



BUDGET REQUEST

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND

COOPERATION IN EUROPE

FISCAL YEAR 2018

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Report and Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018

I. Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2018

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, Finland, 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 further institutionalized as 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 2018, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,579,000 for salaries and expenses, in keeping with the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2018.

II. Commission Membership

The Commission is composed of 21 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 2016, Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04) served as Chairman and Senator Roger F. Wicker (MS) as Co-Chairman. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (MD) and Representative Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) were Ranking Members. (See Appendix (A) for the 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, during this reporting period, staff members had proficiency in Arabic, 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 continuous 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, drafting of documents, and participating in other OSCE-related initiatives.

IV. Implementing the Commission's Mandate in 2016

The Commission is mandated to monitor participating States' compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements, with particular attention to what is called in the OSCE "the human dimension." The human dimension includes the freedoms of speech, assembly and association; religious liberties; the treatment of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities; combatting anti-Semitism as well as racism and other forms of discrimination; and the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, and free and fair elections. The Helsinki Final Act also established ten core principles, known as the Decalogue, for guiding relations among participating States, including sovereign equality, the inviolability of frontiers, and respect for territorial integrity.

All OSCE commitments have been adopted on the basis of the consensus of all the participating States. The participating States have agreed that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of government and that recognition of these rights and freedoms constitutes the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

In addition, in 1991, at the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension, the participating States specifically recognized "the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the [Helsinki process] are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States *and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.*" [Emphasis added.]

The Commission's work offers a unique avenue for promoting U.S. national interests in the security, economic, and human dimensions. The Commission's unique composition allows it to affect both U.S. foreign policy and congressional support for specific policies, while its expert practice of public diplomacy vigorously advances American values, ideals, and principles.

The Commission 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 and briefings, see Appendix (D).)

The Commission also serves as a venue for closed-door briefings and meetings for Hill staff. In 2016, the Commission organized meetings with State Department officials, Senior OSCE representatives, and NGOs dealing with the Balkans, and Central and Eastern Europe and on issues related to anti-Semitism, racism and other manifestations of bigotry.

In addition, Commissioners raise specific human rights abuses 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 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. In the 2016 calendar year, 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. 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 June 2016, the Commission re-launched its online homepage, www.csce.gov, to make the site more relevant and accessible to Commission audiences, both at home and abroad. The website includes more than 3,000 pages of content, including information about the Commission, its leadership, and the OSCE; summaries and transcripts of hearings and briefings; press releases; Congressional Record statements; reports and articles drafted by staff; and more. The enhancements have already resulted in a 42 percent increase in the average amount of time individual visitors spend on the site.

V. Countries and Regions of Particular Focus

The Commission pays particular attention to those OSCE participating States 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 developments open windows of opportunity to advance human rights. In addition to working to address current human rights violations, Members of the Commission have also sought to improve accountability for past acts, including genocide and mass atrocities. Members of the Commission engage on some aspects of the United States' own implementation record, particularly when those issues are raised in the OSCE context.

Russia – Internal Repression

Russia's internal repression against its own people, external aggression against Ukraine, and threat to European security were a focus of Helsinki Commission work throughout calendar year 2016. 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 and against Ukraine. Repressive measures escalated in advance of Russia's parliamentary elections in September, including suspected instances of attempted political assassination.

In late 2015, Russian businessman Mikhail Lesin was found dead in a Dupont circle hotel room under unclear circumstances. Following a yearlong investigation, federal and D.C. authorities issued a joint statement in October 2016 indicating that Lesin, a former Russian government official, had died from "blunt force injuries" and "acute ethanol intoxication." Co-Chairman Wicker had previously urged the Department of Justice to investigate Lesin for suspicion of wrongdoing under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

In June, opposition figure Vladimir Kara-Murza briefed Helsinki Commission staff on the developments in advance of the September parliamentary elections. Kara-Murza, who

nearly died in 2015 after being poisoned, was the target of online death threats by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in early 2016. (In February 2017, Kara-Murza became gravely ill again, apparently the target of a second poisoning attempt.)

The Russian Federation's persecution of civil society has served as a model replicated by other repressive countries around the globe. In December, President Obama signed the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act introduced in the House by Chairman Smith and Representative Jim McGovern. Ranking Commissioner Cardin and Senator John McCain introduced similar legislation in the Senate. The law authorizes the President to designate foreign human rights offenders and corrupt officials operating anywhere in the world, freeze their U.S. assets, and prevent the individuals from entering the United States. The final version includes a requirement from the House bill stipulating that the annual Global Magnitsky list must be issued on International Human Rights Day (December 10).

Russia – External Aggression

Throughout the year, Commissioners spoke out against Russian aggression and violations of human rights in areas occupied by Russia and by Russian proxies in floor statements, press releases, appearances in U.S. and foreign media, and letters and other communications with executive branch officials, often calling for stronger U.S. policy responses. The Commission remained actively engaged with case of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko. 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. A resolution sponsored by Co-Chairman Wicker and Ranking Commissioner Cardin calling for Savchenko's release passed the Senate in February 2015. In September 2015, 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. In May, Chairman Smith and Co-Chairman Wicker welcomed the release of Savchenko from prison in Russia and called for Russia to implement the 2014 provisions for a ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons known as the Minsk agreements.

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 and the State Department, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations. During the year, Co-Chairman Wicker met with Ukrainian parliamentarians and Ranking Commissioner Cardin met with Ukrainian judges and administration officials. In September, Commission staff traveled to Ukraine for consultations with Ukrainian government officials, parliamentarians, and civil society regarding Russian aggression against Ukraine and efforts to combat corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and meet the needs of internally displaced persons.

In November, the Commission convened a briefing titled "Ongoing Human Rights and

Security Violations in Russian-Occupied Crimea.” Experts examined the current state of affairs in the region in the face of Russian aggression, analyzed the response of the international community, and discussed how – 40 years after the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group was formed to monitor the Soviet Government’s compliance with the Helsinki Final Act – Ukrainians continue to defend Helsinki principles in the face of violations by Moscow. Panelists included Oksana Shulyar, Embassy of Ukraine; John E. Herbst, Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine; Taras Berezovets, Founder, Free Crimea Project, Kyiv, Ukraine; and Paul A. Goble, Editor and Professor, Windows on Eurasia and the Institute of World Politics.

The Commission has also served as a resource regarding OSCE 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 region of Ukraine and to monitor and report on human rights, particularly in occupied Crimea. The United States is the largest national contributor of monitors to this operation, called the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). Despite armed provocations by combined Russian-separatist forces, the SMM has worked to verify compliance, help to calm tensions by pursuing practical steps to improve conditions for civilians in the conflict zones, and facilitate disengagement to enable sustainable ceasefires. The OSCE has also established an Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk. SMM members have performed under difficult circumstances, especially as the Russian-separatist forces deny the Mission full access. The OSCE’s work in Ukraine has an unprecedented degree of transparency and the mission reports are public.

Following long-standing practices, the OSCE observed the November 2016 U.S. elections. The final OSCE election observation report noted “that the alleged interference of the Russian government in the U.S. elections became a key theme in the post-electoral period. Following reports from U.S. intelligence agencies that alleged that the Russian government acted to influence the elections through malicious cyber activity, among other reasons, the U.S. imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation and expelled Russian diplomats.” There were also indications of Russian efforts to manipulate other elections and referenda in the OSCE region during 2016.

Regional Security

In 2016, the Commission gave heightened attention to broader threats to European security.

Two weeks prior to the July NATO summit in Warsaw, the Commission held a briefing to discuss the prospects and challenges expected to factor into the negotiations, including Russian aggression, NATO enlargement, cybersecurity, and instability along NATO’s southern border. The panel featured Rear Admiral Peter Gumataotao, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans & Policy, Allied Command Transformation, NATO; Maciej Pisarski, Deputy Chief of Mission, Polish Embassy; and Dr. Hans Binnendijk, Senior Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University.

In September, the Commission held a briefing, led by Commissioner Joe Pitts, to look at the situation in Moldova twenty-five years after its independence and on the eve of presidential elections. Ambassador William Hill, Professor, National War College, National Defense University and Matthew Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center addressed continued threats to Moldovan territorial integrity and sovereignty; hostile Russian actions including disinformation campaigns, economic blockade, and threatening rhetoric; and the roles of the Moldovan government and external actors, including the OSCE, in addressing Moldovan vulnerabilities, including the absence of the rule of law. All participants encouraged U.S. support for Moldova and the region as it works towards a stable, democratic, and prosperous future.

In the wake of NATO decisions to send significant rotational forces to the Baltic States and Poland to deter Russian aggression, the Helsinki Commission convened a briefing in December to examine the fluid Baltic security environment. The panel featured Michael Johnson, Senior Defense Research Analyst, RAND Corporation; Magnus Nordenman, Director, Transatlantic Security Initiative and Deputy Director, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council; and Karl Altau, Managing Director, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. The expert presentations focused on issues relating to NATO's eastern flank, the extent of the Baltic States' vulnerability to potential Russian aggression in the absence of a significantly enhanced NATO presence in the region, the relevance of the region to U.S. geopolitical interests, the potential implications for other regional players in any Russian aggression, and the capabilities these regional players potentially could bring to bear.

In September, Commission staff traveled to Estonia for consultations regarding the Russian threat and regional security. Commission staff participated in the Joint Permanent Council-Forum on Security Cooperation meeting in Vienna, and held consultations on political-military issues at the OSCE Secretariat and with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

Co-Chairman Wicker continued to support NATO's invitation to Montenegro to join the Trans-Atlantic alliance. Underscoring common defense priorities, he has said 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.

Azerbaijan

Following the rapid and deep erosion of human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan in 2015 (a year that saw Azerbaijan shutter the OSCE field mission and block OSCE election observation), the situation in Azerbaijan remained bleak in 2016. Azerbaijan sought to deflect international criticism by releasing small numbers of political prisoners, even while simultaneously arresting journalists, bloggers and others who voice opinions the government deems critical. Government repression continued to extend to the family members of political prisoners as well.

The situation in Azerbaijan was raised in the Commission's hearing in March with OSCE Chair-in-Office, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. In September, Chairman Smith warned that the government's referendum on constitutional changes – extending the presidential term from five to seven years; removing the age limits for holding elected office; providing immunity for vice presidents; allowing the president to dissolve the national assembly and call early elections; and reorganizing the presidential line of succession – would lead to a crisis of legitimacy, both because of the content of the proposed changes and the context of the vote (i.e. the absence of transparency, access to information, and open public debate).

The Commission continued to press the cases of Leyla and Arif Yunus, two prominent human rights activists with serious medical conditions. Although released from wrongful imprisonment at the end of 2015, following engagement by Chairman Smith and Ranking Commissioner Cardin, the couple was refused the right to seek medical treatment abroad in violation of one of the most central provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the right to leave and return to one's country. At the end of 2016, the couple was finally allowed to join their daughter in the Netherlands.

Free press activist Emin Huseynov, who spent nearly a year in hiding in the Swiss Embassy and whose release the Helsinki Commission helped secure in 2015, was finally able to provide personal testimony about Azerbaijan's human rights abuses at the OSCE's 2016 annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. Unfortunately, it is still not safe for Huseynov to return to his country. Investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova, who had been previously blocked from testifying at a Helsinki Commission hearing and subsequently arrested on spurious charges, was finally released after 17 months of wrongful imprisonment. Mid-way through the year, she penned an editorial for the Washington Post from her Baku prison cell calling for the passage of the Azerbaijan Democracy Act of 2015 (H.R. 4264), introduced by Chairman Smith in December 2015. Although released, Ismayilova remains subject to a travel ban, in violation of the Helsinki Final Act, in an effort to prevent her from reporting abroad on conditions in Azerbaijan. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, remained forcibly closed by the government. Chairman Smith also criticized measures passed in late November that criminalized "insulting" the President, observing that anyone convicted under this amendment would be a political prisoner.

Belarus

More than five years after a 2010 crackdown, the government in Minsk has yet to implement meaningful human rights improvements. 2015 restrictions on mass media and a Soviet-style "social parasite" law remain in place. Belarus has refused to restore the political rights of former political prisoners, a tool used by the government to neutralize political opponents. The authorities in Minsk have tried to utilize the international focus on Russia's aggression against Ukraine as an opportunity to deflect attention from its own human rights record. In 2016, there was a substantial increase in legal procedures brought against people for public demonstrations. In September, Commission staff observed parliamentary elections in Belarus as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly mission.

Balkans

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 March, Chairman Smith and Co-Chairman Wicker welcomed the conviction and 40-year sentence handed down by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to Radovan Karadzic for his role in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide during the 1992-1995 conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Karadzic was the leading political figure among Bosnian Serbs during the conflict. The Commission played a central role in supporting the establishment of the ICTY.

Beyond well-known ethnic divisions and weaknesses in political structure, Bosnia's recovery from war is stymied by official corruption to the detriment of its citizens' quality of life and the prospects for the country's integration into Europe. In May, Co-Chairman Wicker chaired a hearing on combatting corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Commission heard testimony from Amb. Jonathan Moore, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina; The Hon. Thomas Melia, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, USAID; Mr. Srdjan Blagovcanin, Chairman of Board of Directors, Transparency International; and Dr. Valery Perry, Senior Associate, the Democratization Policy Council, Sarajevo-based Independent Researcher and Consultant.

Turkey

In March, Chairman Wicker condemned the government takeover of the nation's highest-circulation newspaper, Zaman. In July, on the eve of the failed coup attempt, Chairman Smith outlined a range of concerns regarding the state of human rights, the rule of law and independence of the judiciary in Turkey. Following the coup attempt, Co-Chairman Wicker spoke out about the actions against the military, the judiciary, religious leaders, and universities. In October, Commission staff traveled to Turkey for consultations regarding the evolving situation with the U.S. Embassy, Turkish officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society organizations. A Helsinki Commission briefing in December examined Turkey's deteriorating human rights conditions and the future of U.S.-Turkey relations in the wake of the ongoing post-coup crackdown. The Commission heard from Dr. Y. Alp Aslandogan, Executive Director, Alliance for Shared Values; Dr. Nicholas Danforth, Senior Policy Analyst, Bipartisan Policy Center; and Dr. Karin Karlekar, Director, Free Expression at Risk Program, PEN America.

VI. Other Human Rights Issues

When the Helsinki Final Act 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 Final Act 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 of 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 2016, the Commission continued to address trafficking, including sex trafficking and various forms of labor trafficking. The Commission advanced commitments that address these problems and supported the development of the OSCE's institutional capacity to combat human trafficking throughout the OSCE region.

Chairman Smith, as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly'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 Combatting 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.

On February 8, 2016, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking, authored by Chairman Smith, was signed into law. This law authorizes U.S. authorities to notify other countries when a high-risk American child molester travels abroad. The bill is also intended to encourage other countries to notify the United States when foreign sex offenders seek to travel to America.

In the context of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Chairman Smith introduced and secured the passage of a resolution on child sexual exploitation and organized an event to discuss these concerns in more depth. As the OSCE Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, Chairman Smith also presented reports to the Standing Committee of the Winter Meeting in Vienna and to the Annual Session in Tblisi.

Chairman Smith raised human trafficking at numerous hearings, including at the Helsinki Commission's hearing on Germany's Chairmanship of the OSCE and a hearing with Michael Georg Link, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

(discussed further below).

Commission staff continued to support Co-Chairman Smith's activities as Special Representative for Human Trafficking, as well as holding bilateral meetings in Washington and at relevant OSCE events, such as the annual Alliance Against Trafficking Conference and a special conference convened this year in Berlin by the German OSCE Chairmanship titled "Conference on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for Labor Exploitation in Supply Chains."

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.

In the Commission's hearing with ODIHR Director Link in February (discussed further below), Chairman Smith advanced the congressional drive to place the issue of combating anti-Semitism at the top of the OSCE agenda. In March, staff participated in the International Parliamentary Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA). Chairman Smith is a founding member of the ICCA, where he also serves on the steering committee. In April, the Commission convened a hearing in response to a growing number of violent anti-Semitic attacks and assessed what needed to be done, particularly by law enforcement agencies, to anticipate and prevent future attacks against European Jewish communities. The following witnesses testified: Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism; Jonathan Biermann, Executive Director, Crisis Cell for the Belgian Jewish community; John Farmer, Director, Faith-Based Communities Security Program, Rutgers University; and Paul Goldenberg, National Director, Secure Community Network. Witnesses expressed concern over the low levels of cooperation and consistency in government responses to this violence.

In March, Commission staff led discussions at a Vienna OSCE meeting on "Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination," and met with Austrian officials and representatives of civil society organizations to discuss tolerance and integration issues.

At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual meeting in July, Chairman Smith called on participating States to more effectively prevent and combat violence against European Jewish communities through the introduction of two amendments to the resolution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (also known as the Third Committee). His first amendment called for the explicit recognition of the increase in anti-Semitic attacks in the region, while the second encouraged participating States to formally recognize and partner with Jewish community groups.

For a second year, Ranking Commissioner Cardin served as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance. In that

capacity, he submitted reports to the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to the Annual Session.

Ranking Member Cardin also held consultations with civil society and government officials on the full range of issues included within his mandate. A resolution authored by him and introduced at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual session called for action against the anti-Semitic and racist violence sweeping across North America and Europe. The resolution, which passed overwhelmingly, urged members of the OSCE to develop a plan of action to implement its long-standing body of tolerance and non-discrimination agreements, called for international efforts to address racial profiling, and offered support for increased efforts by political leaders to stem the tide of hate across the region. The resolution was fielded by Commissioner Hultgren.

In March, Ranking Commissioner Hastings participated in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) meeting. Accompanying staff also participated in official and civil society meetings in Belgium and the Netherlands on issues related to anti-Semitism and other tolerance issues. 2016 marked the fifth anniversary of TILN, an innovative project of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. State Department, German Marshall Fund, and other stakeholders that prepares diverse, young leaders with a global outlook. Staff participated in additional TILN meetings in Turin in May.

For many years, the Commission has played an instrumental role in addressing the plight of Roma. Commission staff participated in Sofia, Bulgaria, in the Department of State's annual training conference for human rights reporting officers focused on issues relating to Romani minorities. In September, Commission staff participated in a special conference organized in Berlin by the German OSCE Chairmanship on "The Role of Political Leaders in Countering Discrimination, Racism, Hate Crimes, and Violence Against Roma and Sinti Communities."

Accountability for Atrocities in Iraq and Syria

The civil war in Syria, which began in early 2011, and the territorial expansion of extremist groups there and in Northern Iraq since then has devastated both countries. Estimates of the number of people who have died during Syria's civil war since March 2011 range from 250,000 to 470,000. In Iraq, the estimated range is between 19,000 and 41,650 deaths since January 2014. The people living in these regions have been subjected to an extensive list of atrocities including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Thousands of refugees have fled Iraq and Syria to seek refuge in the OSCE region. The desperate situation in these areas has resulted in the worst refugee crisis since World War II. With the war in Iraq and Syria showing little signs of abating the danger for vulnerable groups in these countries continues to worsen.

Chairman Smith, joined by Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-18), Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-08), and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (NE-01), introduced H.R. 5961, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2016, to provide relief for survivors of the genocide perpetrated by the Islamic State in Syria and the Levant (ISIL) against vulnerable religious and ethnic groups in Syria and Iraq, and to ensure that perpetrators of genocide, crimes against

humanity, and war crimes in those countries are punished. Among other things, the legislation requires the U.S. State Department to create a “Priority Two” (“P-2”) designation for Iraqi and Syrian survivors of genocide, and other persecuted religious and ethnic groups in Iraq or Syria. Refugees who meet the P-2 criteria are able to apply overseas for resettlement in the United States without requiring a referral from the United Nations, an NGO, or a U.S. Embassy.

In September, Chairman Smith convened a hearing titled “Atrocities in Iraq and Syria: Relief for Survivors and Accountability for Perpetrators.” This hearing examined the current situation in Iraq and Syria regarding the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, and looked at how the United States and the international community can best help protect persecuted people in this region and ensure that perpetrators of genocide and related crimes in Iraq and Syria are punished. The Commission heard testimony from Mr. Chris Engels, Deputy Director, Commission for International Justice and Accountability; Amb. David Scheffer, Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues; Mr. Steve Rasche, Legal Counsel and Director of IDP Resettlement Programs, Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil; Mr. Bill Canny, Executive Director, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Mr. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus.

In December, Chairman Smith visited the Erbil area of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, meeting with Christian families and leaders, as well as officials from the U.S., other OSCE participating States, and the United Nations. Smith also visited a camp for 6,000 internally displaced people, managed and supported by the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil. In 2002, there were as many as 1.4 million Christians in Iraq. After years of sectarian conflict, followed by the ISIL genocide that began in 2014, their numbers have dropped to less than 250,000. Iraqis have been eight percent of the refugees and migrants who arrived by sea in the OSCE region in 2016.

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, allowing Commissioners and staff to observe key elections in order to encourage their free and fair conduct. In 2016, staff participated in OSCE missions to observe parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (March) and Belarus (September). Conditions in Russia precluded Commission staff participation in the September elections for the Russian Duma.

As it has for nearly two decades, the OSCE dispatched an election observation mission to observe the U.S. presidential and congressional elections. In advance of the elections, Ranking Commission Cardin and former Congressman Tom Davis participated in a briefing for OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observers.

Religious Liberties

On December 16, President Obama signed into law the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act. The bill was written by Chairman Smith and co-sponsored by Rep. Anna Eshoo. Chairman Smith observed, “A robust religious freedom diplomacy is necessary to advance U.S. interests in stability, security, and economic development. Where there is more religious freedom, there is more economic freedom, more women’s empowerment, more political stability, more freedom of speech, and less terrorism.”

Child Abduction

Staff continued efforts to resolve ongoing international child abduction cases in Slovakia and Japan, including staff travel to Japan in June 2016 on behalf of the Chairman to meet with the U.S. Embassy, Japan’s Foreign Ministry, and Japan’s Hague Central Authority to make headway on several long-standing abduction cases between United States and Japan. Staff worked with the State Department to implement the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act.

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 a 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. In March, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, as 2016 Chair-in-Office, participated in a hearing to discuss Germany’s priorities for the organization. Observing that, “we Germans know how much we owe to this institution,” he acknowledged the historic role of the Helsinki process in achieving the unification of divided Germany. With respect to ongoing challenges, Steinmeier called for the application of OSCE commitments in the face of conflicts such as Russian aggression in Ukraine, terror and religious radicalism in the Middle East and Northern Africa, and the refugee crisis across Europe. Members of the Commission also raised concerns about freedom of the media, the fight against discrimination, racism, and intolerance, and about combatting human trafficking.

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 reinforced specialized OSCE meetings on trafficking in human beings, tolerance and non-discrimination, 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 – elements that are to the OSCE that what the substance of the Rules Committees are to Congress. Commission staff possess a singular body of institutional knowledge to support U.S. engagement on these issues. In 2016, Russia's escalated its efforts to obstruct virtually every aspect of the OSCE's work. Those efforts were directed first and foremost against joint action to promote human rights and democracy.

In September, the OSCE convened Europe's largest annual human rights meeting, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Held in Warsaw, it is especially significant for the opportunity it presents for direct civil society engagement with government officials. The Commission has long championed greater transparency of OSCE meetings and the 2016 sessions were both webcast live and video archived.

Russia's external aggression against Ukraine, occupation of Crimea, and internal repression were raised throughout the 2016 HDIM. The Russian Government undertook considerable efforts to use the meeting 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 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.

Azerbaijan sought, unsuccessfully, to limit criticism of the government's rollback of democracy by preventing civil society activists from leaving Baku to attend the Warsaw meeting. After Tajikistani NGOs mounted silent demonstrations at the meeting site in Poland, the Tajikistan government retaliated against their families with acts of harassment and intimidation. In the context of the meeting, the Commission pressed Serbia to provide justice for the 1999 execution-style murders of three Kosovar American brothers. The situation in Turkey in the aftermath of the coup was also a strong focus of the meeting.

In December, Germany's yearlong chairmanship culminated in Hamburg with a meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. The Department of State advanced Chairman Smith's Parliamentary Assembly resolution on combating the sexual exploitation of children for consideration as a ministerial decision.

Russia blocked the adoption of decisions on freedom of expression, combating hate crimes, anti-Semitism, and preventing torture. In its most cynical move, Moscow sought to transform a decision on the rights of persons with disabilities into a propaganda tool to defend Russia's state-sponsored, forced doping that led to the suspension of the Russian Paralympic team.

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 June, Commission staff traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to participate in the OSCE's annual Asian Partners Conference. The conference focused on terrorism, sustainable development, women's economic empowerment, and trafficking in persons.

In October, staff traveled to Vienna for the annual Mediterranean Partners Conference. 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.

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. Currently, Co-Chairman Wicker chairs a committee dealing with political affairs and security and Commissioner Aderholt serves as one of several Vice Presidents of the Assembly. Reflecting the utility of the Assembly to advance issues of concern, Chairman Smith serves as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Human Trafficking while Ranking Senator Cardin serves as 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, Co-Chairman Wicker participated in the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Discussions at this year's meeting focused on three key issues facing the OSCE region today: the conflict situation in and around Ukraine; the enhanced threat of terrorism in many OSCE participating States; and the refugee crisis in Europe. He also held consultations with members of the Israeli Knesset, an Afghani parliamentary leader, and a Bulgarian parliamentarian focusing on issues in the South Caucasus. In addition to participating in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly formal meetings, Co-Chairman Wicker met with the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano. The IAEA is tasked with monitoring the implementation of Iran's deal to use its nuclear program exclusively for peaceful applications,

In April, Commissioner Aderholt participated in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's expanded meeting of its leadership, or Bureau, in Copenhagen. As an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice President, Commissioner Aderholt is a voting member of the Bureau.

For the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session in Tbilisi, Georgia, the U.S. delegation included Commission Chairman Smith, Co-Chairman Wicker, Commissioner Aderholt, and Commissioner Hultgren. They were joined by Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-08), Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-08), and Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-06).

Chairman Smith led international lawmakers in battling international human trafficking and child sex tourism through a successful resolution calling on all OSCE participating States to raise awareness of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT), especially by convicted pedophiles, business travelers, and tourists. He also hosted a July 3 briefing on U.S. efforts to prevent SECTT through a new international reciprocal notification system – known as International Megan's Law – that facilitates timely communications among law enforcement agencies.

A second U.S. resolution, authored by Ranking Senator Cardin, called for action against the anti-Semitic and racist violence sweeping across North America and Europe. The resolution, which passed overwhelmingly, urged members of the OSCE to develop a plan of action to implement its long-standing body of tolerance and non-discrimination agreements, called for international efforts to address racial profiling, and offered support for increased efforts by political leaders to stem the tide of hate across the region. The resolution was fielded by Commissioner Hultgren.

Chairman Smith also called on participating States to more effectively prevent and combat violence against European Jewish communities through the introduction of two amendments to the resolution of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions (also known as the Third Committee). His first amendment called for the explicit recognition of the increase in anti-Semitic attacks in the region, while the second encouraged participating States to formally recognize and partner with Jewish community groups.

Responding to the abuse of Interpol systems for politically motivated harassment by Russia and other members of the OSCE, Co-Chairman Wicker authored a successful amendment to the First Committee resolution, which called on participating States to stop the inappropriate placement of Red Notices and encouraged Interpol to implement mechanisms preventing politically motivated abuse of its legitimate services. The amendment was fielded by Rep. Hudson.

During the Annual Session, members of the delegation also offered strong support for important resolutions fielded by other countries, including one by Ukraine on human rights in illegally occupied Crimea and another on the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. They voted for a highly relevant resolution on combating corruption fielded by Sweden and helped to defeat a Russian resolution attacking the Baltic States, Poland, and Ukraine in the context of combatting so-called “neo-Nazism.” U.S. delegates indicated their support for the work of attending Azerbaijani human rights activists and met with attending members of the Israeli Knesset.

Co-Chairman Wicker was also re-elected to a third term as chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs and Security, also known as the First Committee, during the annual meeting.

Commission staff also attended the Parliamentary Assembly’s Autumn Meeting in Skopje, Macedonia. In addition to the Standing Committee’s review of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s activities, staff held consultations regarding the political crisis in Macedonia and its effect on democratic developments, the refugee crisis in the region, and Macedonia’s continued efforts to integrate into NATO and the EU.

Appendix (A)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe **115th Congress**

U.S Senate

- Chairman Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
- John Boozman, Arkansas
- Marco Rubio, Florida
- Thom Tillis, North Carolina
- Other Commissioners to be appointed

U.S. House of Representatives

- Co-Chairman Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
- Ranking Member Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
- Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
- Michael C. Burgess, Texas
- Steve Cohen, Tennessee
- Randy Hultgren, Illinois
- Richard Hudson, North Carolina
- Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas
- Gwen Moore, Wisconsin

Executive Branch

- Department of State - to be appointed
- Department of Defense - to be appointed
- Department of Commerce - to be appointed

Appendix (B)

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE STAFF
(2017)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Ambassador David Killion – 240 | <i>Chief of Staff</i> |
| Mark Milosch – 240A | <i>Senior House Staff Representative</i> |
| Scott Rauland – 233 | <i>Senior State Department Advisor</i> Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia; Georgia |
| Orest Deychakiwsky – 235 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine; Security Officer |
| Bob Hand – 239 | <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 – 238 | <i>Representative of the Helsinki Commission to USOSCE</i> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; OSCE Structures and Procedures; Afghanistan |
| Allison Hollabaugh – 237 | <i>Counsel; Acting General Counsel</i> Trafficking in Persons; Women’s Issues; International Parental Child Abduction; Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children |
| Stacy Hope – 237 | <i>Director of Communications</i> |
| Nathaniel Hurd – 238 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> International Freedom of Religion; Refugees and Humanitarian Crises |
| Paul Massaro – 234 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> Economic and Environmental Issues; Policing and Border Management; OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation |
| Everett Price – 238 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> Cyprus, Greece, Turkey; Armenia and Azerbaijan; Islamic Affairs; OSCE Mediterranean Partners |
| Erika Schlager – 235 | <i>Counsel for International Law</i> Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia; Romani Minority Issues; Property Claims; OSCE and International Legal Issues; Domestic Compliance Issues |
| Mischa Thompson – 239 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> Tolerance Issues (Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Muslim); Migrant Rights and Integration; Corporate Social Responsibility; Western Europe (European Union) |
| Alex Tiersky – 235 | <i>Policy Advisor</i> Political and Military Security Issues; Protracted Conflicts |
| Jordan Warlick – 234 | <i>Staff Associate</i> Admin Assistant; Media Freedom |

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, 2nd Session

Hearings

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE AND EURASIA
February 11, 2016

- Michael Georg Link, Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

GERMANY'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE: PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES
March 1, 2016

- H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister, Federal Republic of Germany

ANTICIPATING AND PREVENTING DEADLY ATTACKS ON EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

April 19, 2016

- Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism
- Jonathan Biermann, Executive Director, Crisis Cell for the Belgian Jewish community
- John Farmer, Director, Faith-Based Communities Security Program, Rutgers University
- Paul Goldenberg, National Director, Secure Community Network

COMBATting CORRUPTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

May 25, 2016

- Amb. Jonathan Moore, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Hon. Thomas Melia, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, USAID
- Mr. Srdjan Blagovcanin, Chairman of Board of Directors, Transparency International
- Dr. Valery Perry, Senior Associate, the Democratization Policy Council/Sarajevo-based Independent Researcher and Consultant

ATROCITIES IN IRAQ & SYRIA: RELIEF FOR SURVIVORS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERPETRATORS

September 22, 2016

- Mr. Chris Engels, Deputy Director, Commission for International Justice and Accountability
- Amb. David Scheffer, Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues
- Mr. Steve Rasche, Legal Counsel and Director of IDP Resettlement Programs, Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil
- Mr. Bill Canny, Executive Director, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Mr. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus

Briefings

INTERNET FREEDOM IN THE AGE OF DICTATORS AND TERRORISTS

March 3, 2016

- Lisl Brunner, Director of Policy and Learning, Global Network Initiative
- Rebecca MacKinnon, Director, Ranking Digital Rights
- Tim Maurer, Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

NATO'S WARSAW SUMMIT AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY

June 23, 2016

- Rear Admiral Peter Gumataotao, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans & Policy, Allied Command Transformation, NATO
- Maciej Pisarski, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America
- Dr. Hans Binnendijk, Senior Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, The Johns Hopkins University

MOLDOVA AT A CROSSROADS

September 22, 2016

- Ambassador William Hill, Professor, National War College, National Defense University
- Matthew Rojansky, Director, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center

ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY VIOLATIONS IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED CRIMEA

November 10, 2016

- Oksana Shulyar, Embassy of Ukraine to the United States
- John E. Herbst, Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine
- Taras Berezovets, Founder, Free Crimea Project, Kyiv, Ukraine
- Paul A. Goble, Editor and Professor, Windows on Eurasia and the Institute of World Politics

NUCLEAR POLLUTION IN THE ARCTIC: THE NEXT CHERNOBYL?

November 15, 2016

- Nils Bøhmer, Managing Director, Bellona Foundation
- Julia Gourley, S. Senior Arctic Official, Department of State
- Jon Rahbek-Clemmensen, Visiting Fellow, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

BALTIC SECURITY AFTER THE WARSAW NATO SUMMIT

December 7, 2016

- Michael Johnson, Senior Defense Research Analyst, RAND Corporation
- Magnus Nordenman, Director, Transatlantic Security Initiative; Deputy Director, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council
- Karl Altau, Managing Director, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.

TURKEY: HUMAN RIGHTS IN RETREAT

December 9, 2016

- Dr. Y. Alp Aslandogan, Executive Director, Alliance for Shared Values
- Dr. Nicholas Danforth, Senior Policy Analyst, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Dr. Karin Karlekar, Director, Free Expression at Risk Program, PEN America

Appendix (E)

Congressional and Staff Delegation sin the 114th Congress, 2nd Session

Congressional Delegations

February:

Co-Chairman Roger Wicker, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Janice Helwig, and Robert Hand traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

April:

Congressman Robert Aderholt and Robert Hand traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Bureau Meeting.

June:

Co-Chairman Roger Wicker, Chairman Chris Smith, Congressman Robert Aderholt, Congressman Randy Hultgren, Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick, Congressman David Schweiker, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Paul Massaro, Alex Tiersky, Nathaniel Hurd, Allison Hollabaugh, and Robert Hand traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, and Rome, Italy, to participate in the 2016 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

December:

Chairman Chris Smith, Mark Milosch, Nathaniel Hurd, and Everett Price traveled to Erbil, Iraq, to consult with officials from the Iraqi, U.S. and other OSCE governments and civil society organizations on human rights conditions driving refugee flows, human trafficking, and foreign fighters into the OSCE region and U.S. and OSCE government responses.

Staff Delegations

January:

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria as the Helsinki Commission's Representative at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE for the duration of the 114th Congress (2015-2016).

March:

Janice Helwig traveled to Astana, Kazakhstan, to participate in the election observation mission of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and meet with government officials and representatives of civil society on human rights issues.

Mischa Thompson and Nathaniel Hurd traveled to Berlin, Germany. Mischa Thompson also traveled to Belgium and the Netherlands. In Germany, Dr. Thompson and Mr. Hurd participated in the International Parliamentary Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism, as well as staffed Senator Ben Cardin, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance. In Belgium and the

Netherlands, Dr. Thompson staffed Commissioner Hastings at and participated in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network.

April:

Shelly Han traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, and Yerevan, Armenia, to consult with government officials, academic experts, and civil society organizations, particularly in regard to energy issues and promoting human rights, government reform, civil society engagement, and peace building.

Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Vienna, Austria, to serve as Moderator at the OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, and meet with Austrian officials and representatives of civil society organizations to discuss tolerance and integration issues.

May:

Erika Schlager traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, to participate in the Department of State's periodic training conference on Romani issues for human rights officers.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Turin, Italy, to participate in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network.

June:

Ambassador David Killion and Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Bangkok, Thailand and Hong Kong, China. In Bangkok, Ambassador Killion participated in the OSCE's annual Asian Partner's Conference. In Hong Kong, Ambassador Killion held consultations and meetings with representatives from the Hong Kong government, stock market, and civil society groups.

Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Bangkok, Thailand and Tokyo, Japan. In Bangkok, Allison Hollabaugh participated in the OSCE's annual Asian Partner's Conference. In Tokyo, Allison Hollabaugh met with government officials and civil society groups regarding issues connected to human trafficking and international parental child abduction.

Janice Helwig traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to staff U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer at the OSCE Asian Partners Conference.

July:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to London, United Kingdom, and Vienna, Austria to conduct official and civil society meetings on economic and environmental issues, including on the promotion of transparency and good governance in the regulation and oversight of extractive industries in the OSCE region.

September:

Mischa Thompson traveled to Berlin, Germany, to participate in the OSCE conference on The Role of Political Leaders in Countering Discrimination, Racism, Hate Crimes, and Violence Against Roma and Sinti Communities.

Janice Helwig and Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Berlin, Germany to participate in the OSCE Conference on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Being for Labor Exploitation in Supply Chains.

Scott Rauland traveled to Minsk, Belarus; Tallinn, Estonia; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Warsaw, Poland. In Belarus, Mr. Rauland participated in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's mission to observe the Belarusian parliamentary elections. In Estonia, Mr. Rauland conducted consultations with Estonian government officials regarding the Russian ethnic minority and the Russian threat to Estonia. In Ukraine, Mr. Rauland conducted consultations with Ukrainian government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society organizations regarding Russian aggression against Ukraine, Ukrainian government efforts to combat corruption and strengthen rule of law, and efforts to meet the needs of internally displaced persons. In Poland, Mr. Rauland participated in the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw.

Orest Deychakiwsky traveled to Minsk, Belarus; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Warsaw, Poland. In Belarus, Mr. Deychakiwsky participated in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's mission to observe the Belarusian parliamentary elections. In Ukraine, Mr. Deychakiwsky conducted consultations with Ukrainian government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society organizations regarding Russian aggression against Ukraine, Ukrainian government efforts to combat corruption and strengthen rule of law, and efforts to meet the needs of internally displaced persons. In Poland, Mr. Deychakiwsky participated in the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw.

Paul Massaro traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, to participate in the Concluding Meeting of the 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and consult with foreign and U.S. government officials on economic and environmental issues.

Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Orest Deychakiwsky, Scott Rauland, Everett Price, and Mischa Thompson traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to participate as members of the U.S. delegation to the 2016 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Mark Milosch and Robert Hand traveled to Skopje, Macedonia, for the Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and meetings and consultations with foreign parliamentarians, officials, and NGOs on human rights issues.

October:

Everett Price traveled to Vienna, Austria to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation of the OSCE and to Turkey for consultations with Turkish officials, parliamentarians, and civil society organizations.

Alex Tiersky traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the Joint PC-FSC meeting and the meeting of the OSCE Security Committee, as well as conduct consultations on political and military security issues at the OSCE Secretariat and at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

Erika Schlager traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the meeting of the Informal Working Group on legal status.

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting, as well as hold consultations with foreign and U.S. government officials.

December:

Ambassador David Killion, Janice Helwig, and Erika Schlager traveled to Hamburg, Germany, to participate in the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Bureau Meeting