



BUDGET REQUEST

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FISCAL YEAR 2012

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2012

I. Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2012

The Commission was created on June 3, 1976, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, codified as 22 U.S.C. 3001, et. seq. This statute authorizes and directs the Commission ". . . to monitor the acts of the signatories which reflect compliance with or violation of the articles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with particular regard to the provisions relating to human rights and Cooperation in Humanitarian Fields." Information on the Commission's activities in 2010 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. In 2006, Montenegro was admitted as the newest participating State, bringing total membership to 56 countries.

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

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

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

For fiscal year 2012, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,715,000 for salaries and expenses, in keeping with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2012.

II. Commission Membership

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

At the beginning of each odd-numbered Congress, the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Chairman and the Speaker designates a House Member as Co-Chairman. At the beginning of each even-numbered Congress, the Speaker designates a House Member as Chairman and the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Co-Chairman. (See Appendix (A) for the list of Commissioners in the 111th Congress).

III. Commission Personnel

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

Since its establishment, the Commission has maintained a small but highly motivated and exceptionally capable professional staff. In addition to their expert knowledge in the geographical areas of the OSCE and in the human rights, military security, and economic and environmental dimensions of the Helsinki process, current staff members are proficient in languages including Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, 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 the 111th Congress, 2nd Session

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

The Commission is mandated to monitor participating States' compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements, with particular attention to human rights. All OSCE commitments, including those in the human dimension have been adopted on the basis of consensus by all participating States. These human rights commitments encompass a broad array of issues, including the freedoms of speech, media, assembly, association and movement;

religious liberties; and the treatment of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities. In 1991, the participating States at the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension specifically recognized “the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the [Helsinki process] are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.”

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

The Commission pursues its mandate in a variety of ways. First, specific instances of human rights abuses or shortcomings are often raised with the country of concern. Members of the Commission may intercede directly with that country's officials and representatives (at home 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 noticeably high turnover – helps ensure that these offices are kept informed of longstanding or emerging issues of concern to Commissioners. Significantly, the work of the Commission has resulted in considerable success in helping to resolve individual cases of human rights violations.

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, and Commissioners have also utilized these hearings to press the executive branch to take more resolute actions where circumstances warrant. These hearings find an audience among other U.S. government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the media, the general public, and among embassy personnel and other officials from OSCE participating States. Moreover, as a tool for applying international pressure on their own officials, the records of these public hearings and briefings are highly valued by human rights activists throughout the OSCE region. (For a complete listing of Commission hearings, briefings, reports, and articles, see Appendix (D).)

Commissioners or Commission staff members have served as members of U.S. delegations to every major OSCE human rights meeting since the Commission was established, a fact which strengthens the Commission’s institutional knowledge and influence. The multilateral context affords the Commission an important venue for advancing its mandate to monitor and promote

compliance by OSCE participating States with their freely undertaken commitments. In particular, within the context of OSCE fora, specific violations of commitments are raised directly with the States concerned. Finally, participation in these meetings uniquely enables the Commission to contribute to the process of standard-setting and establishing priorities and goals to advance implementation of the OSCE commitments, and to monitor the organizational development of the OSCE.

Although an independent agency of the U.S. government with Commissioners from both the executive and legislative branches, the Commission's leadership rests in the Congress and its membership is primarily drawn from the Congress. This structure reinforces 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. 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 importantly, the Commission's work facilitates an understanding by foreign governments of the singular involvement of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs, an aspect of American politics that is often not well understood overseas. (In fact, no other parliament of any other OSCE participating States has a body analogous to the Commission.)

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

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

In 2010, to meet changes in the media landscape, the Commission expanded a new communications strategy that places a greater emphasis on the use of social networking and video and photo sharing sites, like YouTube, Facebook and Flickr.

The new content also empowers the Commission to improve its engagement with foreign governments, their embassies, and nongovernmental organizations throughout the 56 countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, through the timely sharing of content from the Commission that directly addresses concerns within their country or features their delegation visiting the Helsinki Commission.

The Commission's new communications initiatives reflect a commitment to reach out to people where they are currently (and increasingly) consuming media rather than follow a status quo approach of communicating to traditional news outlets with dwindling audiences.

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

The Commission continues to focus attention on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy, human rights, and the OSCE. Engagement with senior Department of State officials, including the Secretary of State, provides an important avenue for Commissioners to help influence related U.S. policy. In this regard, regular contact is maintained especially with the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs; South and Central Asian Affairs; and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Similarly, the Commission leadership has placed importance on direct engagement with the top political leader of the Vienna-based organization, having convened a hearing with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office annually since 2001. Consistent with that practice, the Commission held a hearing in February with Kazakhstani Chairman-in-Office Foreign Minister Saudabayev.

In 2007, in order to secure consensus on its bid for the OSCE Chairmanship, Kazakhstan had pledged to undertake specific reforms. The Commission leadership called on the newly-installed Chair-in-Office to lead the OSCE by example, improve Kazakhstan's domestic human rights record, and fulfill its 2007 pledges. Commissioners also called for Kazakhstan to increase OSCE work in Central Asia, involve parliaments more in its work, as well as to focus activities on combating anti-Semitism and racism, bolstering media freedom, and promoting civil society.

Commissioners also responded to set backs that occurred during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, including the denial of an appeal for Evgenii Zhovtis, Kazakhstan's leading human rights activist, who remains in prison, and the passage of legislation extending President Nazarbayev's immunity and privileges for life.

VI. The 2010 Ministerial, Review Conference and Summit

2010 proved to be especially challenging for the OSCE. Throughout the year, Kazakhstan's human rights performance, exemplified by the continued imprisonment of Kazakhstan's leading human rights activist, cast a shadow over other aspects of its chairmanship. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan worked relentlessly to reach consensus to hold, as the capstone for its chairmanship, the first OSCE summit of heads of state and government since 1999.

The United States and some other countries were, at least initially, unconvinced of the merits of

convening a summit. Department of State Assistant Secretary had Philip Gordon testified at an October 2009 Helsinki Commission hearing: “If a summit can accomplish something, including in the core areas of the OSCE, including human rights, then there should be a summit. But we’re not interested in having a summit just to allow somebody to have a summit or to go and waste anybody’s time. So again, the process is linked to the substance. If there’s something that can be achieved in the important areas of the OSCE, let’s do it. And if not, we won’t do it.”

In the end, the drip-drip-drip of Kazakhstan’s unrelenting push to host a summit paid off at an OSCE Ministerial in Almaty July 16-17, 2010. At that meeting, the participating States formally agreed to convene the heads of state and government. The ministerial also served as a venue to consider OSCE engagement in neighboring Kyrgyzstan where interethnic violence had erupted.

Agreement to convene a summit dictated mid-course changes in the OSCE’s schedule for the year. Typically, the OSCE holds a two-week meeting in the fall to review the implementation of the full range of human dimension commitments, and then a Ministerial at the end of the year. In years in which a summit is held, however, OSCE modalities require that it is preceded by a full-scale Review Conference – in effect absorbing the human dimension implementation meeting and adding review of military-security and environmental and economic issues.

Helsinki Commission preparations for, contributions to, and participation in the major OSCE meetings were substantial. In advance of the Review Conference, the Commission staff met with Department of State officials regarding the U.S. approach to the meeting, suggested specific human rights concerns to be raised, recommended prospective public members, and provided draft U.S. interventions. In doing so, the Commission was able to draw on its institutional memory of the Helsinki process, its regional expertise, and its specialization in human rights matters to advance U.S. interests. At the meeting itself, Commission staff participated in all aspects of the U.S. delegation’s work, including the delivery of U.S. interventions, bilateral meetings with other countries’ delegations held to raise specific human rights concerns, meetings with NGO representatives, and consultations on the overall direction of OSCE human dimension activities. Helsinki Commission knowledge of OSCE rules and procedures significantly strengthened the ability of the United States to advocate on behalf of access and transparency.

Until now, all Review Conferences (known before 1994 as Follow-Up Meetings) have provided a forum where all three dimensions could be reviewed simultaneously and in one place. This facilitated consideration of cross-dimension issues (such as rule of law and corruption/good governance, or conflict prevention/resolution and national minority issues). Breaking with 35 years of past practice, however, the 2010 Review Conference separated out the review of human dimension implementation and discussion other issues, severing the longstanding cross-dimension approach that has been essential for the OSCE.

The review of human dimension compliance was held in Warsaw (where Human Dimension Implementation Meetings are normally held and where the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is located), September 30-October 8. The U.S. Delegation was headed by Amb. Michael Guest, a 26-year veteran of the Department of State and now Senior Advisor to the Council for Global Equality. Catherine Fitzpatrick, an expert on Russia and the former Soviet region, served as a public member. In addition to covering the full range of human rights issues (freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion; elections; minority

rights; independence of the judiciary and fair trials; etc.), the Warsaw Review Conference included three special topics: 1) intolerance against migrants; 2) trafficking in human beings, with a focus on children; and 3) freedom of the media. On the margins of the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference, Commission staff also organized trip to Auschwitz for members of the U.S. Delegation.

Military security issues, the economic and environmental dimension and a review of OSCE structures and activities (such as field missions) was held separately in Vienna (where the OSCE Permanent Council meets and where many other OSCE institutions are headquartered), October 18-26. Dr. Michael Haltzel, Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relation of Johns Hopkins University's School of International Studies, headed the U.S. delegation. For this part of the Review Conference, the Commission worked closely with the State Department on negotiating significant needed changes to the Economic and Environmental Forum to make it more efficient and more relevant to the OSCE participating States.

Following the precedent of the 1999 Istanbul Summit, and at the urging of the Helsinki Commission, an additional part of the Review Conference was held in Astana on the weekend of November 26, 27, and 28 – just prior to the Summit on December 1 and 2. The U.S. Delegation to the Astana Review Conference was headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Thomas Melia. Each of the special human dimension topics addressed in Warsaw were also addressed in Astana. On the margins of the Review Conference, NGOs organized a “parallel summit,” which was opened by a recorded statement from imprisoned human rights activist Evgenii Zhovtis. (Helsinki Commissioners had urged the Department to send a senior official to visit Zhovtis, and DAS Melia visited him in his prison near the Chinese border at the conclusion of the Summit.)

Perhaps the greatest damage inflicted by Kazakhstan stewardship of the OSCE was on the standards of openness and access for NGOs to human dimension meetings and review conferences. At the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference, Kazakhstan excluded NGOs in violation of OSCE rules, backing down only after extraordinary time-intensive interventions by the United States, EU, and others. At the Astana segment of the Review Conference, Kazakhstan implied that it could not (or would not) ensure the safety of some NGO representatives of Turkmenistan origin who now live in exile outside of Turkmenistan; faced with doubts about their physical security, they elected not to come.

The U.S. Delegation to the Summit was led by Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton. She also held a town hall meeting with local civil society as well as bilateral meetings with Belarus, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom, the UN Secretary General, and a trilateral with the EU and Russia. On the margins of the Summit, the United States announced an agreement reached with Belarus to assist in eliminating all of Belarus’ highly enriched uranium by the time of the next nuclear security summit in 2012.

VII. The Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE

Both Commissioners and Commission staff have continued to participate in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to solicit the involvement of other Members of

Congress in these activities. Representation at these inter-parliamentary events demonstrates a solid, ongoing congressional commitment to maintaining and strengthening United States-European relations.

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

In a June 2010 public hearing, the Helsinki Commission discussed these and related issues with Joao Soares, a parliamentarian from Portugal completing his second year as the Parliamentary Assembly's President, at the witness table.

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

U.S. participation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly goes beyond attendance at these meetings; many Members of Congress have traditionally played an active leadership role in the Assembly. Helsinki Commission Chairman Benjamin L. Cardin continued to serve his second 3-year term as one of nine Assembly Vice-Presidents, while at the Oslo Annual Session Commissioner Robert B. Aderholt was re-elected Vice-Chair of the "Third" Committee dealing with issues relating to democracy, human rights and humanitarian affairs. Ranking Member Christopher H. Smith was reappointed the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, and Co-Chairman Alcee L. Hastings, who served as Assembly President from 2004-2006, as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

Helsinki Commission Co-Chairs Cardin and Hastings, along with Commissioners Wicker and Aderholt, Delegate Eni Faleomavaega and Representatives Laura Richardson, represented the United States at the Winter Meeting held in Vienna, Austria, on February 18 and 19, 2010. Three U.S. statements were delivered during a general debate on Afghanistan, which urged Afghan citizens to help shape their country's future while urging unity among OSCE States in the effort to defeat terrorist forces still present there. Other U.S. statements, mostly in committee sessions, urged greater efforts to ensure taxpayer money was not lost to fraud and corruption, to target organized crime involved in drug trafficking, to focus on trafficking in persons in all its forms, and to protect cargo from international piracy at sea. Chairman Cardin also spoke on

human rights as an element of U.S. foreign policy, including Administration efforts to deal with Guantanamo Bay detainees. Co-Chairman Hastings hosted a working session with delegates representing the Mediterranean Partner states to discuss future work under OSCE auspices.

The Assembly's 19th Annual Session took place in Oslo, Norway, from July 6 to 10, 2010. The U.S. Delegation was led by then-Commission Chairman Cardin and included Commissioners Smith, Udall, Slaughter and Aderholt as well as Senate Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin and Representative Lloyd Doggett. More than 300 parliamentarians attended the session, together with other officials.

The U.S. Delegation actively participated in the work of the Assembly's plenary and three General Committees, which considered draft resolutions for each committee as well as a total of 35 additional resolutions known as supplementary items. Four of the supplementary items were proposed by members of the U.S. Delegation: Nuclear Security (Cardin); Protection of Investigative Journalists (Cardin); Combating the Demand for Human Trafficking and Electronic Forms of Exploitation (Smith); and Mediterranean Cooperation (Hastings). U.S. delegates were also instrumental in garnering support for supplementary items introduced by other countries. With more than 20 amendments to various resolutions on political, environmental and social issues, they also participated in the vigorous debates and votes leading up to the adoption of the final Oslo Declaration.

During the course of the Annual Session, the U.S. Delegation held bilateral meetings with the Russian Federation's OSCE PA delegation and a delegation from Kyrgyzstan visiting Oslo to brief parliamentarians on the recent turmoil in their country. In meetings with Norwegian officials, the U.S. delegates also expressed their sorrow of the recent deaths of Norwegian soldiers in Afghanistan. Some members of the U.S. Delegation travelled to nearby Estonia to focus on cyber-security with this newer but also key NATO ally. En route back to the United States, the Delegation traveled to the Svalbard archipelago in Norway's Arctic north and had extensive discussions with Norwegian officials on the impact of climate change on the polar region and its flora and fauna.

The Helsinki Commission was represented at several other meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In May, Co-Chairman Hastings attended the second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Almaty, Kazakhstan, co-hosted with Kazakhstan's parliament, to discuss the OSCE's "Eurasian Dimension" and to serve on a panel discussion the crisis in Kyrgyzstan. He and fellow Commissioner Aderholt planned to attend the April meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau, but the meeting was cancelled due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland which disrupted Europe's air traffic. Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Smith both attended the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's October "Fall Meetings" in Palermo, Italy, which focused on the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption and included a Mediterranean Forum to discuss regional cooperation. Chairman Cardin chaired a session on fighting corruption while Ranking Member Smith served on a panel dealing with human trafficking.

During 2010, Co-Chairman Hastings served as the Deputy Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation that composed part of the OSCE mission to observe the January presidential elections in Ukraine. Helsinki Commission staff also continued to participate in OSCE PA election observation activities surrounding parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan,

Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The Commission also helped to facilitate the Assembly's observation of the U.S. mid-term elections in November, assisting a delegation of 42 parliamentarians from 21 countries to observe election-day proceedings in Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

VIII. OSCE Partners for Cooperation and Mediterranean Partners

The 56-nation OSCE now has 12 Partners for Cooperation, including six Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia; and six Partners in Asia: Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea and Thailand. Partner countries, while not participating in regular negotiating fora of the OSCE, nevertheless attended and participated in numerous OSCE meetings. Since 2007 Partners are seated with the participating States during the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council in Vienna and participate fully in discussions. The OSCE and its Partners for Cooperation maintain close relations and hold frequent seminars to explore ways to strengthen cooperation on issues of mutual interest. The Partners were active throughout 2010 sending representatives to all major meetings and seminars.

The Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE, an integral part of the Helsinki process since the signing of the Final Act, was reformulated in the mid-90s as "Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation" to include Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia. Unlike participating States, "Partner" countries have not given their consensus to uphold the Helsinki Final Act or other OSCE agreements. In 1998, Jordan was accepted as a Mediterranean Partner, and Afghanistan, which many consider to lie within the broader Middle East region and which borders the Central Asian states of the OSCE, was accepted as a Partner for Cooperation in 2003. In 2009, Australia was accepted as an Asian Partner for Cooperation.

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

As Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Co-Chairman Hastings actively engaged the Mediterranean Partner States throughout 2010. In January he traveled to Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank and Israel where he met with both government officials and NGOs. Discussions focused on the Iraqi refugee crisis and Middle East peace. He also urged leaders in Lebanon and Syria to consider engagement with the OSCE. Following travel to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Hastings joined Codel Cardin in Vienna, Austria, for the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly where he delivered a report on his work with the Mediterranean Partners to the Bureau of the Assembly. Co-Chairman Hastings again addressed the Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during its April meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark where he supported the Assembly's invitations to Libya, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian National

Authority to attend the Assembly's Fall Meetings in Palermo Italy, scheduled for October 8-11, 2010. He also proposed that both the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly review their rules of procedure in order to find greater opportunities to enhance engagement with all of the Partners for Cooperation.

In February, Chairman Cardin led a delegation to the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna, Austria. Prior to attending the Winter Meeting, the delegation traveled to Morocco and Spain to discuss related issues of Mediterranean regional cooperation and international counterterrorism efforts with these two important countries.

During its Annual Session in Oslo, Norway in July, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted Co-Chairman Hastings' Resolution on Mediterranean Cooperation which called on the Secretariats of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE to engage with their counterparts in the Union for the Mediterranean, the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue and similar organizations in order to facilitate coordinated cooperation with the activities of the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension. The resolution also called on the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to develop proposals to incorporate the Palestinian National Authority in a stable manner in the dialogue and cooperation forums in the Mediterranean, and encouraged exchanges in personnel and expertise between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners, and robust participation by the Partners in OSCE election observation missions.

Following legislative initiatives by both Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Hastings, the Commission convened its second hearing on the Iraqi refugee crisis on July 22, 2010. Entitled "No Way Home, No Way to Escape: The Plight of Iraqi Refugees and Our Iraqi Allies," the hearing focused on the continuing plight of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees languishing in OSCE Mediterranean Partner states Jordan and Egypt and other countries in the region, as well as the fate of those Iraqis working for the United States government in Iraq whose lives are threatened because of their service. Following opening remarks by Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Smith, the Commission heard testimony from the Honorable Eric P. Schwartz, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, Ambassador L. Craig Johnston, President of Refugees International, Mr. Kirk Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of The List Project to Resettle Iraqi Allies, and Michael A. Newton, Esq., Professor of the Practice of Law, Vanderbilt University Law School.

The Fall Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in in Palermo, Italy October 8-11, 2010 included a Mediterranean Forum which focused on "Cooperation in economic and infrastructure sectors in the Mediterranean basin" and "Cultural and Environmental Cooperation as an Expression of the Mediterranean Civilization." In his written report to the Forum, Co-Chairman Hastings informed those assembled that the OSCE Secretariat's External Cooperation team had developed two proposals directly related to the Assembly's efforts, specifically an exchange for young professionals from the Partners for Cooperation to temporarily work at the OSCE Secretariat, and a participatory assessment of environment and security issues in the Southern Mediterranean region. Mr. Hastings urged the parliamentarians to work with their governments to make extra-budgetary contributions to the OSCE Partnership Fund to support these proposals and continued to urge the Mediterranean Partners to actively participate in upcoming OSCE election observation missions.

On October 14-15, 2010 Commission staff participated in the annual 2010 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on “The Dialogue on the Future of European Security – A Mediterranean Perspective” in Valetta, Malta. Conference topics included Confidence and Security Building Measures – the OSCE experience; OSCE experiences in fostering security and stability by dealing with economic and environmental challenges; and the promotion of OSCE commitments and exchange of experiences on tolerance and non discrimination by OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean partners. The conference was well attended by OSCE Ambassadors from Vienna including those representing all of the Mediterranean Partner countries as well as representatives of the Palestinian National Authority, the League of Arab States and the People’s Republic of China who attended as guests of the host country.

The self-immolation of a Tunisian street vendor on December 17 unleashed a wave of revolution that has reached numerous Partner states. The Commission will continue to support the efforts of both the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly in encouraging democratic development in North Africa and the Middle East.

Commission staff attended the OSCE’s Asian Partners for Cooperation meeting in Seoul, South Korea, from May 18 to 19, 2010. The purpose of the annual conference is to discuss how the participating States of the OSCE and the Asian partners can best co-operate to address global security challenges. Given the focus on security issues and the geographical location of the conference, much of the discussion focused on the growing tension on the Korean Peninsula. Both South Korea and Japan, in particular, made urgent appeals for greater involvement of all states in finding a peaceful solution to the ongoing danger posed by North Korea.

IX. Politico-Military Security and Emerging Threats: Twenty-First Century Security in the OSCE Region

During 2010, the Helsinki Commission continued to encourage OSCE work on a range of security issues, including the protracted conflicts. The Commission also undertook initiatives on furthering nuclear security and on combating terrorism and other transnational threats.

Throughout the year, Commission staff continued to monitor and report on longstanding conflicts in the OSCE region, sometimes called “frozen,” as well as situations which erupted into open violence. This included the Transnistria region of Moldova, which continues to be occupied by Russian in violation of OSCE agreements; Nagorno-Karabakh, an area claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia where cross-border skirmishes escalated; and Georgia’s secessionist regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russia has failed to implement its ceasefire commitments undertaken after its 2008 invasion of Georgia and has continued to obstruct the reestablishment of an OSCE presence in Georgia.

The Commission continued to be actively engaged on issues in the Western Balkans, where there were some concerns about resurgent or escalating tensions, and the situation in Kyrgyzstan, which witnessed the outbreak of wide-spread violence (see regional sections, below).

Reflecting concern over the role that inter-ethnic tensions may play in conflicts in the OSCE region, the Commission held a hearing on May 4, 2010, on “Strengthening OSCE Efforts to

Mitigate Inter-Ethnic Conflict in the Region.” The Commission received testimony from Heidi Tagliavini, Ambassador at Large and Under Secretary of State of Switzerland, who led the European Commission-sponsored study of the Russia-Georgia war and prepared the official report; Peter Semneby, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus; and Soren Jessen-Peterson, former United Nations Head of Mission in Kosovo and former EU Special Representative on Macedonia.

During 2010, the Commission’s leadership expressed, through public statements, concern regarding the ongoing and pervasive threat of global terrorism, and support for cooperative efforts to combat terrorist attacks. In April, Co-Chairman Hastings introduced legislation urging the State Department to formally designate the Caucasus Emirates as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Several recent attacks on the Moscow subway and more than 60 acts of terrorism in Russia’s North Caucasus have been attributed to this group. In June, the Secretary of State designated Caucasus Emirates leader Doku Umarov under Presidential Executive Order 13224, which targets terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism.

Commission staff also participated in the June 14-16, 2010, Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC). The ASRC offers the participating States the opportunity to assess the security activities of the OSCE; to exchange views on issues pertaining to arms control and confidence and security building mechanisms; and facilitate cooperation among the OSCE’s regional and international partners. The meeting largely paralleled the discussions that were taking place in the Corfu Security Dialogue. The working sessions centered around the issues of: (1) transnational threats and challenges; (2) the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; (3) the role and perspectives of arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust in the evolving security environment; (4) threats and challenges emanating from the territory of Afghanistan; and (5), police-related matters.

On June 16, the Commission held a hearing on “Global Threats, European Security and Parliamentary Cooperation”, which received testimony from Joao Soares, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The hearing comprehensively examined a range of security challenges confronting the OSCE and the role of parliamentarians in addressing them. The issues included nuclear security, climate change, global terrorism, and anti-corruption efforts. Members also addressed the unresolved conflicts in the Balkans and elsewhere, challenges related to trafficking, tolerance, and democratic development, including elections and media freedom.

The 2010 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly held in Oslo provided opportunities to advance policy initiatives on nuclear security and on combating transnational threats. During the meeting, Chairman Cardin sponsored a resolution urging the participating States to bolster their nuclear nonproliferation efforts, fight fraud and disclose more information about their nuclear activities. Senator Tom Udall co-sponsored the resolution which underscored the need for continued vigilance in deterring nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear technology, and highlighted the role that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly could continue to play in bolstering existing mechanisms to support these aims. During the Annual Session, Commissioners also sponsored an amendment to reaffirm Interpol’s role in combating transnational crime and corruption and calling upon the participating States to avoid undermining

the credibility of Interpol by placing politically motivated or otherwise inappropriate notices in the system.

X. Cooperation in the Field of Economics and the Environment

The Commission's focus in the economic and environmental dimension has been on advancing good governance initiatives within the OSCE organizational structure and within specific countries of the OSCE. The goal of this focus is to increase security and human rights through promotion of initiatives that ensure greater transparency at all levels of government. These initiatives are equally effective in all aspects of the Economic and Environmental dimension, but particularly so in the areas of border management and efficiency, environmental security, migration management and management of government revenues. Specifically, the Commission has focused efforts on fighting corruption in resource-rich countries by promoting efforts to increase transparency of payments and creating greater mechanisms for civil society to operate in these countries. These issues will continue to be a focus of the Commission's work, with an emphasis on extractive industries transparency, environmental issues, border managements and migration management.

In 2010, the OSCE focused its attention during the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) on "Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region." During the four meetings of the Commission worked to promote a broader dialogue on fighting corruption at the border.

In February, at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting, Commissioners were active on several fronts. Co-Chairman Cardin called on parliamentary colleagues in other countries to fight corruption in their own ranks by limiting application of parliamentary immunity laws. He also called on countries to work toward greater energy security by fighting corruption in the extractive industries. Chairman Cardin specifically called on countries to support the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative, and also to fight corruption in the climate change sector by working for transparency in the burgeoning industry of forestry and other carbon offsets.

In July, at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Oslo, Norway, Commissioners introduced a number of resolutions and supplemental items on economic and environmental issues. Chairman Cardin sponsored successful resolutions on parliamentary immunity and also spoke to the full assembly on encouraging participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Commissioner Tom Udall sponsored an amendment to the resolution recognizing the economic opportunities inherent in developing new clean energy technologies that help create jobs and also help participating States meet climate change goals.

At the Fall Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Palermo, Italy, Chairman Cardin chaired a panel on the topic of fighting corruption which included the Italian Minister for Justice and the Deputy Head of the OECD, among others. Chairman Cardin noted the passage of legislation he co-authored setting a new transparency standard in the extractive industries, and also decried the trend in some OSCE countries to fail to provide a safe working environment for the media, and particularly for the work of investigative journalists. He emphasized that

“exposing corruption should not be a hazardous occupation.”

In 2010 Chairman Cardin won passage of the Energy Security Through Transparency Act amendment, as part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform package. The new law is aimed at advancing U.S. efforts to promote good governance of extractive industries through increased transparency at home and abroad by requiring companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges to disclose in their regular SEC filings extractive payments made to foreign governments for oil, gas and mining. Chairman Cardin urged other delegations, particularly the British and Canadian delegations, to take similar action in their own parliaments so that the transparency requirement would apply to the greatest number of listed companies.

XI. Protection of Human Rights

1. U.S. Leadership at OSCE Human Dimension Meetings

Throughout the year, the Commission’s Policy Advisor to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE in Vienna, Austria, participated in a full range of venues where human rights issues were addressed, including the weekly meetings of the Permanent Council (the OSCE’s main decision-making body), the PC’s Human Dimension Committee, the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Astana in July, all phases of the Review Conference, and meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Commission’s presence in Vienna affords a unique opportunity to provide input into the daily work of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and fosters understanding by other delegations of the unique role of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs.

Commission staff participated in the three regularly scheduled Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in Vienna as well as the annual Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw. The Supplementary Meetings focused on gender issues, national minorities and education, and religious liberties. The Seminar addressed “Judicial Independence and Public Access to Justice.” In advance of these meetings, Commission staff worked to promote the selection of human rights subjects that are topical and relevant, and to ensure NGO access and transparency at the meetings.

In March, Ambassador Douglas Davidson, the Commission’s Senior Advisor from the Department of State, participated in an OSCE meeting on “Incitement to Hatred vs. Freedom of Expression: Challenges of Combating Hate Crimes Motivated by Hate on the Internet.” The role of the internet as a vehicle for fomenting prejudice and bigotry remains a critical concern for many groups that monitor extremism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance. At the same time, many groups are anxious to ensure that freedom of speech is not curtailed in name of fighting extremism, especially in light of the role that new media can play in fostering democracy movements.

In June, Commission staff participated in a “High Level Conference on Tolerance and Nondiscrimination” organized in Astana by Kazakhstan as OSCE Chair-in-Office. More than 600 people attended the event which was preceded by one-day civil society forum. U.S. Special Envoy on Anti-Semitism, Hannah Rosenthal and U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Farah Pandith, participated and the United States organized a side event focused

on inter-faith and inter-ethnic approaches to combating intolerance. Martin Raffel, Executive Director, Jewish Counsel for Public Affairs, and Bishop John Bryson Chane of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington served as public members. Kazakhstan's poor human rights performance was raised in various sessions and side events throughout the meeting, which was nonetheless used as a propaganda platform for Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Commission staff also participated in June in a meeting convened in Copenhagen by Denmark and Kazakhstan to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the 1990 Copenhagen Document and to assess implementation of key provisions of that landmark document. The Copenhagen Document was considered a landmark human rights agreement with groundbreaking commitments regarding free and fair elections, democracy, and the rule of law.

2. Central Asia

Two major developments defined the Commission's work on Central Asia in 2010: Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE and the April revolution in Kyrgyzstan that ousted President Bakiev, a president widely perceived to be corrupt and ineffective. For these reasons, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan occupied the great bulk of the Commission's attention devoted to Central Asia – and to the OSCE – in 2010.

In the other countries of the region, strongly authoritarian governments continued to control society, marginalizing opposition parties – if they are tolerated at all – and flouting OSCE commitments on fundamental freedoms. The region's ruling elites have consolidated president-centered political systems that permit no serious opposition from institutions (parliaments or independent judiciaries), parties, civil society (especially free media) or individuals.

Kazakhstan was the first post-Soviet state, first majority-Muslim nation, and first Central Asian country to hold the OSCE Chairmanship. Kazakhstan's desire for the Chairmanship, first announced in 2003, met with significant resistance given its poor record on democratization and human rights. Astana's pledge in 2007 to undertake serious reforms closed the deal on Kazakhstan's bid to lead the OSCE, but did not, in fact, lead to any meaningful progress. On the contrary, during 2010, a law was adopted granting President Nazarbayev political immunity for life and permanent protection of his and his family's assets. Human rights activist Evgenii Zhovtis remained in prison. Other activists were arrested for holding protests. During the OSCE Summit, disfavored websites were blocked. At the end of the year, parliament – comprised only of members of Nazarbayev's party – put forward legislation to abolish presidential elections and extend Nazarbayev's term through 2010.

Within the OSCE, the overriding priority of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship was achieving consensus on holding an OSCE summit. The summit was held in Astana in December, and although it resulted only in a weak statement and failed to adopt a proposed action plan, Nazarbayev was able to use it inside the country to bolster his image as a player on the world stage. Kazakhstan's was a mediocre Chairmanship that focused on meeting the functional needs of the Organization but provided little real political leadership. Kazakhstan did assist with getting President Bakiev out of Kyrgyzstan following the April revolution, but did not push for greater OSCE involvement to address the ethnic violence that subsequently unfolded in June. On net, the Kazakhstan Chairmanship became a year-long exercise in damage control.

In Kyrgyzstan, where the United States has a major air base supporting troops in Afghanistan, street protests in April toppled a president yet again. President Bakiev was forced to flee after his troops fired at demonstrators, leaving some 88 dead and several hundred wounded. The shootings mobilized countrywide opposition, overthrowing Bakiev's government and leading him to seek refuge in Belarus. An interim government took over, led by Roza Otunbaeva, who had been Kyrgyzstan Ambassador in Washington in the 1990s. She pledged to focus on her caretaker role and not to run for president in 2011. Further violence erupted in June in southern Kyrgyzstan, where there is a large ethnic Uzbek population. At least 400 people were killed in the violence, and thousands of homes and businesses destroyed; 400,000 people were displaced. Ethnic tensions continued to simmer over the following months as police targeted ethnic Uzbeks for arrests and raids, despite the fact that ethnic Uzbeks were by far the majority of the victims. Few if any ethnic Kyrgyz were arrested.

Despite the escalation of violence, Kyrgyzstan held a referendum in late June on a new parliamentary system and the interim presidency of Roza Otunbayeva. Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Hastings, and Commissioner Pitts issued a statement welcoming the peaceful conduct of the referendum and calling for increased international assistance to the country to stabilize the situation.

In July, the Commission held a hearing on "Kyrgyzstan: The International Response." Commissioners heard testimony from Robert O. Blake, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia; Arslan Anarbev, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Kyrgyzstan; Dr. Martha Olcott, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Dr. Bakyt Beshimov, an opposition Kyrgyz politician and visiting scholar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Following the hearing, Commission leaders said that democratic progress and interethnic reconciliation are critical to long term stability in Kyrgyzstan, expressed support for the new government, and urged the OSCE to step up its work to assist Kyrgyzstan with its transition.

In September, Helsinki Commission staff participated in a roundtable with President Otunbaeva in New York, where she explained with remarkable candor the constraints under which she operates and the difficulties of assigning blame in the June pogroms. In October, Commission staff observed parliamentary elections as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election mission.

In Uzbekistan, President Islam Karimov oversees one of the world's most repressive states, where opposition and dissent are not permitted. Karimov signed a strategic partnership agreement with the United States in 2003 but relations foundered after the massacre by government forces of hundreds of protesters in Andijon in 2005. In 2009, with overland transport of non-military supplies to Afghanistan through Uzbekistan becoming ever more important as operations in Pakistan made that route too dangerous, bi-lateral ties improved and a prominent political prisoner was released. These trends continued in 2010.

In April, the Helsinki Commission held a day-long seminar in the Capitol for a delegation of Uzbekistan parliamentarians led by former Uzbek Ambassador to Washington Sodyq Safayev. He reportedly had been in disgrace during the deep freeze of U.S.-Uzbek relations, and his

reappearance in Washington for the first time since the Andijon massacre indicated the seriousness of Tashkent's hopes for improved bilateral ties. In remarks to the parliamentarians, Chairman Cardin focused on human rights issues, expressing particular concern for prisoner of conscience Yusuf Jumaev.

Little significant change marked 2010 in gas-rich Turkmenistan, which remains the sole one-party state in the OSCE space; all opposition and dissent are banned. In June Commission staff participated in the 2010 Annual Bilateral Consultations in Ashgabat at the invitation of Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Robert Blake. Staff focused on sessions discussing human rights and supported Helsinki Commissioner Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Michael Posner. Commission staff also ensured that Turkmenistan continued to receive particular attention at the Review Conference in Warsaw.

Tajikistan continues to suffer the consequences of a disastrous civil war in the 1990s. President Imomali Rakhmon and his relatives have consolidated control of the country's politics and economy; despite nominal representation of opposition parties in the parliament, Tajikistan's record on elections differs little from the regional norm.

Commission staff traveled to Tajikistan in February 2010 to observe the parliamentary elections as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election mission. The OSCE concluded that the elections failed to meet key OSCE commitments.

3. Corruption and Impunity in Russia

In 2010 the gap between the Kremlin's official rhetoric on human rights and the rule of law and the Russian reality widened. This divergence was particularly striking on the matter of official corruption and its corrosive effect on the respect for the fundamental rights enshrined in the Helsinki Accords.

In April, Chairman Cardin called on the Department of State to cancel and permanently withdraw the U.S visa privileges of all Russian officials involved in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky. The Magnitsky case was highlighted at a 2009 Helsinki Commission hearing on corruption: Magnitsky was the company lawyer for Hermitage Capital Management. After exposing a \$230 million tax fraud scheme perpetrated by numerous Russian officials, Magnitsky was himself arrested and died after being held in prolonged pre-trial detention under gruesome conditions. Cardin's List contains 60 names of senior officials from the Russian Interior Ministry, Federal Security Service, Federal Tax Service, Arbitration Courts, General Prosecutor Office, and Federal Prison Service, along with detailed descriptions of their involvement in the case. In September, Chairman Cardin and Representative James P. McGovern introduced bills that would freeze assets of and block visas to individuals responsible for the 2009 death of Sergei Magnitsky and a related \$234 million tax fraud scheme. In November, the Commission participated in the world premiere of the documentary, "Justice for Sergei."

The Commission further examined the matter of growing corruption in Russia at a briefing in November on "Beyond Corporate Raiding: A Discussion of Advanced Fraud Schemes in The Russian Market." Russia's leading anti-corruption crusader, shareholder activist, and top blogger Alexei Navalny participated.

The Commission also remained engaged in the Yukos case, which remains the most high-profile legal case in post-Soviet Russia. Using a variety of vehicles, including a colloquy in June between Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Wicker in the Senate, Commissioners were the leading voice in Washington in raising the issue of the selective and problematic prosecution of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev. Mr. Khodorkovsky, Russia's most famous political prisoner owned the Yukos Oil Company and used his wealth to fund opposition political parties. In 2003 he was arrested and convicted on charges of tax evasion, the company broken up and handed over to Kremlin-controlled firms. Just as he was eligible for parole, Russian prosecutors leveled a second series of money-laundering charges against him and convicted him on all counts in late 2010. Sentencing and appeals will continue in 2011, but he is likely to face more time in a Siberian prison.

4. Other Human Rights Developments in Russia

The Helsinki Commission remains at the forefront of drawing attention to the human rights situation in Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus region of Russia. The Commission's focus included a July briefing, "In the Eye of the Storm: Chechnya and the Mounting Violence in the North Caucasus."

July also marked one year since Natalya Estemirova, the leading human rights defender in Chechnya, was abducted near her apartment building in the capital city of Grozny by unidentified men, transported to the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, and brutally killed. The Commission observed this anniversary with a public briefing and Co-Chairman Hastings introduced a resolution in the House condemning the impunity for those responsible for the murder of human rights defenders and journalists in Russia.

The record for the Russian state's respect for the rights of freedom of religion, peaceful assembly, and expression remained spotty at best in 2010. The Commission is aware of numerous credible allegations of non-compliance particularly as it concerns the rights of Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses to freely practice their faith, or the ability of citizens to publically express dissent on sensitive issues in the public square, and the ongoing government censorship of national TV – by far the media with the greatest penetration across the vast Russian Federation.

5. Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

On February 7, Ukraine held a hotly contested presidential runoff, in which Victor Yanukovich defeated the more Western-oriented Prime Minister, Yuliya Tymoshenko, 48.95% to 45.47%. The first round (held January 17th with no candidate receiving the required 50 percent, thus necessitating a runoff) witnessed the trouncing of President Victor Yushchenko, who garnered a mere 5.4% of the vote in a field of 18 candidates.

Notwithstanding some deficiencies with the electoral framework, including last-minute amendments, the OSCE pronounced the elections as having met most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments. Co-Chairman Hastings served as deputy head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation to the first round. Commission staff served as members of the OSCE PA

delegations to both rounds of the elections, observing in Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv.

At a March 16 hearing – “Ukraine: Moving Beyond Stalemate?” – Commissioners examined the scope of new challenges facing Ukraine and their implications for U.S. policy, hearing testimony from the State Department, Atlantic Council, and Peterson Institute for International Economics. The remainder of the year clearly indicated that the Yanukovych Administration’s moving beyond the political stalemate of the previous president included a tilt towards Moscow and backsliding on human rights and democracy. The Commission responded to the democratic rollback both privately, in direct contacts with Ukrainian officials, and publicly. In a September press release, Commission Chairman Cardin expressed concern about backsliding with respect to media freedoms and Co-Chairman Hastings highlighted growing intimidation of journalists, academics, and non-governmental organizations by the Security Service of Ukraine.

Any indications for democratic progress and enhanced respect for human rights in Belarus came to a sharp halt late in the year. The December 19th presidential elections, despite some improvements during the run-up, instead ended up being the latest in a long line of flawed, fraudulent elections. Commission staff observed the voting in Minsk and Polotsk as part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation. They were among the 48 percent of OSCE observers who witnessed a negative, non-transparent vote count. Election night was marred by a violent campaign of repression against tens of thousands who came out to peacefully protest the election results. More than 600 protestors and journalists were jailed, including most opposition presidential candidates, several of whom were severely beaten. On December 21, the Commission issued a post-election press release condemning the crackdown, with Chairman Cardin calling it “deplorable.”

2009 was a year of tremendous political change in Moldova, Europe’s poorest country, as nearly a decade of communist rule came to an end. Early in 2010 the Commission welcomed Prime Minister Vlad Filat on his first official visit to Washington to hear his assessment on the political future of Moldova, particularly the possibilities of electing a president and moving forward on democratic reforms, and new opportunities in bilateral relations.

The Commission was also represented at Moldova’s fall parliamentary election (the third in two years) which met most OSCE commitments. Results of this poll, however, failed to produce a majority large enough to elect a president and resolve this country’s prolonged political impasse.

6. The Caucasus

No revolutions took place in the Caucasus in 2010 but regional tensions persisted. There was no visible progress resolving the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) or those between Georgia and the secessionist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The U.S.-backed reconciliation initiative between Turkey and Armenia foundered, largely because of Turkey’s refusal to delink NK from the issue. Armenian President Sarkissian froze parliamentary ratification of the process in April.

Domestically, relations between government and opposition remained poor in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Opposition and human rights groups accused the authorities in all three states of concentrating power and not implementing OSCE commitments.

In Armenia, polarized relations persisted between the authorities and opposition parties after the bloody post-election events of spring 2008. Nine protesters arrested at that time remain in prison. Moreover, the authorities have repeatedly refused a broadcasting license to A1+, an opposition-oriented TV station.

An ongoing problem in Armenia has been Yerevan's failure to institute alternative service for conscientious objectors that meets international standards. Over 70 Jehovah's Witnesses, who abjure military service, were in prison in December because they claim the existing program is under the army's supervision. It remained unclear at year's end whether new draft amendments would resolve these issues. Concurrently, other proposed amendments to the law on religion and the criminal code evoked serious apprehension among minority faiths and human rights groups, who feared significantly enhanced government intrusion and restrictions on the freedom of religion. Helsinki Commission staff consulted regularly with Jehovah's Witnesses representatives to hear their concerns and also met with Armenian opposition leaders.

Democratization and human rights observance did not improve in 2010 in Azerbaijan, where Ilham Aliyev has effectively become president-for-life. Helsinki Commission staff observed Azerbaijan's parliamentary election in November, which perpetuated the country's record of poor performance. Staff witnessed behavior consistent with ballot stuffing and the vote count did not meet international norms. The election resulted in the exclusion of the country's leading opposition parties for the first time since the 1990s, creating a legislature virtually devoid of dissenting voices.

Baku was also criticized throughout the year for its treatment of journalists. The best known case was that of two young blogger-activists, Emin Milli and Adnan Hajdi-zade, who were arrested and convicted in 2009. Helsinki Commission leadership issued a strong press release in March 2010 condemning a Baku court's denial of the bloggers' appeal. Commission staff also discussed the issue with the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington, countering allegations that the Commission's language was too hard on Baku. After the bloggers were finally released in November, they thanked organizations all over the world for keeping their case in the limelight and calling for their release; among those mentioned was the Helsinki Commission.

In Georgia, civil society was active but human rights groups inside and outside the country complained of growing authoritarianism. Opposition parties largely stopped in 2010 trying to force President Mikheil Saakashvili from office by organizing demonstrations, instead focusing on proposed constitutional amendments that reorder the balance between executive and legislative branches. Many analysts believe Saakashvili is orchestrating his transition to another key position once his term ends in 2013. Helsinki Commission leadership probed Saakashvili's intentions during two separate meetings in April when he was in Washington. (Georgia's parliament passed the amendments in October.)

Commission Co-Chairman Hastings met in September with Georgia's Speaker of Parliament David Bakradze, to discuss democratization issues and human rights problems. Commission leadership and staff also remained in close contact with opposition leaders throughout the year to hear their perspective and concerns.

7. Southeastern Europe/Western Balkans

During 2010, the countries of Southeastern Europe/Western Balkans continued to make moderate progress in recovering from a decade of conflict which caused major human rights violations, economic collapse and fragile democratic transition. The previous year's focus of primary international concern shifted from the difficult and potentially de-stabilizing situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where a prolonged electoral period essentially thwarted efforts to move the country forward while the July opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the international recognition of Kosovo's independence and elections in that country created new opportunities for progress there. All Western Balkan countries, including NATO members Albania and Croatia, have continued their efforts to realize their aspirations for European Union membership, although some made significantly more dramatic progress toward integration than others. By year's end, only newly independent Kosovo with its complicated international status failed to achieve EU visa liberalization long sought by the people of the region.

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

The Helsinki Commission held one hearing specifically on the Western Balkans in 2010. In December, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Thomas M. Countryman appeared before the Commission in what has become a tradition for the "point person" for U.S. policy toward the countries of the region. Chaired by Commissioners Hastings and Jeanne Shaheen, participating Members of Congress included Senator George Voinovich and Representatives Earl Pomeroy and Russ Carnahan. The discussion noted the decline extreme nationalism of the 1990s as a positive trend but the persistence of organized crime, official corruption and a general lack of adherence to the rule-of-law as persistent problems. Coming just before Kosovo's parliamentary elections, the hearing became a venue for criticizing statements which threatened Kosovo Serbs who try to participate in the vote. The hearing was also noteworthy in reinforcing U.S. support for the territorial integrity and European integration of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Co-Chairman Hastings follow-up on the hearing with some additional questions to Deputy Assistant Secretary Countryman regarding continued U.S. support for Macedonia's NATO bid and the renewed focus on a 1999 case in which Serb and other captives of Kosovo Liberation Army fighters were victimized in a human organ trafficking.

Other Commission hearings, while more broadly focused, covered developments in the Western Balkans as well. For example, a May hearing on mitigating inter-ethnic conflict in the OSCE region featured Soren Jessen-Petersen of Denmark, whose testimony drew predominantly on his various international positions responding to the conflicts in the Western Balkans in the 1990s. A June hearing on threats to freedom of the media in the OSCE region, featuring the newly appointed OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic, similarly covered the extent to which journalists and editors in various Balkan countries face threats and

intimidation as well as legal action for carrying out their profession, especially when investigating instances of official corruption.

Throughout the year, the Commission leadership met with numerous visitors to Washington from the Balkans, including Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic in January, a delegation of Bosnian parliamentarians in April, Bosnia's Social Democratic Party leader Zlatko Lagumdzija in May, Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic in June and civic activists from Bosnia-Herzegovina in November. Commission staff held many additional meetings at lower levels, often including staff from other concerned offices on Capitol Hill. During a February visit to Vienna Austria, for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting, Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Hastings and Commissioner Aderholt met with the Speaker of Albania's parliament, Jozefina Topalli, as well as members of Albania's political opposition.

Commission staff observed Bosnia-Herzegovina's October 3, 2010, elections for the tripartite presidency, parliament and entity-level posts. While the country's electoral performance had improved significantly from the immediate post-conflict period a decade earlier, the complexity of the electoral process and increased tension within the country combined to make their successful conduct critical. Fortunately, the elections were generally in line with OSCE standards, although the continuation of ethnic restrictions on the eligibility of citizens to hold certain offices was noted to be a continuing human rights violation. The Commission leadership released a statement after the elections calling for a renewed effort at reform with a strong supporting role by the United States and the international community.

The Commission leadership commented with public statements, correspondence and legislation on other developments during the course of 2010, including on the increasing political pressure on public broadcasting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the conviction of senior Bosnian Serb officers in the Srebrenica genocide that took place 15 years ago, and Serbian police action to protect participants in a gay-rights parade in Belgrade. In an October letter to U.S. President Obama, Co-Chairman Hastings and Commissioner Aderholt also joined 17 other Members of the House in expressing support for inviting Macedonia to join the NATO Alliance. Ranking Member Smith introduced and Co-Chairman Hastings co-sponsored House Resolution 1423, observing the 15th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and expressing support for "Srebrenica Remembrance Day" in the United States. Mr. Hasting also co-sponsored House Resolution 1684, honoring the memories of then- Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown and others who lost their lives in 1996, while on a trade mission to the Balkans following the Bosnian conflict.

8. Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of discrimination in the OSCE Region

The Commission continued to monitor and combat intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region amidst a rise in violence towards Roma, migrant, and other minority communities linked to the economic crisis, national security, immigration and other concerns.

In March, the Commission held a briefing on "Ethnic and racial profiling in the OSCE region" focused on increasing reports by minorities and members of immigrant communities of profiling by the police in the OSCE region. Rosalind Williams, an African American racially profiled in Spain in 1992, who won a case before the UN Human Rights Committee in 2009, was featured.

The Commission has sent an inquiry to the Spanish government regarding implementation of the court decision.

In June, Co-Chairman Hastings co-convened an event with minority elected officials in Europe. Following the 2009 “Black European Summit (BES): Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion,” which focused on Black and ethnic minority political participation in Europe and North America, the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference met on June 1 and 2, 2010 at the European Parliament. More than fifty legislators and experts took part in the Conference focused on efforts to increase minority representation in the political sphere, including government workforces. Additionally the Conference addressed the impact of the European Union’s Racial Equality Directive on the tenth anniversary of its adoption, and impact of immigration, national security, and anti-discrimination policies on minority populations. The annual conferences are a follow-up to two U.S. Helsinki Commission hearings held in 2008: “The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics” and “Racism in the 21st Century: Understanding Global Challenges and Implementing Solutions.”

In September, the Commission hosted more than thirty members of a minority delegation from France as part of a “Roundtable Discussion: on Minorities in France” following the eviction of Roma from France, introduction of Muslim headscarf bans, and the publication of statistics demonstrating discrimination in the employment of Blacks and Muslims. Then French Ambassador Pierre Vimont participated. Congresswoman Diane Watson also delivered remarks at the event.

Also in September, the Commission held a briefing entitled, “Minority Political Participation in the Obama era” featuring the United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Gay McDougall. The briefing centered on the findings from the Independent Expert’s global Forum on “Minorities and Effective Political Participation,” in which Co-Chairman Hastings had participated. Congressman Mike Honda also delivered remarks at the event.

At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting in February, members participated in a special debate led by the High Commissioner on National Minorities entitled, “Immigration, integration, and multi-ethnic dialogue in the OSCE.” At the Annual Session in July, Co-Chairman Hastings introduced numerous amendments in support of efforts to combat anti-Semitism and anti-discrimination initiatives for migrant and other minority communities.

In November, Ranking Member Smith, a member of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) Steering Committee led a delegation to the “Ottawa Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism”. Legislators and experts from nearly fifty countries participated to share knowledge, experience, best practices, and recommendations to deal more effectively with anti-Semitism. Commissioner Smith chaired the working group on “Policing, Prosecution and Legal Remedies” featuring contributions from several experts, including Ken Stern of the American Jewish Committee. Other sessions were: Old and New Anti-Semitism; Hate on the Internet; Fighting Anti-Semitism from Within Parliament; State-Sanctioned and State-Backed Anti-Semitism; and Anti-Semitism on Campus.

Commissioner Smith contributed to drafting efforts of the concluding document, the Ottawa Protocol, which reiterates the importance that OSCE participating States fully implement

provisions of the Berlin Declaration, including their commitment to collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic incidents and crimes. The document also encourages countries throughout the world to establish mechanisms for reporting and monitoring on domestic and international anti-Semitism, along the lines of the “Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2010” introduced by Smith in the U.S. Congress.

The Commission continued to serve as the standard-bearer in Washington on the issue of Romani human rights. Although Roma are the largest ethnic minority in Europe, conservatively estimated at 15 million, they continue to face pronounced bigotry, severe economic marginalization, and racially motivated violent crimes.

During the year, the Commission hosted two special roundtables for representatives of OSCE Embassies to elevate the discussion of Romani human rights concerns: the first, in January, was a conversation with Andrzej Mirga, the OSCE Senior Advisor for Romani issues; the second, in October, was with Viktoria Mohacsi, who had served as one of two Romani MPs in the European Parliament and was a recipient of the Human Rights First 2010 award. During the OSCE Review Conference in Warsaw, the Commission also organized a meeting for the U.S. delegation with Romani participants, many of whom are now advisors to their governments. The discussion focused on mass expulsions of Roma from France and the increasing anti-Roma political rhetoric in Europe.

In February, Chairman Cardin held bilateral consultations in Spain, where he met with leaders of Spain's Roma Secretariat Foundation (Fundacion Secretariado Gitano). He welcomed positive measures taken in Spain, and called on the EU, at the 2nd EU Summit on Roma (subsequently held in Cordoba in April) to develop a clear European strategy to implement concrete steps for social inclusion of Roma across the EU. In April, Chairman Cardin addressed a conference organized by the Hungarian Embassy on the question of whether the Harlem Children's Zone could be a model for improved educational opportunities for Roma in Hungary.

In August, following an announcement by French President Nicolas Sarkozy directing authorities to target Roma for expulsion, Co-Chairman Hastings made a statement on the alarming rise of anti-Roma political rhetoric. Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Hastings subsequently wrote to U.S. Ambassador to France Charles Rivkin, expressing their strong concern about ethnically targeted expulsions and urging the U.S. Embassy to convey objections to targeting ethnic, racial or religious minorities for expulsion or discriminatory treatment. In October, the Chairmen wrote to the German Minister of Culture to underscore the importance of Germany's completion of its memorial for Roma and Sinti victims of genocide.

Also in October, the Chairmen issued a statement expressing their support for the stiff sentences handed down in the Czech Republic to four neo-Nazis who firebombed a Romani family's home in 2009, burning an infant over 80 percent of her body and leaving her with lifelong disabilities and disfigurement. In December, they expressed concern in advance of the Romanian Senate's consideration of a proposal to change the term used for one of the country's largest ethnic minorities, Roma, to "Tsigan" – a term widely viewed as pejorative by many members of Romani communities, including those in the United States. After the release of their statement, Romanian President Basescu stated he would oppose such a measure.

Finally, because of the Commission's long engagement on issues related to the Romani minority, it is now recognized as a repository of expertise. Accordingly, a Commission staff member was asked to speak on these issues at an intelligence community conference in March, and at a training conference on Romani human rights issues for U.S. Embassy human rights officers convened in Prague in April.

9. Combating the Trafficking of Humans

The Commission continued to address the worldwide phenomenon of trafficking of human beings into slavery-like conditions of forced labor or commercial sexual servitude. To this end, Commission staff worked with the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, Rep. Chris Smith, ODHIR Anti-Trafficking Unit, OSCE Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit and OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Maria Grazia Giammarinaro to influence the direction and scope of their work.

Trafficking in human beings remains a critical challenge in the OSCE region and a matter of priority for the Helsinki Commission. The Commission strongly supported the previous adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the establishment of the position of Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. These mechanisms have given greater focus to addressing this critical challenge in the OSCE region.

Since the adoption of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments, participating States have made significant strides in combating the sexual dimension of human trafficking. However, there has been a growing consensus that more needs to be done to understand the scope and challenge of humans trafficked for forced servitude and its intersection with sexual exploitation. It remains disconcerting that a number of participating States in the OSCE region remain complicit or are not making the necessary investments to reduce human trafficking.

In March 2010, Commission staff contributed to the "3rd National Networking Meeting: Towards Global EU Action against Trafficking in Human Beings," convened by the Spanish EU presidency in Madrid, Spain. This event brought together European counter-trafficking experts and law enforcement personnel to discuss. The proceedings featured a framing discussion on the future of the "Action Oriented Paper on strengthening the EU external dimension on action against trafficking in human beings; Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (AOP)" and three extensive panels of experts accompanied by a wide array of government officials. Commission staff engaged in additional meetings with the OSCE PA delegation to the event, Spanish EU presidency contacts, Swedish former-EU presidency contacts, and other experts.

In March 2010, Commission leadership along with other Members of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE PA sent a letter to Special Representative Giammarinaro identifying priorities for future OSCE initiatives to combat trafficking. The letter recommended the convening of technical seminars or workshops to address labor exploitation in sectors of manufacturing, construction, and domestic service. Occasional papers associated with these events were also recommended, coupled with the development of private sector partnerships for product supply chain transparency and exchanges of expertise. Giammarinaro incorporated Commission leadership

ideas in the conceptualization of the 10th Alliance Against Trafficking conference, which focused on domestic servitude.

In June 2010 Commission staff attended the 10th Alliance Against Trafficking Conference on “Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude” in Vienna, Austria. This conference was facilitated by Special Representative Giammarinaro and featured contributions from the International Labour Organization, local OSCE region NGOs, and United Nations experts. Sessions during the conference examined the challenges of victim assistance and access to justice for domestic servants, as well as gender implications. Commission staff intervened highlighting Commissioner interest in the issues discussed. Additionally, Commission staff supported the contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation and held additional meetings with USOSCE.

Commission leadership honored the cohort of heroes honored in the State Department 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) with a reception on June 15, 2010. This event was convened in conjunction with the unveiling of the 2010 TIP Report and featured keynotes from Commission and Congressional leadership. Heroes were honored from OSCE participating States Uzbekistan and Hungary, as well as Partners for Cooperation Jordan and Mongolia.

During the 2010 OSCE PA Annual Session in Oslo, Norway, Ranking Member Representative Smith offered a resolution on Combating Demand for Human Trafficking and Electronic Forms of Exploitation. This resolution was unanimously adopted as part of the 2010 Oslo Declaration. The resolution called for efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children on the internet, strengthen international law enforcement cooperation to deter travel by sex offenders, and policy guidance from the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit on deterring criminal misuse of the internet to facilitate trafficking and exploit children. Smith, the sponsor of major U.S. anti-trafficking laws, was once again appointed by the OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou to serve as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues.

In July 2010, Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Smith convened a hearing on “A Decade of the Trafficking in Persons Report.” The hearing explored the future outlook for the annual TIP Report in order to facilitate its greater use tool of diplomacy. The hearing emphasized U.S. Government, multilateral organizations, and NGO perspectives on the evolution of the TIP report, themes of the 2010 TIP report, the role of the report in international diplomatic efforts, and recommendations to improve its future effectiveness. Special Representative Giammarinaro testified along with G/TIP Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, representatives from International Justice Mission, and Free the Slaves. In conjunction with this hearing, Commission staff facilitated consultations for Giammarinaro with House and Senate staff working on anti-trafficking legislation.

The OSCE PA convened its Fall Meetings in Palermo, Italy in October 2010. These meetings focused on efforts to combat organized crime with particular attention to combating human trafficking. Ranking Member Smith offered a well received keynote speech at this event entitled “A Decade Later: Major Challenges Remain in Fight Against Human Trafficking.” Representative Smith highlighted his leadership on efforts to facilitate the exchange of best practices including Airline Ambassadors International’s Child Trafficking Initiative focusing on victim identification.

10. Attacks on Freedom of the Media and Use of Emerging Technologies in Promoting Democracy and Human Rights

Chairman Cardin and Co-Chairman Hastings expressed concerns over restrictions on media in a statement released in conjunction with World Press Freedom Day, observed annually in early May. The chairman expressed particular concern over the challenges and reprisals often faced by independent journalists and those focused on exposing corruption and human rights abuses. Co-Chairman Hastings focused on attempts to impose strict control over the media, including crippling penalties for defamation, burdensome registration requirements, and censorship of online communications. Three OSCE countries -- Belarus, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan -- were cited in Freedom House's Annual Press Freedom Index for the particularly egregious for the wide-ranging restrictions they impose on independent media. The Committee to Protect Journalists reported last week that the cases of 18 murdered journalists remain unsolved in Russia. At least six investigative journalists were slain in the OSCE countries in 2009.

The Commission held a hearing, "Threats to Free Media in the OSCE Region" on June 9, 2010, featuring OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatovic. Other experts testifying were Sam Patten, Senior Program Manager for Eurasia with Freedom House and Muzaffar Suleymanov, Research Associate for Europe and Central Asia, Committee to Protect Journalists. The Commission hearing examined the significant challenges faced by journalists and independent media throughout the OSCE region. Among top concerns were physical threats and violence targeting journalists, including the murder of scores of investigative reporters. Among other issues discussed were restrictive policies, including criminal defamation laws, which have a chilling effect on media freedoms, and the imposition of controls on use of the Internet and new media technologies.

In July, Chairman Cardin sponsored a supplementary resolution on "The Protection of Investigative Journalists" which was debated at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session held in Oslo, Norway. The measure, overwhelmingly adopted at the meeting of parliamentarians from throughout the OSCE region, called for a series of actions including, repeal of criminal defamation statutes; refraining from enactment of "extremism" laws; investigating threats and attacks against journalists; and prosecuting those responsible for the murder of journalists. The theme of the Oslo meeting was "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption."

Throughout 2010, Commissioners issued statements on actions by participating States targeting individual journalists or imposing restrictions on the media. Statements were made on developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

11. Dealing with Legacies of the Past

The Commission continues to examine and address some of the complex issues that are legacies of the Nazi and Communist eras.

In January, the Chairmen and Ranking Member Brownback issued a statement marking the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. They also urged support for the Auschwitz Memorial and Museum. (In July, during a visit to Poland, Secretary of State Clinton announced \$15 million of U.S. funding for the Auschwitz site.) On the margins of the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna in February, some members of the U.S. delegation visited with Holocaust survivors in a meeting organized by the NGO Centropa, an organization that uses digital technology to preserve the stories and experiences of Jews from East-Central Europe and the Soviet Union.

The Commission also addressed property claims issues arising from the wrongful confiscation of property during the Nazi and Communist period. In May, the Commission convened a hearing “Holocaust Era Assets – After the Prague Conference” with testimony from Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat. Commissioners focused, in particular, on Poland, the only country in Central Europe to have failed to adopt a private property compensation or restitution law, and Lithuania, which has failed to address adequately Jewish communal property claims.

In April, the Commission joined with the Embassy of Poland to hold a screening of the film *Katyn*, by acclaimed Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, which portrays the Soviet murder of more than 20,000 Polish soldiers and intellectual elites in the Katyn forest. In May, Chairman Cardin participated in a conference commemorating the 70th anniversary of that massacre. The commemoration came just three weeks after Polish President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of top Polish officials perished in a plane crash en route to a memorial at the site of the massacre.

The Commission Chairmen wrote to Moldovan officials to express concern about legislation that restricted access to Holocaust-era archives and impeded cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. They also wrote to the German Minister of Culture regarding progress on building Germany’s Memorial in Berlin for Roma and Sinti victims of genocide.

Hearings, Briefings, Digest Articles and Congressional Delegations in 111th Congress, 2nd Session

A. Hearings

Democratic Change and Challenges in Moldova (January 21, 2010)

Kazakhstan’s Leadership of the OSCE (February 2, 2010)

Ukraine: Moving Beyond Stalemate? (March 16, 2010)

The Link Between Revenue Transparency and Human Rights (April 22, 2010)

Mitigating Inter-Ethnic Conflict in the OSCE Region (May 4, 2010)

Holocaust Era Assets – After the Prague Conference (May 25, 2010)

Threats to Free Media in the OSCE Region (June 9, 2010)

Global Threats, European Security and Parliamentary Cooperation (June 16, 2010)

A Decade of the Trafficking in Persons Report (July 14, 2010)

No Way Home, No Way to Escape: The Plight of Iraqi Refugees and our Iraqi Allies (July 22, 2010)

Instability in Kyrgyzstan: the International Response (July 27, 2010)

The Western Balkans: Developments in 2010 and Hopes for the Future (December 8, 2010)

B. Briefings

Ethnic and Racial Profiling in the OSCE Region (March 22, 2010)

Natural Resources, a National Responsibility (April 15, 2010)

In the Eye of the Storm: Chechnya and the Mounting Violence in the North Caucasus (July 21, 2010)

Roundtable Discussion: Minorities in France (September 15, 2010)

Minority Political Participation in the Obama Era (September 15, 2010)

Legal Hooliganism – Is the Yukos Show Trial Finally Over? (September 29, 2010)

Beyond Corporate Raiding: A Discussion of Advanced Fraud Schemes in the Russian Market (November 9, 2010)

World Premiere of “Justice for Sergei” (November 16, 2010)

C. Digest Articles

Greek Chairmanship Moves the OSCE Back Toward its Hallmark Values (January 13, 2010)

More Power to More People: Lessons from West Africa on Resource Transparency (January 21, 2010)

The Year in Review: OSCE Human Dimension Activities in 2009 (January 27, 2010)

2009 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Cairo is a Success: Highlights Importance of

Revisiting Annual Conference Administration (April 21, 2010)

Eurasian Energy Resources and Energy Security (June 3, 2010)

OSCE Holds Conference in Astana on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (July 26, 2010)

Copenhagen Anniversary Conference: 20 Years of the Copenhagen Document (July 27, 2010)

The Future of an Efficient Eurasian Transit System Stopped Dead in its Tracks? (August 2, 2010)

Fostering Effective Ethnic Minority Political Participation in the OSCE Region (August 12, 2010)

OSCE 2010 Informal Ministerial: Kazakhstan Persistence Earns a Summit in Astana (November 1, 2010)

Ottawa Conference Strengthens Global Partnership to Combat Anti-Semitism (December 10, 2010)

Congressional Delegations

January

Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings, Alex Johnson, to Germany, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel to discuss U.S. bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process, greater engagement of the OSCE by its Mediterranean Partners, cooperation in the military and security arenas, international efforts to thwart Iran's nuclear weapons program, and the Iraqi refugee crisis.

Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings, Alex Johnson, Orest Deychakiwsky, Neil Simon, Winsome Packer and Daniel Redfield to Ukraine to be official election observers for the OSCE.

February

Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings and Alex Johnson to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Austria to be part of CODEL Lowey and join CODEL Cardin.

Chairman Benjamin Cardin, Senator Roger F. Wicker, Congressman Robert B. Aderholt, Fred Turner, Marlene Kaufman, Neil Simon, Bob Hand and Josh Shapiro to Morocco, Spain and Austria to hold meetings with top officials to discuss current policy and international affairs as well as participate in the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

March

Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings, Mischa Thompson and Alex Johnson to Brussels, Belgium, to attend the Brussels Forum sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

May

Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings and Alex Johnson to Qatar to attend the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade. Co-Chairman Alcee Hastings, Mischa Thompson and Alex Johnson to Brussels, Belgium, to attend an event on Black and ethnic minority political participation.

July

Chairman Benjamin Cardin, Senator Udall, Congressman Smith, Congresswoman Slaughter, Congressman Aderholt, Fred Turner, Robert Hand, Josh Shapiro, Alex Johnson, Shelly Han, to Norway, Oslo, to attend the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session.

October

Chairman Benjamin Cardin, Ranking Member Christopher Smith, Fred Turner, Marlene Kaufmann to Palermo, Italy to participate in the Fall Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

November

Ranking Member Christopher Smith and Ronald McNamara to Ottawa, Canada to participate in the 2nd Conference of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism.

Staff Delegations

January

Shelly Han to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

February

Orest Deychakiwsky and Kyle Parker to Ukraine to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly presidential election observation mission.

Janice Helwig and Shelly Han to Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to observe parliamentary elections in Tajikistan and to evaluate the political, human rights, and economic developments of the region.

March

Alex Johnson to Madrid and Barcelona, Spain, to attend the IOM-European Commission “3rd National Network Meeting on Global-EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings” and hold meetings on the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension.

Ambassador Douglas Davidson to Warsaw, Poland, to participate in an OSCE/ODIHR expert

meeting on “Incitement to hatred vs. freedom of expression: Challenges of combating hate crimes motivated by hate on the Internet” and to hold consultations at ODIHR as well as to Brussels, Belgium, to attend the German Marshall Fund’s annual Brussels Forum.

April

Erika Schlager to Spain, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Slovakia to participate in the 2nd Annual EU Roma Summit (Spain); to have human rights consultations with U.S. officials and Romani NGOs (Hungary, Slovakia, and Ukraine); and to participate in a training conference for U.S. Embassy human rights officers.

Shelly Han to Turkmenistan to attend the OSCE Energy Conference titled “Strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia for promoting stable and reliable energy within Eurasia”.

May

Janice Helwig to Vienna, Austria, to attend the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Promotion of Gender Balance and Participation of Women in Political and Public Life.”

Fred Turner and Alex Johnson to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to attend the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum “The OSCE Eurasian Dimension.”

Alex Johnson to Seoul, South Korea, to attend the OSCE Asian Partners conference on “OSCE and Asian Partners for Co-operation’s Vision of a Comprehensive Approach to Security Issues.”

Kyle Parker to Warsaw, Poland, to attend the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on “Strengthening Judicial Independence and Public Access to Justice.”

Josh Shapiro to Prague, Czech Republic, to attend Part 2 of the OSCE 18th Economic and Environmental Forum.

Ambassador Cynthia Efird to Stockholm, Sweden, to participate in the Transatlantic Partnership and Relations with Russia conference.

Mischa Thompson to Brussels, Belgium, to attend a Commission event on Black and ethnic minority political participation.

June

Orest Deychakiwsky to Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in the Copenhagen 20th Anniversary Conference.

Janice Helwig to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to participate in the U.S. delegation to the Annual Bilateral Consultations, as well as hold consultations.

Erika Schlager to Vienna, Austria, to participate in OSCE discussions on the legal status of the Organization.

Ambassador Cynthia Efird to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the 10th Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference as well as to consult with relevant OSCE offices and officials.

Erika Schlager to Astana, Kazakhstan, to participate in the OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance.

July

Winsome Packer to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to attend the OSCE Informal Ministerial.

Janice Helwig to Vienna, Austria, to attend the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Education of Persons Belonging to National Minorities: Integration and Equal Opportunities.”

Alex Johnson to Vienna, Austria, to hold meetings and consultations with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

September

Shelly Han to the United Kingdom to attend the Natural Resource Charter workshop as well as hold meetings with UK parliament officials.

Orest Deychakiwsky to Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly presidential election observation mission.

Fred Turner, Ambassador Cynthia Efird, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Alex Johnson and Mischa Thompson to Warsaw, Poland, to be members of the U.S. delegation to the 2010 OSCE Review Conference.

October

Ambassador Cynthia Efird, Shelly Han, and Winsome Packer to Vienna, Austria, to be members of the U.S. Delegation to the 2010 OSCE Review Conference.

Janice Helwig and Shelly Han to Kyrgyzstan to observe the parliamentary elections as part of the OSCE PA election observation mission.

Marlene Kaufmann to Valetta, Malta to hold meetings with officials of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

Alex Johnson to Copenhagen, Denmark to hold meetings and consultations with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

November

Fred Turner and Alex Johnson to Azerbaijan to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly parliamentary election observation mission.

Janice Helwig to Vienna, Austria to hold meetings and consultations with USOSCE on the OSCE Summit.

Ambassador Cynthia Efird, Erika Schlager, Janice Helwig, Alex Johnson and Neil Simon to Astana, Kazakhstan, to be members of the U.S. Delegation to the 2010 OSCE Review Conference and the Astana Summit.

Daniel Redfield to Moldova to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly parliamentary observation mission.

December

Shelly Han to Brussels, Belgium to attend the European Network on Debt and Development conference on “Fighting illicit flows from developing countries—what next for the EU agenda?”

Mischa Thompson to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension meeting and to attend the OSCE seminar on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Orest Deychakiwsky, Ronald McNamara and Josh Shapiro to Belarus to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly presidential election observation mission.

Appendix (A)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

111th Congress

Legislative Branch Commissioners

United States Senate

Benjamin L. Cardin, Maryland
Chairman
Christopher J. Dodd, Connecticut
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Sam Brownback, Kansas
Saxby Chambliss, Georgia
Richard Burr, North Carolina
Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi

United States House of Representatives

Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Co-Chairman
Edward J. Markey, Massachusetts
Louise McIntosh Slaughter, New York
Mike McIntyre, North Carolina
G.K. Butterfield, North Carolina
Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Joseph R. Pitts, Pennsylvania
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Darrell E. Issa, California

Executive Branch Commissioners

Michael H. Posner, Department of State
Alexander Vershbow, Department of Defense
Vacant, Department of Commerce

Appendix (B)

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (2010)

Staff Members

Cynthia Efird	Senior State Department Advisor
Orest Deychakiwsky	Policy Advisor Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, NGO Liaison, Security Officer
Shelly Han	Policy Advisor Economics, Environment, Energy Security, OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation, Labor Migration, Trade, Good Governance
Bob Hand	Policy Advisor Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Janice Helwig	Policy Advisor Afghanistan, Central Asia, Policing, Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children
Edward Joseph	Policy Director
Alex T. Johnson	Policy Advisor Environmental Human Rights, Environmental Justice Policy, Trafficking in Persons, OSCE Mediterranean Partners
Marlene Kaufmann	General Counsel
Ronald McNamara	Policy Advisor Greece, Cyprus, Media Freedom, OSCE Institutions
Michael Ochs	Policy Advisor Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Winsome Packer	Representative of the Helsinki Commission to the USOSCE OSCE Structure, Security Issues
Kyle Parker	Policy Advisor Russian Federation, Duma-Congress Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova

Daniel Redfield	Office Manager
Erika Schlager	Counsel for International Law Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Romani Minority Issues, OSCE and International Legal Issues, Domestic Compliance Issues
Josh Shapiro	Staff Associate
Neil Simon	Communications Director
Harold Smalley	Printer/Proofreader (Detailee from the Government Printing Office)
Mischa Thompson	Policy Advisor Tolerance; Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, Western Europe
Fred Turner	Chief of Staff
<i>(Vacant)</i>	<i>Policy Advisor</i>

Appendix (C)

OSCE Participating States as of January 2010

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

Latvia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Liechtenstein	original participating State
Lithuania	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Luxembourg	original participating State
Macedonia	admitted as observer as of April 1993; admitted as new, fully participating State on October 12, 1995 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Malta	original participating State
Moldova	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Monaco	original participating State
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 from July 10, 1992; formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Mongolia	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on December 2, 2004
Republic of Korea	formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Thailand	admitted as a partner for co-operation on Nov. 9, 2000