



BUDGET REQUEST

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND

COOPERATION IN EUROPE

FISCAL YEAR 2016

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2016

I. Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2016

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly called “the Helsinki 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 for calendar year 2016 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 breakup 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. Mongolia joined the OSCE as a fully participating State in 2012, bringing OSCE membership to 57 countries.

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, and Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, 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), reflecting its post cold-war focus on the promotion of free elections, human rights, democracy, and conflict prevention and management. 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.

A substantial amount of Commission work is shaped by breaking developments that emerge over the course of any given year, both with respect to human rights as well as emerging conflicts or escalating inter-state tension. The Commission is most effective and relevant when it has the flexibility to respond to these issues as they arise.

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 2016, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,579,000 for salaries and expenses, in keeping with the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2016.

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. In 2014, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin served as Chairman and Representative Christopher H. Smith as Co-Chairman. Senator Roger F. Wicker and Representative Alcee L. Hastings were Ranking Members. (See Appendix (A) for the list of Commissioners in the 113th Congress).

In addition, U.S. law specifies that the Senate will lead the U.S. Delegation to OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meetings in odd-numbered years, while the House provides the Head of Delegation in even-numbered years.

III. Commission Personnel

Staff responsibilities are noted in Appendix (B). The Commission benefits 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, and economic and environmental dimensions of the Helsinki process, current staff members are proficient in languages including Belarusian, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

Moreover, due to the extensive experience and 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 on such matters, 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 drafting of documents, and other OSCE-related initiatives.

IV. Implementing the Commission's Mandate in 2014

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.

All OSCE commitments, including those in the human dimension, have been adopted on the basis of consensus by all participating States. These human rights commitments encompass a broad array of issues, including the freedoms of speech, media, assembly, association and movement; religious liberties; and the treatment of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities. In 1991, the participating States at the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension 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.*" [Emphasis added.] The "Decalogue" of the Helsinki Final Act established ten core principles for guiding relations among participating States, including respect for territorial integrity and sovereign equality.

Commission engagement in the United States 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.

Of the 57 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 human rights goals. Additionally, the Commission has addressed some aspects of the United States' own implementation record.

The Commission pursues its mandate in a variety of ways. Hearings and briefings offer the most public forum to highlight violations of human rights and other OSCE commitments. For certain topics, Administration officials testify on U.S. government policies. Commissioners may utilize these hearings to press the executive branch to take more resolute actions where circumstances warrant. In addition, the Commission may receive testimony from the representatives of OSCE participating States when hearings or briefings are convened directly related to particular countries. Webcasting has expanded the reach of Commission hearings. (For a complete listing of Commission hearings, briefings, reports, and articles, see Appendix (D).)

The Commission also serves as a venue for closed-door briefings and meetings for Hill staff. In 2014, the Commission organized meetings with State Department officials, Senior OSCE representatives, and NGOs dealing with the Balkans, Hungary, and Central Asia.

In addition, Commissioners raise specific human rights abuses or shortcomings with countries of concern in meetings with officials and representatives (at home or 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 senior officials at the Department of State and other relevant U.S. government agencies and, when necessary, seek to raise or improve the level of U.S. engagement regarding specific countries, cases or issues, including related 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 high turnover – helps ensure that these offices are kept informed of longstanding issues or emerging trends of concern to Commissioners. The work of the Commission has resulted in some notable successes in helping to resolve human rights violations.

This engagement is facilitated by the inclusion of Commission staff in the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, on U.S. delegations to specialized OSCE meetings, and by the secondment of a senior Department of State official to the Commission's staff. Commission staff participate in periodic U.S. Government bilateral consultations on human rights with the governments of Central Asian countries, training conferences for human rights officers on issues relating to Romani minorities, and as human rights experts at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.

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 drawn from the Congress. The Commission works closely with individual Members, committees, subcommittees, and the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. (Commission work on specific Members' legislative initiatives is described below.)

The structure of the Commission advances an understanding in foreign capitals that the Congress and the American people attach significant importance to respect for individual human rights and other aspects of the Helsinki process and consider these matters in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. The Commission's bipartisan and bicameral nature, its tenure, and its efforts reaffirm that respect for such rights is a matter of basic principle for Americans. Equally important, 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.

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 Final Act and other OSCE documents. Commissioners and staff attended public fora, delivered presentations, 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 Helsinki commitments and 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. These activities reinforce in the public mind the leadership of the Congress on individual rights. The Commission has also been the single most active voice for ensuring that the meetings and processes of the OSCE are as open as possible and that non-governmental organizations can participate fully in OSCE human dimension activities.

V. Countries and Regions of Particular Focus

Throughout 2014, Ukraine was a principal focus of Commission activity.

In January and February, the Commission focused on supporting the democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people manifested in largely peaceful demonstrations that began in late 2013 against the corrupt government of President Victor Yanukovich. The Commission decried the escalation of violence by the regime that led to the deaths in Kyiv of more than 100 protestors and welcomed Ukraine's post-Yanukovich, pro-Western transition government in press releases, statements, and Congressional resolutions.

Russia's subsequent de facto annexation of Crimea in March and on-going aggression in south-eastern Ukraine, which has resulted in more than 5,000 deaths including 298 killed in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July, sharply illustrated the escalating threat to Ukraine and to the region.

In April, the Commission held a hearing on Ukraine with Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Victoria Nuland. Chairman Cardin, Ranking Senator Wicker, and eight other Members of Congress called for more support for Ukraine and urged Secretary of State John Kerry to press NATO allies and other OSCE participating States to end all defense contracts with Russia.

Other 2014 Commission hearings included a strong Ukraine component, including a hearing with the Swiss OSCE Chair-in-Office in February and a hearing on corruption in November.

Along with Senator Rob Portman, Commissioner Representative Michael C. Burgess and Commission staff, Chairman Cardin traveled to Kyiv in June to observe the May Ukrainian presidential elections as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observation mission. While there, the delegation met with Ukraine's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The Commission welcomed the conduct of the vote and the election of a reformist, pro-Western president.

A key U.S. initiative at the annual OSCE Parliamentary Assembly session in Baku was a resolution sponsored by Chairman Cardin condemning Russia's direct support of the separatist insurrection as a clear, gross, and uncorrected violation of Helsinki principles.

Despite fierce opposition by the Russian delegation, the resolution was adopted by a 3-1 favorable margin.

Commissioner Burgess and Commission staff also observed Ukraine's October parliamentary elections in Kyiv and surrounding regions as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly mission. The Commission held a public briefing following these elections.

Throughout the year, Commissioners spoke out against Russian aggression and violations of human rights in Russian and Russian-proxy militant occupied areas in floor statements, press releases, U.S. and foreign media appearances, and letters and other communications with executive branch officials, often calling for stronger U.S. policy responses. Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Smith supported various legislative initiatives pertaining to Ukraine. Chairman Cardin was an original cosponsor of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, which was signed by the President in December.

Commission staff provided background on Ukraine developments for numerous Congressional offices and maintained close contacts with Ukrainian and other relevant government officials, the State Department, and non-governmental organizations. The Commission has also served as a resource regarding OSCE election observation, institutions, and structures as Ukraine developments have put the OSCE's role in the spotlight.

As the largest regional security organization, the OSCE established an unarmed, civilian Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in March, followed by an OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk. The OSCE's work in Ukraine has an unprecedented degree of transparency and the mission reports are public. In late May, two groups of OSCE monitors were taken hostage and held by Russian-backed separatists for several weeks. Chairman Cardin and Ranking Senator Wicker, joined by six other Senators, raised concern over the fate of the observers in a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry.

In addition to addressing Russia's violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, the Commission addressed the lack of democracy in Russia itself. In March, the Commission held a briefing on U.S.-Russian relations in the context of the deteriorating respect for all fundamental elements of the Helsinki Final Act.

The Commission monitored the administration's implementation of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law and Accountability Act, authored by Chairman Cardin and passed into law in 2012. In December, Chairman Cardin welcomed the addition of four additional names to the list and called for the Administration to pursue visa bans for other government officials and private individuals against whom evidence exists of their involvement in the conspiracy and cover-up of Magnitsky's death in 2009.

On the second anniversary of the Russian Government's crackdown on Bolotnaya Square protests in Moscow, Chairman Cardin held a press conference in the Capitol with Nadya Tolokonnikova and Maria [Masha] Alyokhina of the Russian protest group Pussy Riot. The two previously imprisoned activists came to Washington to highlight the need for prompt,

full and ongoing implementation of the Magnitsky Act. Chairman Cardin was joined by fellow Commissioners Senator Richard Blumenthal and Representative Steve Cohen as well as Senator Chris Murphy and Representative Jeff Flake.

Throughout the year, Chairman Cardin criticized both the increasing persecution of civil society in Russia and also Moscow's role as the leader in a global reversal of democracy. In September, Chairman Cardin and Senator John McCain introduced S. Res. 540, marking the International Day of Democracy and decrying the attacks on civil society in Russia and elsewhere.

The Commission also examined the security, economic and human rights dimension of U.S.-Azerbaijani relations at a hearing in June, convened prior to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's annual meeting in Baku. Human rights concerns were raised in bilateral meetings during the Baku meeting with representatives of the government of Azerbaijan, including President Ilham Aliyev. Chairman Cardin subsequently expressed concern at the further deterioration of respect for human rights in Azerbaijan, including the imprisonment of leading human rights proponents and journalists and a raid on the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty bureau in Baku.

Russia's annexation of Crimea has fueled concern that Russia may also move to annex Transnistria, Moldova's Russian-backed secessionist region. In May, the Commission held a public briefing to examine Russia's intentions with regard to Transnistria and Moldova. Commission staff also participated in the OSCE election observation mission of Moldova's parliamentary elections in November.

In connection with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session in Azerbaijan, Chairman Cardin led a delegation to stops in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Chisinau, Moldova, for bilateral meetings to discuss expanded ties with the United States as well as regional security in the wake of the crisis in Ukraine. In Moldova, the delegation met with Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and key political leaders across the spectrum on the day the national parliament ratified an historic agreement with the European Union. The delegation also held consultations with the leadership of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, representatives of civil society, and the U.S. Embassy.

In Georgia, the delegation met with the President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, and the leadership of the United National Movement opposition party. The delegation offered U.S. support and encouraged further democratic reforms, particularly in building a robust and independent judiciary free from corruption and untainted by politically-motivated prosecutions.

The Commission continued to address the human rights situation in Central Asia. Turkmenistan has been characterized as one of the world's most repressive countries, with virtually no freedom of expression, association, or assembly. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that the Secretary of State designate Turkmenistan a "country of particular concern," and the State Department placed Turkmenistan on its "Tier 2 Watch List" for trafficking in persons - the second lowest

category. In February, the Commission held a public briefing with five leading experts on one of the most closed societies in the OSCE region. In October, the Commission focused on the imprisonment of people in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan has one of the highest numbers of people imprisoned on politically motivated charges of any former Soviet country. Human rights activists, journalists, and members of certain religious groups fall victim to restrictive laws and policies that curb basic human rights and the United Nations Human Rights Rapporteur on Torture concluded that torture was "systematic" in the country's prisons and detention camps.

The Commission also held a film screening and a panel discussion on enforced disappearances in Belarus. In 1999 and 2000, during the first presidential term of Alexander Lukashenka, four prominent leaders were abducted in Belarus: Viktor Hanchar, a member of the dissolved parliament; Anatoly Krasovsky, his close associate; Yuri Zakharenka, a former Minister of the Interior; and Dmitri Zavadski, a journalist known for his critical reporting. Each of the cases has remained under separate investigation, plagued by minimal progress and multiple inconsistencies.

The events leading to the ouster of the Yanukovich regime in Ukraine illustrated how corruption can fuel legitimate popular discontent and create fertile ground for social upheaval and instability. In many OSCE participating States, systemic issues including lack of media freedom, lack of political will, and lack of an independent judiciary contribute substantially to persistent high-level and low-level corruption. In November, the Commission held a hearing to examine the link between security and good governance. Although much of the focus was on Ukraine, Chairman Cardin noted that the hearing came shortly after six Hungarians, including the head of government Tax Authority, were determined to be ineligible to enter the United States under the authority of Presidential Proclamation Number 7750, which makes individuals excludable when there is credible information that those individuals are either engaging in or benefiting from corruption. One of the invited witnesses, Khadija Ismayilova, an investigative journalist with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Baku, was not able to participate in person because of a travel ban imposed on her by the government of Azerbaijan. She was subsequently arrested.

During 2014, the countries of Southeastern Europe/Western Balkans continued to make moderate progress in recovering from a decade of conflict which started 20 years ago and caused major human rights violations, economic collapse and fragile democratic transition. Ongoing Commission efforts sought to encourage further progress through U.S. policy as well as OSCE activity, with a particular focus on holding free and fair elections, combating trafficking in persons, encouraging the return of displaced persons, responding to the plight 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.

In March, the Commission convened a hearing on developments in the Western Balkans. This hearing reviewed the situation in each of the Western Balkan countries, particularly those still seeking to join NATO, the European Union, or both: Albania (a NATO member), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Croatia was also considered in light of its entry into the EU in 2013 and its influence on developments in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina. The hearing also served as the Commission's prelude to the NATO summit held in September in Wales. The recent unrest and confrontation in Ukraine may contribute to Balkan anxiety about being left out of regional economic and security arrangements and increase the prospect for Russian meddling in the area. The Commission organized several meetings for Congressional staff to be briefed by OSCE officials and other working in the region.

In May, Chairman Cardin participated in the presentation in the Capitol of an exhibit examining the role of the Bosnian Jewish community in saving Muslims during the 1992-95 war.

In September, in advance of October elections, Co-Chairman Smith and Rep. Bill Keating introduced H. Res. 746 expressing support for reforms in Bosnia-Herzegovina that will enhance the country's prospects for Euro-Atlantic integration. Commission staff also participated in the OSCE election observation of the October general elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, using the time in the country to examine the possibilities for constitutional and other reforms in the country following the elections and a year of civil unrest and protest.

Throughout the year, the Commission leadership also met with numerous officials regarding Balkan issues, including Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro; Valentin Inzko the International Community's High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Ranko Krivokapic Speaker of Montenegrin Parliament; and a visiting delegation of ten members of the Serbian Parliament. The Commission also increased its dialogue with Serbian officials responsible for OSCE matters in advance of Serbia's assuming the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2015, and hosted consultations with a Serbian chairmanship team visiting Washington.

The Commission welcomed arrests in January relating to the murder of Serbian journalist Slavko Curuvija, who testified at a hearing chaired by Co-Chairman Smith in 1999 and who was gunned down a few months later. Chairman Cardin continued to press for accountability regarding the murder of the three American Bytqi brothers while in Serbian custody in 1999. Commission staff participated in a delegation to Macedonia organized jointly with the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor focus on Romani minority issues.

The OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Although these countries are not signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, the Final Act recognizes that security in Europe is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole. On an operational level,

Partners for Co-operation are invited to send observers to participate in OSCE election missions and may second mission members to OSCE field missions.

In June, the Commission held a hearing to take stock of political developments among the OSCE Mediterranean Partners in the years following the popular uprisings that began in late 2010, with a particular focus on democratic reforms, civil society empowerment, political pluralism, and the role of international community engagement.

The Commission sometimes addresses issues outside of the OSCE region that impact the OSCE participating and Partner States, such as refugee flows. In April, Chairman Cardin and Senator Marco Rubio introduced the Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2014, legislation establishing a Syria-specific standard of reporting and accountability for crimes against humanity. Co-Chairman Smith introduced H. Con. Res. 51, calling for the immediate establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal.

VI. Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia

The Commission continued to advance efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region, particularly manifested by violence toward migrants, Roma, Muslims and other minorities. The Commission also monitored and reported on manifestations of anti-Semitism and the urgent issue of security for religious communities. Throughout the year, these issues were an active part of Commission public outreach and engagement with civil society.

In April, the Commission organized a briefing for Congressional staff with Ira Forman, the Department of State's Special Envoy for Combatting Anti-Semitism.

In July, the Commission held a hearing with the three Personal Representatives appointed by the OSCE Chair-in-Office to address anti-Semitism; racism, xenophobia, and discrimination including against Christians and members of other religions; and intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. The hearing was a centerpiece of the Personal Representatives' first joint visit to the United States.

The Commission leadership strongly advanced efforts to convene an OSCE meeting in Berlin on anti-Semitism and was engaged in all stages of planning, preparations and the meeting itself. The issue was raised with the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE during the February hearing and the Commission worked closely with both the Department of State and OSCE Special Representative for Combatting Anti-Semitism Andrew Baker. Co-Chairman Smith participated in the Berlin meeting, held in the wake of increased attacks on Jewish communities including the deadly shooting at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Smith urged Secretary Kerry to support increased OSCE attention and action following up on the November 2014 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism including by strengthening implementation of OSCE anti-Semitism commitments. In the subsequent OSCE Ministerial meeting in Basel, the participating States agreed to additional work on this issue in 2015.

During 2014, Commissioners continued focus on domestic and global diversity and inclusion measures to complement existing anti-discrimination and civil rights measures in national security and U.S. foreign policy. Ranking Commissioner Hastings introduced H.R. Res. 5837, the African Descent Affairs Act, on the occasion of the United Nations' Human Rights Day and beginning of the International Decade for People of African Descent. It would create a fund to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent-led civil society organizations, and requires annual State Department human rights reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. During the OSCE's annual human rights meeting, the Commission supported the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organization of an event focused improving information and data on bias-motivated crimes targeting women from minority communities, particularly Muslim women and women of African descent.

The Commission also addressed some of the complex issues that are legacies of the Nazi and Communist eras. In March, the Commission held a briefing for Congressional staff with speakers from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum addressing issues relating to the mass deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz.

In 2014, for the first time and in advance of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Commission helped organize a study tour of OSCE ambassadors to Auschwitz. The study visit was modeled on previous Helsinki Commission visits to Auschwitz organized in connection with the OSCE's annual human rights meeting and was the first time that OSCE Ambassadors, as a group, made the trip together.

In December, there was a significant breakthrough in long-standing efforts to achieve a measure of justice for victims and surviving family members transported by the National Society of French Railways (SNCF) during the Holocaust. The governments of France and the United States signed an agreement according to which France will provide \$60 million for previously excluded victims. The agreement must still be ratified by the French parliament. Chairman Cardin as well as Senate Commissioner Blumenthal were co-sponsors in 2013 of S. 1393, the Holocaust Rail Justice Act.

VII. Human Trafficking

While the OSCE region has made demonstrable progress in combatting trafficking in human beings, progress varies by country and is newly challenged by regional instability. Consequently, trafficking in human beings remains a matter of priority for the Helsinki Commission. Throughout 2014, the Commission addressed the worldwide epidemic of human trafficking, including both sex trafficking and various forms of labor trafficking. Commission staff coordinated with Co-Chairman Smith (who also serves as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues), the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, the ODHIR Anti-Trafficking Unit, and OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, as well as her successor, Amb. Madina Jarbussynova.

Commission staff assisted Co-Chairman Smith in 2014 with the drafting and House passage of H.R. 4573, the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking. This law would expand and codify the work of the Angel Watch Center (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), which needs better tools and more timely information to more effectively alert destination countries of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders. It would also facilitate the establishment of a notification network among countries to reduce child-sex tourism—including countries whose citizens travel to the U.S. and other OSCE participating States to exploit children.

Commission staff also assisted Co-Chairman Smith with drafting and passage of H.R. 2283, the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, which would keep the fight against human trafficking from being lost in the shuffle and politics of other U.S. interests. Specifically, H.R. 2283 would raise the status of the J/TIP “office” to that of a “bureau” within the State Department bureaucracy. It would also encourage the Secretary of State to upgrade the “ambassador-at-large” position into that of an “assistant secretary,” to lead the bureau without adding to the number of assistant secretaries the State Department is permitted by law. Finally, H.R. 2283 would stop countries and other State Department bureaus from gaming the tier ranking system by limiting the time problem countries can use promises of action to avoid tier downgrade.

Co-Chairman Smith, as the Special Representative for Human Trafficking to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, led a successful campaign to restore much of the trafficking budget cuts in the 2014 OSCE budget. Staff positions to combat human trafficking in the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) were eliminated, causing ODIHR to announce at the most recent OSCE annual human rights meeting that it would no longer be able to work on anti-trafficking issues. Moreover, the 2014 budget also demoted the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to a seconded position, rather than one paid out of the regular unified budget. The timing of this budget cut was particularly devastating to anti-trafficking work given the increasing regional instability and the new trafficking commitments made by the OSCE in the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Beginning with a letter to the Parliamentary Assembly fall meeting, Co-Chairman Smith encouraged parliamentarians to influence their governments for restoration of the trafficking budget. He also reached out to the Serbian Chairmanship, U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, and key persons in France, Canada, and the United Kingdom in order to find a solution. With the strong support of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and acquiescence of key countries, the lost anti-trafficking staff positions were restored and ODIHR received funding to continue anti-trafficking work.

Co-Chairman Smith raised human trafficking at numerous hearings, including at the February hearing on Switzerland’s Chairmanship of the OSCE. Among other concerns, he encouraged Switzerland to “vigorously implement” the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as the Addendum includes key best practices incubated by Chairman Smith in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions over the last several years, including calling on corporations to ensure that their supply chains do not

include trafficked labor; focusing anti-trafficking efforts on vulnerable groups; increasing cooperation among law enforcement in different countries to prevent sex tourism involving the trafficking of minors; and calling for anti-trafficking training for the transportation and hospitality industries.

On the initiative regarding training for the transportation and hospitality industries, Co-Chairman Smith conducted a first-of-its-kind survey, through Commission outreach to parliamentarians active in the PA, of OSCE countries' implementation of anti-trafficking training. Many participating States responded positively to the survey encouraging parliamentary implementation of anti-trafficking supplementary items and reported their progress, which Co-Chairman Smith included in his report to the OSCE PA winter meeting.

Commission staff continued to support Co-Chairman Smith's activities as Special Representative for Human Trafficking, as well as holding bilateral meetings at relevant OSCE events, such as the annual Alliance Against Trafficking Conference, and in Washington.

VIII. U.S. Policy towards the OSCE and Helsinki Commission Leadership in the OSCE

The Commission continues to focus on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy, human rights as part of comprehensive approach to security, and the OSCE. Engagement with senior Department of State officials provides an important avenue for Commissioners to help influence related U.S. policy. The Commission maintains a regular dialogue with the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs, South and Central Asian Affairs, and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, as well as desk officers with specific country responsibilities.

The Commission leadership also engages directly with senior political leaders of the Vienna-based organization and has convened hearings with the foreign minister serving as the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office since 2001. This direct engagement is facilitated by the inclusion of a Commission staff member in the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, a unique feature of the Commission as an independent agency. Commission staff also participated in OSCE meetings on trafficking in human beings, on the prevention of torture, and economic issues.

For many years now, Russia has orchestrated an effort to hollow out the OSCE's effectiveness from within, by fundamentally altering the structure of the organization, its modalities, rules, procedures, and legal status – issues that are to the OSCE analogous to what the Rules Committees are to Congress. At OSCE meetings on these issues in 2014, Commission staff contributed a singular body of institutional knowledge to reinforce U.S. engagement.

In 2014, the Commission held a hearing with Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation and Foreign Minister, in his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE. The Commission also held a hearing with the three Personal Representatives of the Chair-in-Office mandated to address issues relating to tolerance and non-discrimination in July. In November, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and

Environmental Activities, participated in a hearing on combatting corruption. Commissioners also met with the in-coming Serbian chairmanship's Task Force and Michel Link, Director of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. In November, Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Smith addressed a conference jointly organized by the OSCE PA and the German Marshall Fund on "Helsinki +40," implications for the TransAtlantic relationship on the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act is marked in 2015.

Commission staff play a singular role in U.S. preparations for and participation in the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). The HDIM is Europe's largest annual human rights meeting, especially significant for the opportunity it presents for direct civil society engagement. In 2014, for the first time in over a decade, all sessions of the entire two-week conference were webcast live. The Commission has long pressed for greater transparency of OSCE meetings.

The 2014 HDIM was dominated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its violations of each of the Helsinki Final Act Decalogue principles. The Russian Government undertook considerable effort to use the HDIM to deflect criticism of its actions in Ukraine by unleashing blistering attacks on the Baltic States, the United States and of course on Ukraine itself. Overall, Russia's engagement reflected the importance it attaches to the meeting and Moscow's understanding of the meeting's potential to shape opinion. Commission staff supported the U.S. delegation in challenging Russia's counter-factual narrative and ensuring that specific human rights cases were raised.

This OSCE's annual Ministerial meeting, held in Basel, was also dominated by the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The overwhelming majority of OSCE participating States condemned Russia's actions.

Ministers adopted several decisions, including reaffirmation of the OSCE's strong support for increased attention and action following up on the November 2014 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism in which Co-Chairman Smith participated.

Participating States also focused on the security threats posed by the Islamic State of the Levant (also known as ISIL or ISIS, for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and the danger of foreign terrorist fighters moving to and from Iraq and Syria. The OSCE is considered a regional organization under VIII of the United Nations Charter and in Basel the participating States agreed to intensify their efforts to combat foreign terrorist fighters in support of UN Security Council Resolution 2178.

The Ministers also adopted a decision deepening commitments to advance good governance and combat corruption efforts, the subject of a Helsinki Commission hearing in November. Corruption continues to be the source of instability and conflict throughout the region, fueling the autocratic tendencies of leaders in many countries. In particular, the Basel decision establishes the OSCE as an actor in the field of anti-corruption work, articulates the link between corruption and stability and security, and recognizes corruption as a threat to OSCE's shared values and facilitates criminal activity.

IX. The Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE

Both Commissioners and Commission staff have continued to participate in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to solicit the involvement of other Members of Congress in these activities. Representation at these inter-parliamentary events demonstrates a solid, ongoing congressional commitment to maintaining and strengthening United States-European relations.

The primary task of the Copenhagen-based 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 OSCE participating States. Other important objectives of the Assembly are: to assess the implementation of OSCE commitments by participating States; to discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and summit meetings of OSCE Heads of State or Government; to develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts; to support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in the participating States; and to contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations and cooperation with other OSCE institutions.

A total of 323 parliamentarians, including as many as 17 members of the U.S. Congress, can participate in the Assembly's major meetings, which include a Winter Meeting in Vienna, an Annual Session in changing locations, and a Autumn Meeting which also has a changing venue from year-to-year. The Bureau, an equivalent to an executive committee, also meets every April and December, and every two years or so there have been Spring conferences focused on economic issues. Beyond these meetings, parliamentarians also contribute their political and regional expertise by serving as Special Representatives, members of Ad Hoc Committees and participants on election observation missions undertaken by the Assembly throughout the year.

U.S. law specifies that the Senate will lead the U.S. Delegation to OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meetings in odd-numbered years, while the House provides the Head of Delegation in all even-numbered years.

U.S. participation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly goes beyond meeting attendance; many Members of Congress have traditionally played an active leadership role in the Assembly. In 2014, Commissioner Robert B. Aderholt continued to serve as one of nine Assembly Vice Presidents. Co-Chairman Smith has continued to serve as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, and Ranking Commissioner Hastings, who served as Assembly President from 2004-2006, has done the same as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

From June 27 to July 3, 2014, eight Members of Congress represented the United States at the annual session of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly in Baku, Azerbaijan. The congressional delegation was led by the Chairman Cardin while Co-Chairman Smith was head of delegation at the Assembly session. Other members of the delegation included Ranking Commissioner Senator Wicker, Commissioner Representatives Robert Aderholt

and Phil Gingrey, along with Senator Tom Harkin and Representatives David Schweikert and Adam Schiff.

A central concern at the Assembly meeting was Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea and its incursions into eastern Ukraine. The congressional delegation was highly critical of Moscow's attempt to reassert its domination over the affairs of its neighbors more than two decades after the Soviet Union's collapse, and it reassured friends and allies of the deep and continuing commitment of the United States to security and cooperation in Europe and throughout the OSCE region. Key among the U.S. initiatives as well as all items considered at the annual session was a resolution sponsored by Chairman Cardin that condemned Russia's direct support of a separatist insurrection in Ukraine as a violation of Helsinki principles. The resolution passed by a 3-to-1 margin.

Consistent with Commission input into 2013 OSCE ministerial decisions which laid the groundwork for better law enforcement coordination between countries on sex tourism, Co-Chairman Smith introduced and secured the passage of resolution on "Preventing and Prosecuting Child Sex Tourism." The resolution focused on the problem of child sex tourism, where a person travels to a foreign destination in order to engage in commercial sexual activity with a child. The International Labor Organization has reported that 1.8 million children a year suffer from commercial sexual exploitation. The resolution called on participating States to create bilateral notification systems so that states will be aware when individuals previously convicted of sex crimes against children may be traveling to their countries and will be able to respond appropriately.

Among other U.S. initiatives, Senator Harkin successfully pushed a package of amendments to a resolution on economic issues that called on participating States to provide access and equal opportunity to persons with disabilities, including by ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ranking Commissioner Senator Wicker inserted new language into a security-focused resolution supporting military inspections and timely observation of military activities as a confidence-builder of particular importance, particularly during times of instability and uncertainty. He also spoke during debate on a resolution regarding OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, an OSCE Partner State, calling for greater stability and democracy as international forces withdrawal in 2014.

Commissioner Aderholt achieved passage of several amendments focusing on Western Balkan countries, their human rights record and contributions to European security and cooperation, as well as their aspirations to join the EU and NATO. In a separate initiative, Mr. Aderholt also requested that Turkmenistan inform the families of some two dozen political prisoners of their condition, including in some cases whether they are still even alive. Representative Schweikert won passage of amendments that encourage increased outreach by the OSCE to Mediterranean Partner countries, while Representative Gingrey achieved agreement to a call for innovation that makes energy not only more environmentally friendly but affordable to family and small business consumers as well.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its annual Autumn Meeting from October 3 to 5, 2014,

in Geneva, Switzerland represented by Commissioner Mike McIntyre. In addition to sessions on the security, economic and human dimensions respectively, the meeting included focus on Mediterranean issues. Chair-in-Office Didier Burkhalter of Switzerland soberly noted the death of a Swiss compatriot from the International Committee of the Red Cross during the shelling of Donetsk, Ukraine, the day before. Mr. McIntyre's presence ensured that the United States was able to counter Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin's representation of events in Ukraine.

At end of the year, Ranking Senator Wicker agreed to chair the Parliamentary Assembly's Security Committee.

Finally, the Helsinki Commission also participated in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation missions in 2014, participating in missions to Ukrainian presidential (June) and parliamentary elections (October), and parliamentary elections in Hungary (April), Bosnia-Herzegovina (October) and Moldova (December). These observation missions represent the most effective way to deploy Commissioners and Commission staff to observe elections in order to encourage their free and fair conduct.

Hearings, Briefings and Congressional Delegations in 113th Congress, 2nd Session

Hearings

SWITZERLAND'S LEADERSHIP OF THE OSCE (FEBRUARY 25, 2014)

- Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation, Foreign Minister and Chair in Office of the OSCE
- Heidi Grau, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND POLICY RESPONSES (MARCH 5, 2014)

- Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs
- Tanja Fajon, Member (Slovenia) of European Parliament
- Kurt Volker, Executive Director; McCain Institute for International Leadership

UKRAINE: CONFRONTING INTERNAL CHALLENGES AND EXTERNAL (APRIL 9, 2014)

- Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs

THE SECURITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF US-AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS (JUNE 11, 2014)

- Eric Rubin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs
- Tom Melia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
- Miriam Lansky, Director for Russia and Eurasia, National Endowment for Democracy
- Brenda Shaffer, Visiting Researcher, Center for Eurasian Russian and Eastern European Studies, Georgetown University

POLITICAL PLURALISM IN THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS? (JULY 16, 2014)

- William Roebuck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs
- William Taylor, Vice President for the Middle East and Africa, USIP
- Shibley Telhami, Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development, University of Maryland
- Zeinab Abdelkarim, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, IFES

ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE OSCE REGION (JULY 22, 2014)

- Rabbi Andrew Baker, OSCE Chair-in-Office Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism
- Talip Kucukcan, OSCE Chair-in-Office Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims
- Alexey Avtonomov, OSCE Chair-in-Office Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions
- Azra Junuzovic, OSCE/ODIHR Deputy Chief of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit

COMBATING CORRUPTION IN THE OSCE REGION: THE LINK BETWEEN SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (NOVEMBER 19, 2014)

- Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden, Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Anders Aslund, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics
- Shaazka Beyerle, Senior Adviser, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict

Briefings

DISAPPEARED IN TURKMENISTAN'S PRISONS: ARE THEY STILL ALIVE? (FEBRUARY 20, 2014)

- Rachel Denber, Deputy Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch
- Kate Watters, Executive Director, Crude Accountability
- Boris Shikmuradov, Editor, Gundogar.org
- Peter Zalmayev, Director, Eurasia Democracy Initiative
- Catherine Fitzpatrick: Independent Expert on Eurasia

THE DOG BARKS BUT THE CARAVAN MOVES ON: HIGHS AND LOWS IN US-RUSSIA RELATIONS (MARCH 27, 2014)

- James W. Warhola, Chairman, University of Maine's Department of Political Science
- Matthew Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute, Wilson Center for International Scholars

GEORGIA 2008, UKRAINE 2014: IS MOLDOVA NEXT? (MAY 6, 2014)

- Eugen Carpov, Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, Minister for Reintegration
- Paul Goble, Specialist on Ethnic and Religious questions in Eurasia, Editor of "Window on Eurasia"
- Stephen Blank, Senior Fellow, American Foreign Policy Council

IMPRISONED IN UZBEKISTAN: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CASES (OCTOBER 28, 2014)

- Steve Swerdlow, Director, Bishkek Office, Human Rights Watch
- Sanjar Umarov, Former Political Prisoner
- Aygul Bekjan, Daughter of Imprisoned Journalist Muhammad Bekjanov
- Cathy Cosman, Senior Policy Analyst, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

UKRAINE'S PIVOTAL PARLIAMENTARY POLL (NOVEMBER 14, 2014)

- Olha Aivazovska, Board Chair, Ukrainian Citizen Network OPORA
- Katie Fox, Deputy Director for Eurasia, National Democratic Institute
- Stephen Nix, Director for Eurasia, International Republican Institute
- Gavin Weise, Deputy Director Europe and Asia, International Foundation for Electoral Systems

THE GANG: 15 YEARS ON AND STILL SILENT (DECEMBER 17, 2014)

- Raisa Mikhailovskaya, Founder and Director, Belarussian Documentation Center
- Irina Krasovskaya, Co-Founder and President, We Remember Foundation

Congressional Delegations

February

Representative Alcee L. Hastings, Fred L. Turner, Robert Hand to Austria to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting.

June

Rep. Christopher H. Smith and Mark Milosch to Italy and Nigeria to participate in meetings with foreign government officials and civil society representatives, and a conference about legislative and advocacy issues.

Sen. Benjamin Cardin, Rep. Michael Burgess, Amb. David Killion, Orest Deychakiwski, Kyle Parker, Alex Johnson, Mark Milosch to Ukraine to participate in the OSCE Election Observation Mission for the Ukrainian Presidential Election.

Sen. Benjamin Cardin, Sen. Roger F. Wicker, Rep. Chris H. Smith, Rep. Robert B. Aderholt, Rep. John Philip Gingrey, Amb. David Killion, Robert Hand, Shelly Han, Kyle Parker, Alex T. Johnson, Mark Milosch to Azerbaijan to participate in the 2014 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session and to Georgia and Moldova for additional consultations.

October

Rep. Mike McIntyre and Robert Hand to Switzerland to attend the Fall Meetings of the OSCE PA.

Rep. Michael Burgess and Mark Milosch to Ukraine to participate in the OSCE Election Observation Mission for the Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

November

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, Amb. David Killion, Mischa Thompson, Mark Milosch and Alex Johnson to Germany as members of the U.S. delegation to the 10th Anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism High-Level Commemorative Event and Civil Society Forum.

Staff Delegations

January

Shelly Han to Austria to attend the first preparatory meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Meeting.

Fred Turner to Austria to hold meetings and consultations with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

Erika Schlager to Austria to participate in OSCE consultations and to Slovakia for meetings with government officials and civil society on issues relating to human rights and extremism.

February

Mark Milosch to Austria to attend the Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, and consult with foreign parliamentarians and NGOs about legislative and advocacy issues connected to human Rights.

Allison Hollabaugh to Austria to attend OSCE conference on trafficking in human beings.

April

Erika Schlager to Austria to participate in the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Torture and Hungary to participate as in the OSCE Election Observation Mission for the Hungarian parliamentary elections.

May

Amb. David Killion and Alex Johnson to Austria for consultations with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

Amb. David Killion and Shelly Han to Japan to attend the OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation meeting.

Shelly Han to Switzerland to attend the second preparatory meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Meeting.

Erika Schlager to Hungary to participate in the Department of State periodic training conference on Romani issues and to Macedonia to for meetings with government officials and civil society regarding the situation of the Romani minority.

September

Amb. David Killion, David Kostelancik, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Orest Deychakiwski Mischa Thompson, Kyle Porter and Alex Johnson to Poland to attend the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

October

Mark Milosch to Germany to participate in a meeting with foreign government officials, parliamentarians, and NGOs on combating anti-Semitism and other human rights issues.

Robert Hand to Bosnia-Herzegovina to participate in the OSCE Election Observation Mission.

November

Allison Hollabaugh to Austria to attend OSCE Alliance Against Human Trafficking Conference.

December

Shelly Han to Moldova to participate in the OSCE Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections.

Amb. David Killion David Kostelancik, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Alex Johnson to Switzerland as members of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE ministerial meeting and civil society forum.

Appendix (A)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Legislative Branch Commissioners

114th Congress

Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Chairman

Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Co-Chairman

113th Congress

United States Senate

United States House of
Representatives

Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland
Chairman

Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Co-Chairman

Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut
Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Saxby Chambliss, Georgia
John Boozman, Arkansas

Joseph R. Pitts, Pennsylvania
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Phil Gingrey, Georgia
Michael C. Burgess, Texas
Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, New
York
Mike McIntyre, North Carolina
Steve Cohen, Tennessee

Executive Branch Commissioners

Department of State

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Appendix (B)

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(2015)

Staff Members

Orest Deychakiwsky	Policy Advisor Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, NGO Liaison, Security Officer
Nina Fiore	Printer/Proofreader (Detaillee from the Government Printing Office)
Shelly Han	Policy Advisor Economics, Environment, Energy Security, OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation, Labor Migration, Trade, Good Governance
Bob Hand	Policy Advisor Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Janice Helwig	Policy Advisor Afghanistan, Central Asia, Policing, Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children, Women's Issues
Allison Hollabaugh	Counsel Trafficking in Persons
Stacy L. Hope	Director of Communications
Nathaniel Hurd	Policy Advisor International Freedom of Religion
Alex T. Johnson	Policy Advisor Environmental Human Rights, Environmental Justice Policy, Trafficking in Persons, OSCE Mediterranean Partners
David T. Killion	Senior Senate Staff Representative
David J. Kostelancik	Senior State Department Advisor
A. Paul Massaro III	Staff Associate
Mark S. Milosch	Chief of Staff
Daniel Redfield	Director of Administration
Erika Schlager	Counsel for International Law Central Europe, Romani Minority Issues, OSCE and International Legal Issues, Domestic Compliance Issues
Mischa Thompson	Policy Advisor Tolerance (Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Muslim), Migrant Rights and Integration, Western Europe (European Union), Corporate Social Responsibility
<i>(Vacant)</i>	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
<i>(Vacant)</i>	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
<i>(Vacant)</i>	<i>Policy Advisor</i>

OSCE Participating States as of March 2014

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
Macedonia	admitted as observer as of April 1993; admitted as new, fully participating State on October 12, 1995 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Malta	original participating State
Moldova	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Monaco	original participating State
Mongolia	admitted as a participating State on December 2, 2012
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
Russian Federation	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
Turkey	original participating State

Turkmenistan	admitted as new participating State January 30, 1992
Ukraine	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
Australia	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on January 1, 2010
Japan	affiliated with the Helsinki Process since July 10, 1992; formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Republic of Korea	formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Thailand	admitted as a partner for co-operation on Nov. 9, 2000