



BUDGET REQUEST

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND

COOPERATION IN EUROPE

FISCAL YEAR 2017

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2017

I. Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2017

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 2015 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 2017, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,579,000 for salaries and expenses, in keeping with the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2017.

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 2015, served Representative Christopher H. Smith as Chairman and Senator Roger F. Wicker as Co-Chairman. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and Representative Alcee L. Hastings were Ranking Members. (See Appendix (A) for the current list of Commissioners in the 114th 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 2015

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 participating States have adopted all OSCE commitments, including those in the human dimension, on the basis of consensus. 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 2015, the Commission organized meetings with State Department officials, Senior OSCE representatives, and NGOs dealing with the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia and on issues related to anti-Semitism, racism and other manifestations of

bigotry.

In addition, Commissioners raise specific human rights abuses or shortcomings with representatives of countries of concern in meetings (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.

In 2015, the Commission started a major overhaul of its website, which has been a portal for public diplomacy and serves as an important distribution point for the Commission’s message at home and abroad. These changes will make Commission publications – including hearing and briefing transcripts and webcasts, articles, reports, press releases, and Congressional Record statements more accessible and user friendly.

V. Countries and Regions of Particular Focus

Russia’s internal repression against its own people, external aggression against Ukraine, and threat to European security were central to the Helsinki Commission’s work throughout calendar year 2015. Russia’s increasingly repressive government continued to erode democratic institutions. Free and independent media remained virtually non-existent and the remaining state-controlled media was used to propagandize disinformation and aggression, particularly to advance Moscow’s actions in Ukraine. GOLOS, an independent election monitoring organization, was raided before September local and regional elections and Russia imposed unreasonable barriers for the participation of parties and candidates in those elections. By year’s end, 100 nongovernmental organizations were named as “foreign agents,” making them liable to prosecution.

Moreover, the Russian Federation’s persecution of civil society has served as a model replicated by other repressive countries around the globe. In January, Chairman Smith and Rep. Jim McGovern introduced the “Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.” The bill prohibits foreign human rights offenders and corrupt officials operating anywhere in the world from entering into the United States and blocks their U.S. assets. It effectively globalizes and strengthens the “Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012,” which placed congressional sanctions on Russian officials responsible for the death of Sergei Magnitsky, an outspoken critic of the Russian Federation tortured to death in state custody. Ranking Member Cardin and Senator John McCain introduced similar legislation in the Senate, which also applies worldwide and employs visa bans and property freezes. Unique aspects of the House bill include the requirement that the President impose sanctions if he or she determines that a foreign person has committed gross human rights offenses.

Critics of the Russian Federation continued to be murdered. In February, Boris Nemtsov, an advocate for the rule of law in Russia and an outspoken opponent of the war in Ukraine, was gunned down just outside the Kremlin. Nemtsov had participated in a Helsinki Commission event in 2010. Co-Chairman Wicker drew attention to the Nemstov murder with the introduction of the Wicker-Cardin amendment designed to strengthen the 2012 Magnitsky Act. The amendment would expedite interagency cooperation to identify additional foreign nationals subject to sanctions. It would also impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption.

In October, the Commission held a hearing examining Russia's failure to respect its commitment to the rule of law in the areas of military security, commerce, and human rights. This included addressing security violations of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), and the 1989 Vienna Document. One of the witnesses was opposition figure Vladimir Kara-Murza, who nearly died earlier in the year after being poisoned. (In early 2016, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov posted online death threats against Kara-Murza.)

The Commission remained deeply engaged regarding Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea, support for separatists elsewhere in Ukraine, and threat to broader European security. Chairman Smith, Co-Chairman Wicker and other Commissioners called for the vigorous implementation of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, including the provision of military arms to assist Ukrainians in protecting their sovereignty and the delivery of necessary humanitarian and economic aid.

In April, senior staff traveled to Lithuania for consultations on regional security issues. In July, before attending the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Finland (see below), members of a Commission-led Congressional delegation traveled to the Czech Republic and Ukraine. As part of a broader effort to reassure European NATO allies of U.S. support in light of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, members of the delegation met with senior Czech officials in Prague to reinforce transatlantic cooperation between the U.S. and the Czech Republic. In Kyiv, the delegation received firsthand updates on security challenges and demonstrated America's solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia's egregious transgressions.

Throughout the year, Commissioners spoke out against Russian aggression and violations of human rights in Russian and areas occupied by Russian proxies 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. Commission staff provided background on Ukraine developments for numerous Congressional offices and maintained close contacts with Ukrainian and other relevant government officials, including key members of the Ukrainian parliament, the State Department, and non-governmental organizations.

In December, the Commission held a briefing on "Human Rights Violations in Russian-Occupied Crimea," examining the widespread violations of civil, political, social, economic,

and cultural rights in the region, especially against those who openly oppose the Russian occupation, including Crimean Tatars and other ethnic, political, and religious groups. Commissioners also called for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko and other imprisoned Ukrainians from Russian jails. Savchenko was abducted by pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and illegally transferred across the border to Russia, imprisoned and at times subject to interrogations, involuntary psychiatric evaluations, and solitary confinement. The Senate adopted a resolution sponsored by Co-Chairman Wicker and Ranking Senate Member Cardin calling Savchenko's release in February. In September, the House passed a resolution calling for Savchenko's release that included an amendment introduced by Chairman Smith. His amendment substantially strengthened the resolution by calling for the imposition of personal sanctions against individuals responsible for the kidnapping, arrest, and imprisonment of Savchenko and other Ukrainian citizens illegally incarcerated in Russia.

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 region's largest security organization, the OSCE plays a singular role in efforts to de-escalate war in the Donbas and to monitor and report on human rights, particularly in occupied Crimea. The United States is the largest national contributor of monitors, with 62 on the ground. Despite armed provocations by combined Russian-separatist forces, the SMM has reported on the ceasefire regime and brokered an additional weapons withdrawal agreement. The OSCE has also established an Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk. The SMM members have performed ably and often under difficult circumstances. In the last two years, two groups of Mission members were taken hostage and held by Russian-backed separatists for several weeks and have faced armed provocations. The Mission was honored by Australia for its role in facilitating access for first responders and investigators to the crash site of flight MH17. The OSCE's work in Ukraine has an unprecedented degree of transparency and the mission reports are public.

During 2015, the rapidity and degree of the erosion of human rights and democracy norms in Azerbaijan provoked concern and heightened scrutiny. In June, authorities in Baku ordered the OSCE Mission in Azerbaijan to be shuttered, breaking its agreement for the terms of the mission's mandate. In September, poison-pill conditions for election observation led both the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to cancel plans to observe November 1 parliamentary elections. Government repression expanded to include the family members of political prisoners.

Commissioners protested the imprisonment of leading human rights proponents and journalists held in violation of Principal VII of the Helsinki Final Act. In June, Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter (2014 OSCE Chair-in-Office) secured safe passage out of Baku for Emin Huseynov. Huseynov, a free press activist and spouse of an American citizen who spent nearly a year in hiding in the Swiss Embassy, was one of the cases actively raised by the Helsinki Commission.

Chairman Smith also protested the pre-trial detention of members of the Jehovah's Witness community who face criminal charges for publicly sharing their faith.

Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Cardin condemned the harsh sentences in August of Leyla and Arif Yunus, two human rights activists with serious medical conditions. The Yunus' daughter was among those who testified at a Commission briefing on "The Rule of Law and Civil Society in Azerbaijan" in November. At year's end, the two were released from prison but remain banned from seeking medical treatment abroad.

In December, the Commission held a hearing regarding the trial of investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova. Ismayilova was arrested on spurious charges in 2014. Her employer, U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), was simultaneously raided and then shut down in a direct attack on media freedom.

Commissioners continued to press the Lukashenko regime for meaningful reform in Belarus. Although authorities in Minsk have tried to capitalize on the regional conflict between Russia and Ukraine by posturing as the host for peace talks, five years after a 2010 crackdown, human rights in Belarus remain grim. With international attention focused on Moscow's war, Belarus further restricted free speech through an amended mass media law and re-introduced a Soviet-style "social parasite" law. Belarus was a particular focus of civil society during the OSCE meeting on freedom of assembly and association in April. Commission staff met with visiting Belarusian officials to advocate for greater human rights and democracy. In addition, Commissioners wrote to U.S. officials to address possible sanctions evasion by a major Belarusian company and regarding the partial lifting of sanctions. In October, Commission staff observed the presidential election as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly mission. Just prior to the elections, Belarus released six individuals detained in violation of Principle VII of the Helsinki Final Act. The Commission continued to call for the restoration of political rights for these and other former political prisoners.

The Commission continued to address the egregious 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. Human rights groups estimate that there are thousands of political prisoners in Uzbekistan alone. The Commission ensured that Turkmenistan was the focus of particular attention during the 2015 OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. For the first time in more than a decade, representatives of Turkmenistan participated in that meeting, where the United States pressed for information regarding more than one hundred disappeared political prisoners, including two former foreign ministers.

In February and March, Commission staff participated in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission in Tajikistan, the poorest country in Central Asia. In 1997, a peace agreement ended a bloody civil war there; political representation in the parliament for the moderate Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) was a core component of that agreement. During 2015, there were significant increases in restrictions on religious and political rights, including a ban on the moderate Islamic Renaissance Party of

Tajikistan (IRPT). The fragile peace now risks unraveling, with the prospect of Tajikistan becoming a failed state.

An estimated 4,000 foreign fighters from the five countries of central Asia have joined ISIS or Al-Qaida. Just before the Helsinki Commission's June hearing on ISIS recruitment in Central Asia, it was reported that the chief of Tajikistan's counter-terrorism program – someone trained by the United States – abandoned his post to join ISIS. The hearing focused on the risk factors for radicalization of Central Asian nationals, as well as combating the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters at the national and international levels.

In October, before Secretary of State Kerry's visit to the five countries of the region, Ranking Member Cardin wrote to him regarding the erosion of the democratic process and respect for human rights across Central Asia, evidenced by the continued detention of several opposition political leaders, religious freedom activists, human rights defenders and journalists and urged Secretary to raise the issue of political prisoners with the region's foreign ministers. Uzbekistan subsequently released Murod Juraev, a former Member of Parliament imprisoned since 1994 and in very poor health, whose case Commissioner Cardin raised. Chairman Smith focused on the rising number of political prisoners, including in Central Asia, and called on the OSCE to make the release of political prisoners a priority for the Organization.

The Commission remains deeply engaged in the Balkans and other long-standing efforts to achieve justice in the OSCE region. The Commission organized several meetings for Congressional staff to be briefed by OSCE officials and others working in the region.

In June, Chairman Smith introduced a resolution marking the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. The July 1995 massacre at Srebrenica was the worst atrocity to occur in the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina between April 1992 and November 1995, during which period more than 2,000,000 people were displaced, more than 100,000 were killed, and tens of thousands were raped or otherwise tortured and abused. The resolution affirmed that the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing implemented by Serb forces in that country constituted genocide and condemned genocide denial. The resolution also urged the Atrocities Prevention Board—an interagency organization charged with helping the U.S. government identify and address atrocity threats—to issue guidance on preventing future genocides, support the independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and peace and stability in southeastern Europe as a whole. The House unanimously passed the resolution in July, hours after Russia vetoed a resolution on the same issue at the United Nations.

In July, Co-Chairman Wicker and Commissioner Shaheen also participated, as Congressional members of the official U.S. delegation, in Srebrenica remembrance ceremonies in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In November, Co-Chairman Wicker and Commissioner Shaheen introduced legislation to help bolster the economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has struggled to keep pace with the political progress brought about by the signing of the Dayton Accords 20 years ago. This legislation would establish an enterprise fund,

directed by a board of American investment professionals, capable of leveraging both public and private funding to provide entrepreneurs access to the same kinds of loans and investment opportunities afforded to small and medium-sized American businesses. By strengthening the private sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this legislation would also help to create space to continue moving forward on much needed political reforms.

In June, Chairman Smith and Commissioner Aderholt expressed concern in advance of local elections in Albania, noting that Albanian citizens must be able to have confidence that they are participating in a transparent electoral process, free from intimidation, harassment, or attacks on candidates, the media, election officials, or voters.

In December, Co-Chairman Wicker welcomed NATO's invitation to Montenegro to join the Trans-Atlantic alliance. Underscoring common defense priorities, he observed that the security of Europe and the coalition will benefit from adding this Balkan nation to the alliance and called for Montenegro to continue with domestic reforms as it prepares for both the benefits and responsibilities of NATO membership." Russian aggression in Ukraine has contributed to Balkan anxiety about being left out of regional economic and security arrangements and increased the prospect for Russian meddling in the area.

Throughout the year, the Commission pressed Serbia – OSCE Chair-in-Office for 2015 – to provide justice for the 1999 execution-style murders of three Kosovar American brothers.

VI. Other Human Rights Issues

When the Helsinki Final Act (HFA) was signed in Finland in 1975, it enshrined among its ten Principles Guiding Relations between participating States (the Decalogue), a commitment to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion" (Principle VII). In addition, the HFA included a section on cooperation regarding humanitarian concerns, including transnational human contacts (such as family reunification), information, culture and education. The Commission pays particular attention to those imprisoned in violation of their Principle VII rights.

The Commission has played an instrumental role in developing many of these norms, notably the historic commitments on free and fair elections, recognition of the human rights problems faced by Roma, agreement to fight the scourge of human trafficking, and measures to combat resurgent anti-Semitism. The Helsinki Commission advocates on these issues with the goal ensuring that human rights and democracy concerns are appropriately reflected in the foreign policy of the United States and fostering improvements in the implementation of OSCE commitments by the participating States.

Human Trafficking

While there has been demonstrable progress in combatting trafficking in human beings, progress varies by country and is newly challenged by regional instability. The migration

and refugee crisis in Europe has created additional vulnerabilities.

The worldwide epidemic of human trafficking therefore remains a matter of priority for the Helsinki Commission and, throughout 2015, the Commission continued to address trafficking, including sex trafficking and various forms of labor trafficking. The Commission advanced commitments that address this problem and supported the development of the OSCE's institutional capacity to combat human trafficking throughout the OSCE region.

Chairman Smith, as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, held consultations on these issues with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, and OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Ambassador Medina Jarbussynova. Chairman Smith raised human trafficking concerns and best practices with heads of state, foreign ministers, numerous parliamentarians, and official delegations from around the world, including the President of the UN General Assembly, Sam Kutesa; Prime Minister Aleksander Vucic, Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and Ambassador Djerdj Matkovic of Serbia; Secretary of State of Poland Jan Dziejczak; Lithuanian Ambassador Zygimantas Pavilionis, and Deputy Secretary of State of Hungary Gergely Prohle and Ambassador of Hungary Réka Szemerkenyi. Regarding partner States, he met multiple times with Ambassador Pisan Manawapat of Thailand.

In 2015, Chairman Smith continued to work toward the passage of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking. (On February 8, 2016, it was signed into law.) This legislation expands and codifies the work of the Angel Watch Center (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), to enable it to more effectively alert destination countries of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders. It also facilitates 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 – establishing a durable system of reciprocity among the nations. In the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Chairman Smith's resolution on human trafficking was overwhelmingly adopted at the annual meeting in Helsinki.

In December, Chairman Smith held a briefing on "Best Practices for Rescuing Trafficking Victims." It focused on best practices regarding the identification and rescuing of foreign trafficking victims in the U.S. Two foreign-born victims shared insights on what helped them escape, and how doctors could have helped free them sooner.

Chairman Smith also raised human trafficking at numerous hearings, including at the Helsinki Commission's February hearing on Serbia's Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Commission's hearing on the refugee crisis in October. 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.

Co-Chairman Wicker co-sponsored the "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act," which was passed by the Senate in April. This bill included amendments introduced by Co-Chairman Wicker to extend the statute of limitations to allow child victims to file civil suits against

perpetrators up to 10 years after they reach the age of 18 and create a Department of Justice database for education and outreach. The underlying bill also includes a provision championed by Wicker and other Commissioners to treat trafficking victims as victims and not as criminals.

Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance

The Commission continued to advance efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region, particularly manifested by violence against Jewish communities, migrants, Roma, Muslims and other minorities. Throughout the year, these issues were an active part of Commission public outreach and engagement with civil society.

2015 witnessed horrific terror attacks in Paris and Copenhagen in January and February respectively. Both attacks were simultaneously directed against Jewish communities and at targets associated with the robust defense of freedom of expression. In July, Chairman Smith introduced a resolution calling for critical, concrete actions to support Jewish community groups that focus on safety awareness, crisis management and response, as well as preparedness and prevention. The resolution passed the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in October.

In March, Ranking Member Cardin was appointed to serve as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance. In connection with that appointment, he traveled to Paris and Copenhagen in April, joined by Co-Chairman Wicker and Commissioner Aderholt, where the delegation met with local leaders, government officials, and community leaders regarding Jewish community security and civil society coalition efforts to combat all forms prejudice and discrimination. They also met with Prefect Gilles Clavreul, Head of the Inter-ministerial Delegation against Racism and Anti-Semitism.

Ranking Member Cardin also held consultations on the full range of issues included within his mandate with Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke; EU Managing Director for Multilateral Relations and Global Issues Stephan Auer, and in a series of civil society outreach roundtables. On the issue of discriminatory policing, Ranking Member Cardin introduced including the End Racial Profiling Act, the BALTIMORE Act (Building and Lifting Trust in Order to Multiply Opportunities in Racial Equality), and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act. Ranking Member Cardin also urged the Serbian Chairmanship and the Department of State to develop concrete strategies to combat racial and ethnic discrimination throughout the OSCE region.

In March, Commissioner Hastings participated in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network meeting and the German Marshall Fund Forum in Brussels. Accompanying staff also participated in official and civil society meetings in Paris on issues related to anti-Semitism and other tolerance issues.

In September, Commission staff participated in the EU's Colloquium on Fundamental

Rights, the first EU-level meeting of representatives from both Muslim and Jewish communities across Europe to discuss how to combat anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred. Vice-President Timmermans announced the nomination within the Commission of two coordinators, one for anti-Semitism and one for Islamophobia, acting on recommendations made at the 2014 OSCE High Level Meeting on Anti-Semitism in Berlin.

For many years, the Commission has played an instrumental role in addressing the plight of Roma. In April, Chairman Smith and Co-Chairman Wicker called on OSCE participating States to renew their commitment to defending and promoting basic human rights of Roma throughout the region, noting that Roma continue to be denied equal access to housing, suffer disproportionately from high unemployment, and routinely face discrimination in public life. Racial profiling by police, mass evictions, and forced expulsions are commonplace. In July, staff met with Minister of Justice Tomáš Borec and other high level officials to discuss a Slovak Government document that alleged that segregated schooling was necessary because of Romani biology. Commission staff also participated in Prague in the Department of State's annual training conference for human rights reporting officers focused on issues relating to Romani minorities.

In November, staff participated in Vienna in a special OSCE Human Dimension Committee Meeting on Hate Crimes and Discrimination, National Points of Contact on Hate Crimes, and the Civil Society Conference on Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Cooperation.

Europe is currently experiencing its worst migration and refugee crisis since World War II, as people flee conflict and poverty in bordering regions. Over 1 million refugees and migrants reached Europe in 2015 by land and sea routes. This includes possibly as many as 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees who are unaccounted for by EU. As many as 50 percent are from Syria, with others from Afghanistan and Iraq.

The rapid escalation of migrants and asylum seekers into Europe has intensified concerns about security in receiving countries, burden sharing among EU countries, human trafficking, anti-migrant vigilante action and other acts of violence against new and resident minority communities (including citizens and non-citizen). Given that many refugees are unlikely to be unable to return safely to their countries of origin for years, the current crisis has put a spotlight on the need for long-term integration and anti-discrimination strategies.

In June, Commission staff traveled to Greece, one of the countries most heavily impacted by the crisis, for consultations with U.S. government and other officials, as well as humanitarian organizations directly involved in relief efforts. Commission staff also participated in special meetings convened by the Serbian Chairmanship to address the urgent situation.

In October, the Helsinki Commission held a hearing to examine how the OSCE, as the region's largest comprehensive security organization, can use its tools, standards, and commitments to help manage the humanitarian crisis and ensure that security and economic challenges are addressed.

In December, Commission staff participated in the conference in Rome on “The International Conference on Christian Response to Persecution” and conducted meetings with Holy See officials and civil society groups on religious freedom issues, anti-Semitism, and the humanitarian issues deriving from the crisis in Iraq and Syria.

Free and Fair Elections

Election observation remains one of the most important areas of the OSCE’s work, based on ground-breaking commitments initiated by the Helsinki Commission in 1990. It is also an area where Russia and like-minded countries seek to weaken existing commitments and undermine OSCE activity.

Members of the Commission and staff participate in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation missions, which represent the most effective way to deploy Commissioners and staff to observe key elections in order to encourage their free and fair conduct. In 2015, staff participated in election observation missions in Tajikistan (February-March), Turkey (June and October) and presidential elections in Belarus (October). Although OSCE election observation was effectively blocked by Azerbaijan, during those elections staff traveled to Baku for consultations with U.S. government officials and civil society.

Other Justice Initiatives

The Commission continued to support efforts to obtain restitution of or compensation for property wrongly confiscated during the Nazi or Communist eras, including communal or religious property; to secure compensation for victims of the Holocaust; to ensure public access to historical archives for these eras (including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum); and related efforts to achieve justice, particularly for elderly survivors.

In 2015, the French parliament ratified an agreement with the United States and France to provide for substantial compensation for Holocaust victims deported from France on the National Society of French Railways (SNCF) who had not been eligible under previous French compensation programs. The centerpiece of the agreement is a \$60 million lump sum payment by France to the United States, to pay out to eligible claimants. This was the culmination of long-standing Congressional efforts to achieve a measure of justice for victims and surviving family members, including legislative measures supported by Helsinki Commissioners.

In March, Chairman Smith introduced a bill to strengthen the ability of the United States to secure the extradition of convicted killers from countries where they have taken refuge, and return them to the United States to face justice. The bill honors two Americans whose convicted killers have avoided extradition in Cuba and in Portugal. It would require the President to report to Congress on extradition cases pursued by the United States.

In March, the Commission held a hearing to review progress toward holding individuals accountable for past injustices in Northern Ireland. This included examining the December 2014 Stormont House Agreement, as well as government collusion in paramilitary crimes,

and an unfulfilled British Government promise to conduct an inquiry into the murder of human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane.

In April, on the 100th anniversary of the start of the genocide of Armenians in Turkey, the Commission held a hearing on denial by the Government of Turkey and the decades-long effort by Armenians to seek accountability. The hearing assessed potential countercurrents in Turkish society that could move the Government of Turkey toward recognition, and explored what the United States and other countries can do to help bring about recognition and eventually, reconciliation.

VII. 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. Since 2001, the Commission has convened an annual hearing with the foreign minister serving as the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office since 2001. In February, Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ivica Dačić, as OSCE Chair-in-Office for 2015, participated in a hearing that focused heavily on the on-going aggression against Ukraine. As a successor country to the only participating State ever suspended from OSCE decision-making for egregious violation of Helsinki standards (1992 to 2000), the very fact that Serbia would now chair the organization was a credit not only to the country, but also to the OSCE which has provided significant guidance and engagement through the transition.

The Commission's direct engagement on OSCE matters is facilitated by the inclusion of a staff member in the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, a unique feature of the Commission as an independent agency. Commission staff also reinforced in specialized OSCE meetings on trafficking in human beings, freedom of association and assembly, free speech, hate crimes reporting, legal issues relating to the OSCE, 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 2015, Commission staff contributed a singular body of institutional knowledge to reinforce U.S. engagement.

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. The Commission has long pressed for greater transparency of OSCE meetings and the 2015 session were both webcast live and, for the first time, video archived.

The 2015 HDIM was dominated by Russia's external aggression against Ukraine, occupation of Crimea, and internal repression. 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. The so-called "Deputy Prime Minister" of Crimea attempted to speak during a formal session, leading to a walkout by many delegations (and the decision withhold speaking rights for the individual in question). This was part of a pattern in 2015 of Russian efforts to legitimize its occupation of Crimea by gaining international recognition for its "officials."

Overall, Russia's engagement reflected the importance it attaches to the annual HDIM 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. Other human rights issues that were a focus of the meeting included the escalation of repression in Azerbaijan, the situation in Belarus days before the October presidential elections, and the profound state of repression in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Leading OSCE officials also addressed the migration and refugee issue.

In December, Serbia's year-long chairmanship culminated in Belgrade with the annual meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. Key issues addressed included:

- ongoing efforts to de-escalate the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the need for Russia to fully implement its agreements with Ukraine;
- reaffirmation of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent commitments and the comprehensive nature of security (i.e., respect for fundamental freedoms within a state has an impact on the security between states);
- the assault on human dignity and human rights, including through terrorist attacks, the continued rollback on rights and freedoms in the OSCE area, and the refugee and migration crisis.

Russia blocked virtually all decisions on human rights, as well as on the migration crisis and on gender issues. Declarations that were adopted addressed recent terrorist attacks in the OSCE region, combating violent extremism that leads to terrorism, and addressing the illicit drug trade.

The OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia and four Asian Partners for Co-Operation: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand. 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. Some Partner states also make voluntary budgetary contributions to the work of the OSCE.

The OSCE framework provides an additional avenue for dialogue on a range of issues. In April, in advance of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's address to Congress, Chairman Smith urged him to help the many American victims of international parental child abduction in Japan. In June, Commission staff traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the OSCE's annual Asian Partners Conference and to Beijing, China, to engage the Chinese government on regional security issues involving OSCE countries.

In October, staff traveled to Amman, Jordan, to participate in the 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference and to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel, for meetings with government officials and civil society. 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. In the face of the refugee and migration crisis that exploded over the course of 2015, that is more evident than ever.

VIII. 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.

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 2015, Commissioner Aderholt continued to serve as one of nine Assembly Vice Presidents. Co-Chairman Wicker serves as Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly's Security Committee. Co-Chairman Smith has served as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues since 2004. In March, Ranking Commissioner Cardin was appointed the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.

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 under consideration by 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 an 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. Commissioners and Commission staff participate as members of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observations.

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.

In February, Chairman Smith participated in the winter meeting in Vienna of the OSCE PA. Combined this year with the annual OSCE PA Mediterranean meeting (usually held in the fall), discussions focused on Ukraine and Syria. A Russian effort to credential a delegate from Crimea was unanimously rejected and a special debate on the crisis in and around Ukraine demonstrated Russia's isolation. Chairman Smith also had meetings focused on identifying the most effective ways to fight human trafficking and assist with the recovery of trafficking victims.

In April, Co-Chair Wicker led a delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's expanded meeting of its leadership, or Bureau, in Copenhagen. As Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Senator Wicker is a voting member of the Bureau. He was joined by Ranking Commissioner Cardin, newly appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, and Commissioner Aderholt, who is an OSCE PA Vice President and also a Bureau member. Dominating the work of the Bureau was the need to recommend, from six candidates, a successor to retiring OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver of the United States. After lengthy debate, Roberto Montella of Italy emerged as the unanimous choice. Senator Cardin submitted a report to the Bureau on his work as Special Representative. En route to Copenhagen, the delegation visited Paris to meet with local leaders and government officials in light of the recent terrorist attack in that city, and used their time in Copenhagen to do the same in light of a subsequent attack there.

Forty years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act established the precursor to today's OSCE, five members of the Helsinki Commission and four other members of Congress traveled to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session, this year held in Helsinki, to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to confronting Russian aggression in Ukraine and elsewhere. Led by Commission Co-Chairman Wicker (as U.S. law specifies the delegation will be Senate-led in odd numbered years), the bicameral, bipartisan delegation included Commission Chairman Smith, House Commissioners Aderholt, Cohen and Grayson as well as Representatives Gwen Moore, Michael Fitzpatrick, Richard Hudson and Ruben Gallego.

Before attending the Annual Session from July 5 to 7, several members of the delegation also visited Ukraine and the Czech Republic. A central concern to the delegation throughout

the trip was Russia's restrictions on democracy at home and aggression in Ukraine, along with Russia's threat to European security.

In Prague, the delegation met with senior Czech officials—including First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Andrej Babis, Deputy Minister Defense Jakub Landovsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Issues Jakub Kulhanek, and Chamber of Deputies Member Ivana Dobesova, Head of the Czech Republic Delegation to the OSCE PA—to reinforce transatlantic cooperation between the U.S. and the Czech Republic. The delegation marked U.S. Independence Day at the headquarters of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), the nonprofit broadcaster funded by Congress to promote democratic values by reporting the news in countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established.

In Ukraine, the delegation received firsthand updates on security challenges and demonstrated America's solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia's egregious transgressions. In consultations with President Petro Poroshenko, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Members of the Verkhovna Rada and others, delegation members reiterated their commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and explored ways in which the U.S. might best assist Ukraine.

Two related issues dominated the agenda at Helsinki: the 40th anniversary of the signing of Helsinki Final Act and the greatest challenge which the OSCE faces today – the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and threats to other neighboring or nearby counties.

Following an unsuccessful attempt by Moscow to include several parliamentarians facing EU visa sanctions in the Russian delegation, the entire Russian delegation boycotted the Annual Session. (After a considerable review of options, the government of Finland decided to enforce existing EU sanctions by denying visas to the parliamentarians on the Russian delegation who were on the EU visa sanctions list.)

Chairman Smith and Co-Chairman Wicker supported a Canadian resolution, which built upon a similar resolution fielded by Ranking Member Cardin at last year's annual session and focused on "clear, gross and uncorrected" violations of all ten Helsinki Final Act Principals by the Russian Federation in and around Ukraine.

Chairman Smith introduced a resolution, "Responsibility to Combat Human Trafficking in Government Contracts for Good and Services," proposing steps to ensure that government contractors and their employees do not create increased demand for human trafficking or exploit trafficking victims. The resolution was overwhelmingly supported.

Other U.S. initiatives included a set of four amendments Co-Chairman Wicker made to the Canadian resolution on Russian violations of international norms in Ukraine, which together called on participating States to provide the support Ukraine needs to implement reforms and tackle corruption in a time of crisis. Representative Moore added an amendment to another resolution calling for a high-level meeting and other action to

address racism, particularly in law enforcement. Commissioner Cohen added language to the same resolution that called for increased efforts to combat anti-Semitism throughout the OSCE region. In the economic and environmental sphere, Representative Gallego successfully fielded two amendments addressing the impact of global pollinator decline on agriculture. Commissioner Aderholt and Representative Fitzpatrick spoke on the consideration of draft resolutions and amendments as well.

Members of the Commission staff also attended the Parliamentary Assembly's annual Meeting in September in Mongolia. This was the first OSCE PA meeting hosted by the newest participating State, which joined the OSCE in 2012. Major issues addressed at the meeting included the conflict and crisis in and around Ukraine, the European refugee and migration crisis, and Mongolia's efforts toward political and economic reform.

Appendix (A)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
114th Congress

Legislative Branch Commissioners

United States House of Representatives

Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Chairman

Joseph R. Pitts, Pennsylvania
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Michael C. Burgess, Texas
Randy Hultgren, Illinois
Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, New York
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Alan Grayson, Florida

United States Senate

Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Co-Chairman

Richard Burr, North Carolina
John Boozman, Arkansas
Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire

Executive Branch Commissioners

Department of State
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(2016)

Staff Members

Mark Milosch	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
David Killion	<i>Senior Senate Staff Representative</i>
Orest Deychakiwsky	<i>Policy Advisor</i> Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine; Security Officer
Shelly Han	<i>Policy Advisor</i> Economic and Environmental Issues; Armenia and Azerbaijan; Mongolia; OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation (Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand)
Bob Hand	<i>Policy Advisor; Secretary of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia; OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Janice Helwig	<i>Representative of the Helsinki Commission to USOSCE</i> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; OSCE Structures and Procedures; Afghanistan
Allison Hollabaugh	<i>Counsel</i> Trafficking in Persons; Women's Issues; International Parental Child Abduction; Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children
Nathaniel Hurd	<i>Policy Advisor</i> International Freedom of Religion
Stacy Hope	<i>Director of Communications</i>
Paul Massaro	<i>Staff Associate</i>
Daniel Redfield	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Erika Schlager	<i>Counsel for International Law</i> Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia; Romani

Minority Issues; OSCE and International Legal Issues; Domestic Compliance Issues

Mischa Thompson

Policy Advisor

Tolerance Issues (Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Muslim); Migrant Rights and Integration; Corporate Social Responsibility; Western Europe (European Union)

Jonas Wechsler

Senior State Department Advisor

Security Issues; Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia; Democracy Promotion

(Vacant)

General Counsel

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

Appendix (C)

OSCE Participating States as of March 2016

Country	Participating State
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

Appendix (D)

Hearings, Briefings and Commission Delegations in the 114th Congress, 1st Session

Hearings and Briefings

SERBIA'S LEADERSHIP OF THE OSCE (Hearing, February 25, 2015)

- H.E. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chair-in-Office of the OSCE

NORTHERN IRELAND: STORMONT, COLLUSION, AND THE FINUCANE INQUIRY (Hearing, March 18, 2015)

- Anne Cadwallader, author, *Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland*
- Mrs. Geraldine Finucane, widow of murdered human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane
- Professor Kieran McEvoy, Queen's University School of Law, Belfast, Northern Ireland

A CENTURY OF DENIAL: THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND THE ONGOING QUEST FOR JUSTICE (Hearing, April 23, 2015)

- Dr. Taner Akçam, Professor of History, Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies, Clark University
- Mr. Kenneth V. Hachikian, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America
- Mr. Van Z. Krikorian, Co-Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Armenian Assembly of America
- Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou, Visiting Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

WANTED: FOREIGN FIGHTERS – THE ESCALATING THREAT OF ISIL IN CENTRAL ASIA (Hearing, June 11, 2015)

- Daniel N. Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia, U.S. Department of State
- Frank J. Cilluffo, Associate Vice President & Director, Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, The George Washington University
- Jennifer Leonard, Deputy Director, International Crisis Group

EUROPE'S REFUGEE CRISIS: HOW SHOULD THE US, EU, AND OSCE RESPOND? (Hearing, October 20, 2015)

- Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State
- Mr. Shelly Pitterman, Regional Representative to the United States and Caribbean, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- His Excellency David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
- His Excellency Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States

- Mr. Sean Callahan, Chief Operating Officer, Catholic Relief Services

RUSSIAN VIOLATIONS OF THE RULE OF LAW: HOW SHOULD THE U.S. RESPOND? 3 CASE STUDIES (Hearing, October 21, 2015)

- Vladimir Kara-Murza, Coordinator, Open Russia Movement
- Alan Larson, Senior International Policy Advisor with Covington & Burlington LLP, former Under Secretary of State for Economics and Career Ambassador, U.S. State Department
- Tim Osborne, Executive Director of GML Ltd. - the majority owner of the now liquidated Yukos Oil Company
- Stephen Rademaker, Principal with the Podesta Group, Former Assistant Secretary of State for the U.S. State Department Bureau of Arms Control and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation

THE RULE OF LAW AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN AZERBAIJAN (Briefing, November 5, 2015)

- Ambassador Richard Morningstar, US Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan from July 2012 to August 2014 and Founding Director of the Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council
- Natalia Bourjaily, Vice President – Eurasia, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- Dinara Yunus, Daughter of imprisoned Azerbaijani human rights defenders Leyla and Arif Yunus

BEST PRACTICES FOR RESCUING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS (Briefing, December 2, 2015)

Panel 1: Survivors

- “Roxana,” Foreign-born Female Survivor of Sex Trafficking in the United States
- “Celena,” Foreign-born Female Survivor of Sex Trafficking in the United States

Panel 2: Experts

- Yaroslaba Garcia, ACT Clinical Director; President, Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition
- Dr. Kimberly Chang, Asian Health Services Community Health Clinic
- Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED CRIMEA (Briefing, December 11, 2015)

- Ivanna Bilych, Co-founder and President of VOLYA Institute, board member of the Ukrainian American Bar Association
- Andriy Klymenko, Chief Editor of Black Sea News; prominent economist, originally from Crimea
- Bohdan Yaremenko, Chairman of the board of the Ukrainian non-governmental organization, Maidan of Foreign Affairs, former Ukrainian diplomat
- Yuriy Yatsenko, Activist of the Maidan Revolution of Dignity who was illegally imprisoned in Russia on political grounds and recently released after a year of imprisonment

AZERBAIJAN’S PERSECUTION OF RFE/RL REPORTER KHADIJA ISMAYILOVA (Hearing, December 16, 2015)

- Nenad Pejic, Vice President / Editor-in-Chief of Programming, RFE/RL

- Delphine Halgand, U.S. Director, Reporters Without Borders
- T. Kumar, International Advocacy Director, Amnesty International USA
- Shelly Han, Policy Advisor, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Congressional Delegations

February:

Chairman Chris Smith, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Robert Hand, and Nathaniel Hurd traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

April:

Co-Chairman Roger Wicker, Ranking Commissioner Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman Robert Aderholt, Ambassador David Killion, Alex Johnson, and Robert Hand traveled to Paris, France, and Copenhagen, Denmark, to participate in the OSCE PA Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen, as well as in official and NGO meetings on human rights issues.

July:

Co-Chairman Roger Wicker, Chairman Chris Smith, Commissioners Robert Aderholt, Steve Cohen, and Alan Grayson, and Congressman Ruben Gallego, Congressman Richard Hudson, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Robert Hand, David Kostelancik, Orest Deychakiwsky, Alex Johnson, Nathaniel Hurd, Stacy Hope, and Janice Helwig traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine; Prague, Czech Republic; and Helsinki, Finland, to participate in the 2015 Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Helsinki, Finland, as well as to visit Ukraine and the Czech Republic for additional consultations on regional security and human rights issues of particular interest to the United States.

Staff Delegations

February:

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria as the Commission's Representative to USOSCE.

David Kostelancik traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to participate in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Parliamentary election observation mission

March:

Mischa Thompson traveled to Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France, to staff Commissioner Hastings at and participate in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network meeting in Brussels and the GMF Forum, and to participate in official and civil society meetings in Paris on issues related to anti-Semitism and other tolerance issues.

Alex Johnson traveled to Belgrade, Serbia, to participate in the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Protection of Journalists and additional consultations on OSCE issues.

April:

Ambassador Killion traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, to hold consultations on European and Eurasian security.

Erika Schlager traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in meetings on the legal status of the OSCE, and to support USOSCE for the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of Freedom of Assembly and Association.

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria as the Commission's Representative to USOSSCE.

May:

Erika Schlager traveled to Prague, the Czech Republic, to participate in the Department of State's periodic training conference on Romani issues for human rights officers with reporting responsibilities.

Ambassador David Killion and Shelly Han traveled to Seoul, South Korea, and Beijing, China, to participate in the OSCE's annual Asian Partners Conference and engage the Chinese government on regional security issues.

June:

Alex Johnson traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, and Athens, Greece, to participate in the OSCE PA's election observation mission in Turkey, and to conduct official and NGO meetings in Ankara and Athens on OSCE commitments and related issues.

July:

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria, as the Commission's Representative to USOSSCE.

Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the Alliance against Human Trafficking Conference and conduct consultations on related issues.

Erika Schlager traveled to Vienna, Austria and Bratislava, Slovakia to participate in a meeting on the legal status of the OSCE and hold consultations in advance of the fall Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), and conduct meetings on Romani human rights issues.

September:

Mark Milosch traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to conduct meetings and consultations with foreign parliamentarians, officials, and NGOs on human rights issues.

Mark Milosch and Robert Hand traveled to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, to attend the Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA and meetings and hold consultations with foreign parliamentarians, officials, and NGOs on human rights issues.

Ambassador Killion, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Jonas Wechsler, and Mischa Thompson to be members of the U.S. delegation to the 2015 OSCE Human Dimension

Implementation Meeting.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Brussels, Belgium to participate in the EU Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights.

Shelly Han traveled to Prague, the Czech Republic, to participate in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

October:

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria, as the Commission's Representative to USOSSCE.

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel, and Amman, Jordan, to conduct meetings with government officials and NGOs and attend the 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference.

Orest Deychakiwsky traveled to Minsk, Belarus, to participate in the OSCE PA election observation mission.

Janice Helwig traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, to participate in the OSCE PA election observation mission and conduct meetings with government officials and NGOs.

Shelly Han traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan, for consultations with U.S. Government officials and civil society.

November:

Mischa Thompson traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in and represent OSCE PA Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin at OSCE events including the Human Dimension Committee Meeting on Hate Crimes and Discrimination, National Points of Contact on Hate Crimes Annual Meeting, and Civil Society Conference on Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Cooperation.

Ambassador David Killion, Janice Helwig, and Jonas Wechsler traveled to Belgrade, Serbia, to participate the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting as part of the U.S. Delegation.

December:

Nathaniel Hurd traveled to Rome, Italy, to participate in The International Conference on Christian Response to Persecution and conduct meetings with Holy See officials and civil society groups on religious freedom issues, anti-Semitism, and the humanitarian issues deriving from the crisis in Iraq and Syria.