, Department of Commerce

## Appendix (B)

### COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE STAFF MEMBERS

<b>Clifford Bond</b>	<b>Senior Advisor (Detailee from the Department of State)</b> Balkans, Public Diplomacy, Inter-agency Contacts
<b>Orest Deychakiwsky</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Belarus, Bulgaria, Ukraine, NGO Liaison, Security Officer
<b>John Finerty</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation
<b>Shelly Han</b>	<b>Senior Advisor</b> Economics, Environment, Energy Security, Labor Migration, Trade, Good Governance
<b>Bob Hand</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
<b>Janice Helwig</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> U.S. Delegation to the OSCE, OSCE Structure
<b>Alex T. Johnson</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Human Trafficking
<b>Marlene Kaufmann</b>	<b>General Counsel</b>
<b>Lale Mamaux</b>	<b>Communications Director</b>
<b>Ronald McNamara</b>	<b>International Policy Director</b>
<b>Michael Ochs</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
<b>Winsome Packer</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> OSCE Security Issues, U.S. Delegation to the OSCE
<b>Kyle Parker</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Russian Federation (Domestic Political Developments, Relations with Neighbors, Regions)

<b>Daniel Redfield</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>
<b>Erika Schlager</b>	<b>Counsel for International Law</b> Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Romani Minority Issues, OSCE and International Legal Issues, Domestic Compliance Issues
<b>Josh Shapiro</b>	<b>Staff Assistant</b>
<b>Harold Smalley</b>	<b>Detaillee from the Government Printing Office</b>
<b>Mischa Thompson</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b> Tolerance; Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia
<b>Fred Turner</b>	<b>Chief of Staff</b>
<b>David Zuk</b>	<b>Systems Administrator (Contactor)</b>

## Appendix (C)

### OSCE Participating States as of January 2008

Country	Participating States
Albania	admitted as observer on June 20, 1990; admitted as fully participating State on June 19, 1991
Andorra	admitted as new participating State on April 25, 1996
Armenia	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Austria	original participating State
Azerbaijan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Belarus	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Belgium	original participating State
Bosnia-Herzegovina	admitted as new participating State on April 30, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, an original participating State)
Bulgaria	original participating State
Canada	original participating State
Croatia	admitted as observer on January 31, 1992; admitted as fully participating State on March 24, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, an original participating State)
Cyprus	original participating State
Czech Republic	admitted as new participating State on January 1, 1993 (previously participated as part of Czechoslovakia, original participating State)
Denmark	original participating State
Estonia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Finland	original participating State
France	original participating State
Georgia	admitted as new participating State on March 24, 1992
Germany	originally participated as two separate countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic; participation as single country began with German unification on October 3, 1990
Greece	original participating State
The Holy See	original participating State
Hungary	original participating State
Iceland	original participating State
Ireland	original participating State
Italy	original participating State
Kazakhstan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Kyrgyzstan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Latvia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Liechtenstein	original participating State
Lithuania	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991

Luxembourg	original participating State
Malta	original participating State
Macedonia	admitted as observer as of April 1993; admitted as new, fully participating State on October 12, 1995 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Moldova	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Monaco	original participating State
Montenegro	admitted as new participating State on June 26, 2006 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, and then as part of Serbia and Montenegro)
Netherlands	original participating State
Norway	original participating State
Poland	original participating State
Portugal	original participating State
Romania	original participating State
Russia	original participating State as the Soviet Union; Russia succeeded to the Soviet Union's seat on January 11, 1991
San Marino	original participating State
Serbia	originally participated as Yugoslavia; suspended from participation in decision making on May 12, 1992; suspended from participating in meetings on July 7, 1992; re-admitted as new, fully participating State November 10, 2000; renamed Serbia and Montenegro on February 4, 2003; Montenegro separated from Serbia by referendum in May 2006
Slovak Republic	admitted as new participating State January 1, 1993 (previously participated as part of Czechoslovakia, an original participating State)
Slovenia	admitted as an observer on January 31, 1992; admitted as new, fully participating State March 24, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Spain	original participating State
Sweden	original participating State
Switzerland	original participating State
Tajikistan	admitted as new participating State January 30, 1992
United Kingdom	original participating State
United States	original participating State
Uzbekistan	admitted as new, fully participating State January 30, 1992

### **OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation**

Algeria	affiliated with the Helsinki process since 1973
Egypt	affiliated with the Helsinki process since 1973
Israel	affiliated with the Helsinki process since 1973
Jordan	admitted as a Mediterranean partner for co-operation on May 22, 1998
Morocco	affiliated with the Helsinki process since 1973
Tunisia	affiliated with the Helsinki process since 1973

## OSCE Partners for Cooperation

Afghanistan	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on April 3, 2003
Japan	affiliated with the Helsinki Process from July 10, 1992; formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Mongolia	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on December 2, 2004
Republic of Korea	formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Thailand	admitted as a partner for co-operation on Nov. 9, 2000

### Appendix (D)

#### Hearings, Briefings, Digest Articles and Congressional Delegations in 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session

##### A. Hearings

Russia: In Transition or Intransigent? (May 24, 2007)

Guantanamo: Implications for Human Rights Leadership (June 21, 2007)

Pipeline Politics: Achieving Energy Security in the OSCE Region (June 25, 2007)

Energy and Democracy: Oil and Water (July 23, 2007)

Freedom of the Media in the OSCE Region (August 2, 2007)

Combating Trafficking for Forced Labor Purposes in the OSCE Region (October 11, 2007)

Kazakhstan's Bid to Chair the OSCE in 2009 (October 16, 2007)

Parliamentary Perspective of Challenges Facing Today's Europe (October 18, 2007)

Spain's Leadership of the OSCE (October 29, 2007)

21<sup>st</sup> Century Security Issues in the OSCE Region (November 5, 2007)

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Outstanding Issues in Post-Conflict Recovery (November 8, 2007)

Is it Torture Yet? (Field Hearing) – (December 10, 2007)

Freedom of the Media in the OSCE Region – Part 2 (December 13, 2007)

## **B. Briefings**

Uzbekistan: Two Years after Andijon (May 18, 2007)

Combating Trafficking in Persons in Albania (May 22, 2007)

The 2007 Turkish Elections: Globalization and Ataturk's Legacy (July 26, 2007)

Human Rights Defenders in Russia (September 27, 2007)

The Ukrainian Elections: Implications for Ukraine's Future Decision (October 25, 2007)

Combating Hate Crimes and Discrimination in the OSCE Region (November 6, 2007)

The Future Belarus: Democracy or Dictatorship? (December 4, 2007)

Russia's Duma Elections: Results and Review (December 6, 2007)

## **C. Digest Articles and Reports**

### Articles

OSCE Ministers Urge Concerted Action to Combat Sexual Exploitation of Children (January 9, 2007)

Helsinki Commissioners Meet with Vaclav Havel, Commemorate 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charter 77 Movement (March 15, 2007)

Parliamentary Elections in Serbia Reveal Progress in Democratic Development but also Support for Nationalist Causes (March 19, 2007)

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Convenes Winter Session (March 19, 2007)

OSCE Convenes Annual Security Review Conference (June 28, 2007)

Guantanamo Focus of Helsinki Commission Hearing (July 20, 2007)

Activists Present Mixed Assessment of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in OSCE Region (August 13, 2007)

Sustaining the Fight: Combating Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance within the OSCE (August 13, 2007)

Mediterranean Partner Hosts Congressional Staff: Stresses Peace and Security (August 23, 2007)

Russia: Advancing in the War against Cancer, Retreating on Democratic Governance (August 24, 2007)

U.S. Delegation Initiatives Win Wide Approval at OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Meetings in Kyiv (August 24, 2007)

OSCE Chairman Addresses Helsinki Commission in Advance of Madrid Ministerial (November 5, 2007)

Continuing the Fight: Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (December 3, 2007)

Srebrenica: Twelve Years after the Genocide and the Signing of the Dayton Accords (December 4, 2007)

Ukraine's Pre-Term Parliamentary Elections and Demonstrable Commitment to Democratic Standards focus of Commission Initiatives (December 6, 2007)

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina Continues to Play a Constructive Role

## **Reports**

The 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (February 27, 2007)

## **D. Congressional Delegations**

Congressman Hastings, Solis, McIntyre to Austria for OSCE PA Winter Meeting (February 19, 2007)

Congressman Hastings and Senator Cardin to Copenhagen for OSCE PA Bureau Meeting (April 21, 2007)

Congressman Hastings to Poland, Israel, Jordan, Libya, and Romania to address a conference on U.S./Poland/Israel relations (Poland), to participate in the OSCE High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding (Romania), and to visit the OSCE Partner Countries for Cooperation (May 25, 2007)

Senator Cardin, Representatives Hastings, Butterfield, McIntyre, Slaughter, Smith Solis, Kaptur, Matsui, McNulty, Moore to Ukraine for OSCE PA 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Session (July 5, 2008)

Congressman Hastings to Slovenia and Italy for OSCE PA Fall Meeting (September 28, 2007)

Congressman Hastings to Spain for Madrid for OSCE Ministerial (November 26, 2007)

Congressman Hastings to Israel to attend the OSCE Annual Mediterranean Seminar (December 12, 2007)

## **E. Staff Delegations**

Cliff Bond and Bob Hand to Serbia for Parliamentary Elections (January 16, 2007)

Shelly Han to Austria for Economic and Environmental Forum (January 20, 2007)

Cliff Bond to Bosnia & Herzegovina to attend a conference for the International Forum Bosnia and have meeting with NGOs (March 7, 2007)

Shelly Han to Spain for Economic and Environmental Forum (March 10, 2007)

Fred Turner to Andorra for OSCE PA Economic Conference (May 22, 2007)

Marlene Kaufmann to Russia and Austria to attend an all-Russian national forum and meeting of the Permanent Council (May 25, 2007)

Winsome Packer to Austria to attend the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference and to attend the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces (June 11, 2007)

Erika Schlager to Poland and Austria to attend the opening ceremonies for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and to attend a Permanent Council meeting and have consultations with members of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE regarding human dimension activities (June 24, 2007)

Ron McNamara and Mischa Thompson to Austria to attend the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *Protection and Promotion of Human Rights: Responsibilities and Effective Remedies* (July 9, 2007)

Janice Helwig to Sarajevo and Bosnia & Herzegovina to participate in USOSCE's assessment visit to the OSCE Mission (July 15, 2007)

Shelly Han and Kyle Parker to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to participate in the OSCE election observation mission (in Kazakhstan) and to meet Turkmen government officials and U.S. Embassy officials to discuss recent political and social developments (August 11, 2007)

Winsome Packer to Austria to attend the Conference on Assistance to Trafficked Persons and High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism (September 8, 2007)

Ron McNamara, Orest Deychakiwsky, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Kyle Parker, and Mischa Thompson to Poland and Ukraine\*, Poland to attend the 2007 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting (September 22, 2007)

\*Orest and Ron only to Ukraine for Parliamentary Election observation

Mischa Thompson and Janice Helwig to Spain to attend the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (October 7, 2007)

Mischa Thompson to Michigan to attend the Islamophobia Conference at the University of Michigan (October 18, 2007)

Shelly Han and Alex Johnson to Morocco and Kyrgyzstan\* to participate in an OSCE conference on Labour Migration Policies (December 9, 2007)

\*Shelly Han only in Kyrgyzstan to observe the Parliamentary Elections