



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FISCAL YEAR 2021

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

116th Congress

Legislative Branch Commissioners

United States House of
Representatives

Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Chairman

Ranking Member Joe Wilson, South
Carolina
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Emanuel Cleaver, II, Missouri
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Richard Hudson, North Carolina
Gwen Moore, Wisconsin
Marc Veasey, Texas

United States Senate

Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Co-Chairman

Ranking Member Benjamin L.
Cardin, Maryland
John Boozman, Arkansas
Cory Gardner, Colorado
Marco Rubio, Florida
Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Thom Tillis, North Carolina
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island

Executive Branch Commissioners

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly called the U.S. Helsinki Commission) was created on June 3, 1976, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, codified as 22 U.S.C. 3001, et. seq. This statute authorizes and directs the commission ". . . to monitor the acts of the signatories which reflect compliance with or violation of the articles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with particular regard to the provisions relating to human rights and Cooperation in Humanitarian Fields." Information on the Commission's activities for calendar year 2019 is submitted pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 3006.

As an independent commission of the United States Government, the Commission seeks to advance the United States' democratic values, security and economic interests among the 57 participating States in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It is composed of twenty-one Commissioners, nine each from the U.S. 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.¹ At the beginning of each odd-numbered Congress, the President of the Senate designates a Senator 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.² (See Appendix (A) for a list of Commissioners in 2019.)

The Commission's staff consists of 16 permanent positions. Over the years, the Department of State has detailed a senior Foreign Service Officer to the Commission on a full-time basis. The Government Printing Office has detailed 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. (See Appendix (B) for a list of staff in 2019.) In addition to their expert knowledge of the countries and regions of the OSCE, they are also authorities on human rights and democracy, military security, and the economic dimension of the Helsinki process. Current staff members include proficiency in all of the official languages of the OSCE: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian.

Moreover, due to the extensive service of Commission staff and their primary focus on OSCE issues, the Commission provides continuity and an unmatched reservoir of institutional knowledge within the U.S. government, and helps contribute to the development of a consistent and principled policy in keeping with its statutory mandate. This institutional knowledge is used 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. Commission staff serve as

¹ 22 USC 3003(a).

² 22 USC 3003(c) and (d).

an expert resource for training diplomats and other government officials at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute and at human rights training workshops for Embassy reporting officers. The Commission has also shared its expertise on issues such as Global Magnitsky sanctions and anti-corruption measures with other OSCE participating States considering similar tools to protect human rights and advance good governance.

The OSCE community has recognized the Commission's unique leadership, knowledge, and talent, consulting with Commission staff in preparation for meetings, drafting and negotiating documents, and other OSCE-related initiatives. Non-governmental organizations, private sector institutions, and think tanks rely on Commission staff expertise regarding the OSCE as an organization, human rights and democracy, military and political security, corruption and good governance, and the countries and regions that fall within the scope of the OSCE.

The Commission seeks to use its expertise to make a difference regarding 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 shape U.S. foreign policy and advance congressional support for specific policies, while its expert practice of public diplomacy vigorously advances U.S. priorities and principles.

To facilitate its role in advancing U.S. values and foreign policy interests, the Commission:

- *Supports the engagement of Members of Congress with the OSCE and through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*
- *Participates in official U.S. delegations to the OSCE and OSCE election monitoring teams*
- *Convenes public hearings featuring foreign and domestic policymakers and individuals directly affected by human rights violations in the region*
- *Holds staff-led briefings featuring renowned authorities on diverse foreign policy issues*
- *Advances legislation building on Helsinki Commission expertise*
- *Implements strategic communications programs to actively engage with members of the press and the public*
- *Publishes reports, articles, and other materials*
- *Broadcasts a monthly podcast*

Details on on Commission hearings and briefings are in Appendix (C). Publications and podcasts are listed in Appendix (D).

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 2021, the Commission requests an appropriation of \$2,908,000 for salaries and expenses.

BACKGROUND

In 1975, the United States and 34 other nations signed the Helsinki Final Act, establishing

for the first time an explicit link between economic well-being, military transparency and human rights as the essential components of security—i.e., comprehensive security. Subsequently, in 1976, the Congress created the U.S. Helsinki Commission to observe the activities of the OSCE participating States, take actions that move them toward fulfillment of their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, and promote effective U.S. policy regarding the OSCE that protects and advances U.S. interests.

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. Albania joined as a fully participating State in 1991 and Mongolia joined the OSCE as a fully participating State in 2012, bringing OSCE membership to 57 countries.

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

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) was created in 1991 as a parliamentary counterpart to the multilateral diplomacy which takes place under the auspices of the OSCE.

MONITORING AND ADVOCACY THROUGH MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

The Commission plays a particularly active role in the development of policy, legislation and other initiatives regarding:

- *U.S. policy in the OSCE*
- *The annual OSCE Ministerial Council and other key OSCE negotiations*
- *Human rights, rule of law, and democracy, including*
 - *Combating anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance*
 - *Freedom of the media*
 - *Political prisoners*
 - *Elections*
 - *Migration, refugees, and displaced persons*
 - *Religious freedom*
 - *Human trafficking*
- *Military security, emerging threats to security, and conflict zones in the OSCE region, including*
 - *Russian aggression against Ukraine and Georgia*
 - *Counterterrorism*
 - *Cyber threats*
- *Good governance, corruption, and the fight against kleptocracy*
- *OSCE Partners for Cooperation and Mediterranean Partners*
- *Managing U.S. engagement in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*

The Commission is an active and highly effective public diplomacy actor, 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 commitments, and to engage both organizations and individuals in the promotion of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as essential components of regional security and cooperation. In 2019, Co-Chairman Roger Wicker published an op-ed in the *Washington Post* on the Defending United States Citizens and Diplomatic Staff from Political Prosecutions Act of 2019, which he introduced in April. Following his appointment to the Commission, Commissioner Marc Veasey published an article in *The Hill* on its important bipartisan work.

Commission staff author articles, briefing papers and reports, available on its website, that are used by Congressional offices, journalists, academic institutions, think tanks, and civil society. In 2019, the Commission published more than two dozen articles on the work of Commissioners in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, inclusion initiatives, the Ukrainian elections, freedom of religion, regional security, and economic and environmental work within the OSCE.

The Commission also launched a monthly podcast, "Helsinki on the Hill," a series of conversations hosted on human rights and comprehensive security in OSCE region. The monthly podcast, which reaches hundreds of listeners each month, tells the human stories behind the Commission's work to promote human rights, military security, and economic cooperation in North America, Europe, and Central Asia.

A substantial amount of the Commission's work is driven by breaking developments that emerge over the course of any given year, both with respect to human rights as well as emerging conflicts or escalating inter-state tension. The Commission is most effective when it has the flexibility to respond to these issues as they arise. Successful outcomes on human rights cases are often the result of sustained advocacy over multiple years or congresses.

The Commission pays particular attention to those OSCE participating States where persistent violations of human rights or democratic norms occur (especially states where authoritarian regimes cling to power or are resurgent); where there is potential, ongoing or residual conflict; where developments open windows of opportunity to advance human rights; or where there is marked deterioration.

Countries of Focus in 2019

Russia's internal repression against its own people, external aggression against other countries and threats to U.S. and European security were a focus of Helsinki Commission work throughout 2019. Commissioners spoke out against Russia's culture of legal impunity that has resulted in unsolved murders of activists, whistleblowers, and opposition politicians such as Boris Nemstov. They condemned the July crackdown on peaceful demonstrations. Commission hearings and briefings focused on security issues including the implications of Russia's approach to counterterrorism, its use of mercenaries, and the assertion of influence in its near abroad.

Commission-led initiatives at the OSCE Parliamentary annual session criticized Moscow

for abusing INTERPOL diffusions to harass Kremlin critics abroad and expressed concern about the overreliance of European countries on Russia for energy supplies. The Commission identified ways to hold Russia accountable for freedom of religion violations in Ukrainian territory that Russia occupies illegally or controls, in addition to violations inside Russia's internationally recognized borders. In September, Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov was released in a prisoner exchange between Ukraine and Russia. Sentsov had been held as a political prisoner by Russia following its invasion of Crimea. The Commission had advocated for his release, along with other political prisoners, and profiled his case at a 2017 hearing.

Commission leaders also introduced legislation designed to address politically motivated abuse of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) by autocracies, including Russia and Turkey.

Commissioners have been among the leading voices in Congress regarding the crackdown on human rights in Turkey following the 2016 coup attempt. Commissioners particularly focused on the ensuing widespread political imprisonment and restrictions on freedom of expression. Commissioners reiterated long-standing concerns about respect for the rights of Alevis and non-Muslim minorities to freely manage their religious activities and internal affairs.

Commissioners introduced legislation requiring the imposition of sanctions on Turkish officials responsible for the detentions of U.S. citizens and local consulate staff in Turkey. The detention of U.S. consulate workers and American citizens is one of many issues dividing NATO allies Ankara and Washington, also at loggerheads over Syria policy and Turkey's planned purchase of Russian missile defenses. Following the Turkish military offensive in northeastern Syria, the Commission convened a hearing to discuss possible additional U.S. responses to the Turkish Government's continuing abuse of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

For the first time, a Commission-led Congressional delegation visited Cyprus, where they met with Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades to discuss opportunities to advance U.S.-Cyprus relations, resume reunification negotiations on the island, and counter the threat of money laundering to Cyprus' banking sector. Major General Cheryl Pearce of Australia, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, briefed the delegation on UNFICYP's mission and the status of conflict resolution efforts. Following her briefing, the delegation toured the UN Buffer Zone to examine the work of the UN's peacekeeping force and the physical separation that afflicts the island.

Countries in Eastern Europe face multiple challenges: widespread corruption, lack of public confidence in government institutions, weak economies, uneven respect for human rights and democracy—all this next door to an aggressive Russian state that threatens the territorial integrity of its neighbors. The Commission shed light on developments that region, including through staff participation in OSCE election observation of parliamentary and presidential elections in Ukraine, and hearings and briefings on post-election challenges in Ukraine, Kremlin efforts to erode Belarusian sovereignty, and internal challenges faced by Moldova at a time when it also faces serious external threats. The Commission closely monitored developments in Moldova after February elections resulted in a stalemate for several months.

In 2019, the Commission continued efforts to support democratic openings in Armenia and Uzbekistan. Peaceful mass protests in Armenia in 2018 swept the ruling party out of power, ending its more than two decades at the helm of Armenian politics and ushering in what has been termed Armenia's Velvet Revolution. These developments present an historic opportunity to advance crucial reforms to fight corruption and advance democratic governance. A Commission hearing focused on ways the United States can support the reform process. Following the death of Uzbekistan's long-serving dictator in 2017, and democratic openings in 2018, the Commission has worked to support changes to Uzbekistan's law on religion and improve respect for freedom of religion.

The Commission closely monitors the still-fragile situation in Balkans. A briefing with parliamentarians from Albania previewed Albania's upcoming 2020 chairmanship of the OSCE and provided an additional opportunity for inter-parliamentary engagement. Commissioners supported efforts to reverse democratic backsliding in Central Europe, particularly Hungary and Poland.

In addition to convening a public briefing to examine democratic reversals in Hungary, the Commission held a classified briefing regarding Russian activities related to Hungary. The Commission also supported the largest congressional delegation to visit Hungary in several years. The delegation, which included Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, Ranking Senate Commissioner and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, and Commissioners Steve Cohen and Gwen Moore, visited Budapest before joining the U.S. delegation to the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Luxembourg. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen support for the shared principles of democracy and collective security to which the United States and Hungary have jointly committed and with a view to safeguarding fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law.

Combating Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance

The Commission leads efforts to combat anti-Semitism and racism against Roma, persons of African descent, and other minorities, and has spearheaded OSCE commitments in this area and pressed to strengthen OSCE tools, particularly in response to hate crimes. Commissioners spoke out against mob attacks on a Jewish community center in Hungary and on Roma in Bulgaria.

The OSCE region is experiencing a rise in deadly attacks, such as the attack outside a synagogue in Halle, Germany, on Yom Kippur that left two dead and others wounded. More than 300 people have been killed in attacks on places of worship in Christchurch, Colombo, Pittsburgh, and Poway. A Commission hearing focused the role of religious actors in responding to hate in the United States and throughout the OSCE region.

In addition to focusing on strengthening the ability of governments to respond to these attacks, some of which have been classified as acts of terrorism, the Commission also supported long-term measures to build more inclusive societies, engagingly with the European Union Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup and other European legislators on national and municipal initiatives. The Commissioners convened a hearing on international exchange initiatives that strengthen democratic institutions by targeting young and diverse leaders, encouraging civic

engagement, and fostering social inclusion and cohesion in the OSCE region.

From November 18 to November 22, 2019, the State Department's Strategic Religious Engagement Unit and the U.S. Consulate in Milan, in cooperation with the Helsinki Commission, launched a new transatlantic democracy program for youth, "On the Road to Inclusion." The program empowers young people to collaborate across diverse social, cultural, and religious communities to promote positive change through democratic practices.

The first iteration of the program took place in the northern Italian cities with populations that have been experienced increased demographic change, economic decline, high levels of youth unemployment, and EU rising anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim sentiments, racism, and xenophobia. The program brought together more than 250 youth leaders and 50-plus organizations to tackle societal challenges at the local and national levels, engage and build coalitions with their peers across differences, and contribute to their communities effectively through advocacy and education.

Advancing Military Security

The Commission's work to advance military security builds on the concept of "comprehensive security," and recognizes the linkage between the rights of individuals and peaceful relations among participating States. In 2019, the Commission held security-focused consultations with officials throughout the Baltic region and convened the Commission's first field hearing outside the United States. Senior military officials from United States and five Baltic countries testified at the field hearing.

As terrorist threats have multiplied in their scale and scope, the OSCE has sought to play an increasing role in facilitating international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, including addressing conditions that create fertile ground for terrorist recruitment and questions related to the return of foreign terrorist fighters. The Commission's hearing on Russia's approach to counterterrorism examined Moscow's attempts to present itself as a regional and global leader of counterterrorism efforts, notwithstanding Russia's role in the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight 17 over Eastern Ukraine and abuse of counterterrorism measures to punish people based on their political views or faith.

The Commission also examined Russia's destabilizing use of mercenaries around the world, clarifying the difference between Moscow's approach and that of the United States and its allies, and reviewed efforts underway internationally, within the OSCE and elsewhere, to develop and promote norms that would govern the use of private security and military companies (PMSCs).

Following reports that the U.S. administration is considering withdrawing the United States from the Open Skies Treaty, the Commission convened jointly with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment to consider Russia's noncompliance with elements of the treaty and possible U.S. responses. The treaty is a key arms control agreement, specifically a confidence and security building mechanism, that provides for unarmed aerial observation of flights over 34 OSCE participating States.

Highlighting Economic Challenges and Battling Corruption

Issues related to energy independence have taken on heightened importance in light of Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline and Russian aggression in Ukraine. In July, State Department and other experts briefed the Commission the extent to which energy independence can reduce the ability of hostile actors to destabilize the region by threatening to cut off energy supplies. They also weighed in on the nuances behind pipeline politics in Europe against the background of the current state of oil and gas markets, and strategic differences among European nations and between the European Union (EU) as opposed to its Member States.

Pervasive corruption has been both a cause and a symptom of weak state institutions, creating vulnerabilities for malign Russian influence and economic and political instability. Democratic nations that respect good governance and the rights of their citizens are also more likely to be economically successful and to be stable and reliable partners for the United States. The Commission has become a leading voice in efforts to combat corruption and protect the rule of law.

In 2019, a Commission briefing unpacked efforts undertaken in the United Kingdom, which has implemented some of the world's most innovative anticorruption policies, and a separate event focused on the nuts and bolts of trade-based money laundering. A Helsinki Commission-led staff delegation, which included participants from the House Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees and the Senate Banking and Judiciary Committees, to the United Kingdom and Malta focused on countering illicit finance.

Other Commission briefings on specific countries and regions (Hungary, Albania, Moldova, and the Balkans) addressed on issues related to corruption. A briefing on asset recovery focused on the process of repatriating funds previously stolen by corrupt officials in Armenia, and Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. These events supported robust legislative initiatives to counter various manifestations of corruption, foreign extortion and international sports doping.

Striving for Accountability

In addition to raising current human rights violations, Commissioners have also sought to improve accountability for past acts, including genocide and mass atrocities. The Commission addressed the legacy of the Sumgait and Khojaly massacres and current implications in Caucuses. In a meeting with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic at the Munich Security Conference, a Commission delegation sought for justice for the Bytyqi brothers, three American citizen brothers murdered while in the custody of Serbian officials, and other issues stemming from the conflicts associated with Yugoslavia's break-up in the early 1990s.

In addition, the Commission focused on Holocaust issues, particularly revisionism, denial, and legal measures that would restrict scholarship on this subject. Commissioners also examined truth and reconciliation efforts undertaken to encourage restitution, reparations, and restorative justice in the United States, Western Europe, Canada, and the Balkans, and efforts of Holocaust survivors and other victims of Nazi persecution continue to seek justice worldwide.

Working with Partners for Cooperation

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia maintain special relations with the OSCE as Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. Similarly, Afghanistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand are OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation, along with Australia. These partner relationships provide an additional avenue for dialogue on a range of transnational or cross-border issues.

The Commission has had especially robust engagement in the Mediterranean given its geographic proximity to Europe and overlapping security, economic, and humanitarian concerns. In 2019, Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) led a delegation to Tunisia, Israel, and Morocco to assess the state of security, human rights, and democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. The delegation concluded in Morocco by participating in the annual OSCE PA Autumn Meeting.

Among OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation in 2019, Commission staff led participation in key convenings as the sole U.S. Government representatives, in some instances.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY: THE HELSINKI COMMISSION AND THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) allows the U.S. Helsinki Commission to go beyond its well-established relationship with the State Department and the executive branch in shaping U.S. policy toward the OSCE. Through the Assembly, the Commission has been able to exercise its mandate and further advance U.S. interests through engagement with parliamentarians from across the OSCE region.

Leading issues discussed under OSCE PA auspices in 2019 included Russian aggression against Ukraine and its other neighbors; Russian non-compliance with the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty and other arms control agreements; counter-terrorism; energy security; climate change; corruption; migration; attacks on critics and opponents—at home and abroad—of the political leadership in Russia, Turkey, and several other countries; the weakening of democratic institutions and practices in countries like Hungary; and threats to the integrity of free and fair elections throughout the entire OSCE region.

The OSCE PA consists of 323 parliamentarians from 57 participating States, extending from United States and Canada, across Europe, including Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asian countries, and Mongolia. Representation is proportional to a participating State's size. The United States holds 17 seats in the Assembly, more than any other participating State, allowing it to exercise considerable influence. Moreover, Assembly declarations are considered, amended, and adopted based on a majority vote, rather than a consensus, allowing the OSCE PA to reflect the dominant sentiments in the region rather than the lowest common denominator among the participating States. That, in turn, has been used to press for greater action by the OSCE itself.

U.S. representation in the OSCE PA is guided by U.S. law, which, among other provisions, specifies that a Member of the Senate leads the U.S. Delegation in odd-numbered years, and a Member of the House leads in even-numbered years. Given its expertise on the OSCE, as well as

its bicameral and bipartisan composition, the Helsinki Commission has sought to ensure a robust representation at OSCE PA meetings as an expression of Congressional commitment to maintaining and strengthening transatlantic ties, particularly during times of tension and uncertainty. Indeed, U.S. representation at the major meetings of the OSCE PA in 2019 was much larger than for any year going back to the Assembly's founding in 1991.

2019 Winter Meeting

In 2019, Sen. Roger Wicker, the Helsinki Commission's Co-Chairman, led the largest delegation in history to a Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, traditionally held in Vienna, Austria, each February. In addition to Sen. Wicker, the delegation consisted of 11 Members of Congress (Sens. Bob Casey, Martin Heinrich, Mike Lee, Tom Udall and Chris van Hollen, and Reps. Robert Aderholt, Lloyd Doggett, Richard Hudson, Sheila Jackson Lee, Gwen Moore, and Lee Zeldin).

U.S. Delegates spoke in most of the official meetings of the OSCE PA's three general committees, as well as its executive Standing Committee and two ad hoc committees. The delegation also hosted a dinner for more direct interaction with the delegations of Albania, Canada, Georgia, Ireland and Lithuania, all of whom share with the United States common interests and goals regarding the Assembly, its focus, and its work.

2019 Annual Session

Sen. Wicker again led the U.S. Delegation to the Annual Session, the OSCE PA's primary gathering, which convened in Luxembourg in early July. For only the second time ever, the United States filled all 17 of its seats (Ranking Senate Commissioner Sen. Ben Cardin, Sen. John Cornyn, and Reps. Robert Aderholt, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, Val Demings, Jeff Duncan, Tom Graves, Andy Harris, Steny Hoyer, Richard Hudson, Billy Long, Gregory Meeks, Gwen Moore, Chris Smith and Lee Zeldin). Sen. Rick Scott and Rep. Garret Graves were also present in Luxembourg and even spoke in the sessions.

The United States fielded two of the 19 resolutions considered in Luxembourg, one by Chairman Alcee Hastings on "The Role of Civil Society—Individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations—in Realizing the Aims and Aspirations of the OSCE" and the other on "Educating School Children to Avoid Human Trafficking." Members of the U.S. Delegation co-sponsored key resolutions of other delegations, and proposed 16 amendments to various texts, most of which were accepted.

The U.S. Delegation also hosted two side events, one on "Countering Hate: Lessons from the Past, Leadership for the Future," and one on "Prevention 101: Educate School Children on Trafficking Traps." Members of the U.S. Delegation also participated in a Swedish side event focusing on the 2015 murder of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

2019 Autumn Meeting

Chairman Alcee Hastings led the largest delegation in history to an Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA, convened in this instance in Marrakech, Morocco; it was the first OSCE PA event in

an OSCE Partner for Cooperation. As the third major OSCE PA event in 2019, this conference typically includes a Mediterranean Forum and other consultations. The U.S. Delegation consisted of four Members of Congress in addition to Chairman Hastings, specifically Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker, Ranking House Commissioner Rep. Joe Wilson, as well as Reps. Emanuel Cleaver and Andy Harris.

Sen. Wicker chaired one of the official sessions, while other U.S. delegates spoke in some of the others. The delegation also used the time in Marrakech to engage parliamentarians from Mediterranean partner countries, delegates from other participating States the OSCE PA leadership and its secretariat.

Congressional Representation in OSCE PA Leadership

Beyond attendance at the primary meetings of the OSCE PA, Members of Congress are represented in the Assembly's leadership and ongoing activities with Helsinki Commission support. Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker serves as one of the nine OSCE PA Vice Presidents, first elected to this position at the annual session in Minsk, Belarus, after serving for two years as a committee chairman. Ranking Senate Commissioner Sen. Ben Cardin serves as an OSCE PA Special Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, while Rep. Chris Smith serves as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues. Commissioner Rep. Richard Hudson serves as a Vice-Chair on the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, while Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee serves as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Commission staff also provide support to members in these leadership positions.

Sen. Cardin and Rep. Smith, in their capacities as Special Representatives, presented reports to the Annual Session on issues within their respective mandates. Sen. Cardin also participated by video in the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism organized by the Chair-in-Office.

Facilitating U.S. Engagement with Other OSCE PA Leaders

The Helsinki Commission helped facilitate the visit in February of OSCE PA President George Tsereteli of Georgia and Secretary General Roberto Montella of Italy, which included meetings with Helsinki Commissioners and other Members of Congress, State Department and White House officials, and the Helsinki Commission staff.

International Election Observation

Finally, the Helsinki Commission continued to participate in international election observation under OSCE PA auspices. In 2019, Commission staff observed parliamentary elections in Belarus, presidential elections in North Macedonia, and presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The OSCE PA relies upon the experience and expertise of the Helsinki Commission to make its own leadership on international election observation missions more effective, and in turn provides the Commission with the means to engage in what has been one of its central activities since 1989, encouraging OSCE countries to conduct free and fair elections.

THE HELSINKI COMMISSION AND U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE OSCE

The Commission supports human rights as part of a comprehensive approach to security and actively shapes U.S. policy regarding the OSCE. Engagement with senior State Department officials provides an important avenue for Commissioners to influence U.S. policy. The Commission maintains a regular dialogue with the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs, South and Central Asian Affairs, and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, as well as with desk officers with specific country responsibilities. The Secretary of State is mandated to submit to the Commission an annual report discussing the overall United States policy objectives that are advanced through meetings of decision-making bodies of the OSCE, the OSCE implementation review process, and other activities of the OSCE.

The Commission's work is facilitated by the inclusion of a staff member in the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, a unique feature of the Commission. Participation in U.S. delegations to OSCE meetings enables Commission staff to advance Commissioner priorities during OSCE negotiations in issues such as anti-Semitism and racism and trafficking in persons; provide U.S. delegations with expertise on the OSCE; and engage directly with other governments and with civil society representatives. In 2019, Commission staff reinforced specialized OSCE meetings on anti-Semitism, national minorities, freedom of the media, national minorities, and counterterrorism.

The Commission regularly engages with the most senior officials of the OSCE, at the meetings of the OSCE PA and in Washington. In 2019, the Commission held hearings with Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák, in his capacity as OSCE Chair-in-Office (a position that rotates annually) and Harlem Desir, the Representative on Freedom of the Media. The head of the OSCE's department on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination also briefed Congressional staff on the OSCE's annual report on hate crimes data.

In September, the OSCE convened Europe's largest annual human rights meeting, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Held in Warsaw, it is an opportunity for civil society to engage directly with government officials. The meeting covers the full range of OSCE consensus-based human dimension commitments: fundamental freedoms (such as expression, association, assembly, religion), democracy (such as free elections, the rule of law, and independence of the judiciary), humanitarian concerns (such as refugee migration and human trafficking), and concerns relating to tolerance and nondiscrimination (such as countering anti-Semitism and racism). Commission staff supported the U.S. delegation in challenging Russia's false narratives, particularly regarding its actions in Ukraine, and ensuring that specific human rights cases were raised.

Russia and a small number of like-minded countries have long sought to limit civil society access. Following the 2016 attempted coup in Turkey, Turkey has also threatened to block the OSCE's human rights meetings unless Turkey is given a veto over which nongovernmental organizations may attend those meetings. The Commission has been the single most active voice for ensuring that OSCE meetings are as open as possible and that non-governmental organizations can attend and participate fully in OSCE human dimension activities.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

Members of the Helsinki Commission play a pivotal role in formulating and shaping legislative responses to critical human rights issues and other regional challenges, drawing on their roles as Commissioners and on the expertise of the Commission staff.

Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans

Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, joined by Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Gwen Moore, Rep. John Lewis, and Rep. Gregory Meeks, introduced H.Res.256, recognizing the achievements and contributions of people of African descent and black Europeans in the face of persistent racism and discrimination. H.Res.256 encourages the celebration of the collective history and achievements of those of African descent in Europe.

African Descent Affairs Act

Chairman Hastings also introduced the African Descent Affairs Act of 2019 (H.R.1877). That bill would establish a U.S. strategy to protect and promote the human rights of people of African descent worldwide. The African Descent Affairs Act would also establish an Office of Global African Descent Affairs at the U.S. State Department to develop global foreign policy and assistance strategies beyond the African continent. Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Steve Cohen and Rep. Gwen Moore, along with Rep. Jose Serrano, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Bobby Rush, and Rep. Gregory Meeks were also original cosponsors.

Celebrating the Heritage of Romani Americans

Ahead of International Roma Day on April 8, Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker, Rep. Steve Watkins, and Sen. Ben Cardin introduced the first resolution in Congress to acknowledge and celebrate Romani American heritage (H.Res.292 and S.Res.141). The resolution observes that 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the Romani camp at Auschwitz.

Supporting Efforts to Strengthen Democracy in Hungary

Chairman Hastings and Ranking House Commissioner Rep. Joe Wilson co-sponsored, with Rep. Elliot Engel and Rep. Marcy Kaptur, H.Res.400, which supports efforts to strengthen democracy in Hungary and its alliance with the United States.

Defending United States Citizens and Diplomatic Staff from Political Prosecutions Act

In 2019, Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker and Ranking Senate Commissioner Sen. Ben Cardin introduced the Defending United States Citizens and Diplomatic Staff from Political Prosecutions Act of 2019 (S. 1075) to address the ongoing wrongful detentions of U.S. citizens and diplomatic staff by the Government of Turkey. Among other things, the bill would require the U.S. Administration to impose sanctions on all senior Turkish officials responsible for the

wrongful detentions of U.S. citizens and staff, including barring the officials from travel to the United States and freezing any U.S. assets.

Kleptocrat Exposure Act

As part of its efforts to counter corruption and malign influence in all its forms, Helsinki Commissioners have advanced multiple anti-corruption bills. Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Steve Cohen and Rep. Steve Chabot introduced the Kleptocrat Exposure Act (H.R. 3441) to provide the Secretary of State the authority to publicly reveal the names of individuals and their immediate family members who are subject to U.S. visa bans as a result of human rights abuses, corruption, and other malign activity. Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Ranking Member of the Helsinki Commission Rep. Joe Wilson, Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, and Rep. John Curtis are original cosponsors of the legislation.

Foreign Extortion Prevention Act

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. John Curtis, Rep. Tom Malinowski, and Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Richard Hudson introduced the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act. The legislation will criminalize extortion by foreign officials, enabling the Department of Justice to indict such officials for demanding bribes to fulfill, neglect, or violate their official duties. Currently, only paying or offering a bribe abroad is illegal under U.S. law.

Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act

Helsinki Commissioner Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker and Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee and Michael Burgess introduced in the Senate and the House the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act (S. 295 and H.R. 835). The legislation, originally introduced in the 115th Congress, would criminalize international doping fraud conspiracies. The bill is named for Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov who, in 2016, exposed the Russian state-sponsored doping scandal that took place during the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin and Commissioner Sen. Marco Rubio are original cosponsors of the bill in the Senate. Original cosponsors in the House include Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings; Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Steve Cohen, Rep. Richard Hudson, and Rep. Gwen Moore; and Rep. Diana DeGette, Rep. Peter King, Rep. Billy Long, Hank Johnson, Rep. Chris Smith, Rep. Bobby Rush, and Rep. Paul Tonko.

Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy (CROOK) Act

Rep. Bill Keating and Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick introduced the Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy (CROOK) Act (H.R. 8343). The CROOK Act would establish an anti-corruption action fund to provide extra funding during historic windows of opportunity for reform in foreign countries as well as streamline the U.S. Government's work building the rule of law abroad. Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker subsequently introduced a companion bill (S. 3026). Other House original cosponsors include Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L.

Hastings; Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Rep. Joe Wilson; Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Steve Cohen, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Rep. Richard Hudson, and Rep. Gwen Moore; Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. John Curtis, Rep. Thomas Suozzi, and Rep. Tom Malinowski.

Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act

Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Rep. Joe Wilson and Commissioner Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II introduced the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act (H.R. 5408) to combat Russia's religious freedom violations in the Crimea and Donbas regions of Ukraine. Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker introduced a companion bill in the Senate (S. 3064).

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 currently requires the president to designate "Countries of Particular Concern" when the governments of those countries engage in or tolerate particularly severe violations of religious freedom. It also requires the president to take 15 specific actions, or commensurate action, in response. The Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act would require the President of the United States to consider particularly severe violations of religious freedom in Russia-occupied or otherwise controlled territory in Ukraine when determining whether to designate Russia as a Country of Particular Concern for such violations. Original co-sponsors of the legislation include Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Gwen S. Moore, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Rep. Marc Veasey, and Rep. Steve Cohen. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, Rep. Mark Meadows, Rep. Mike Quigley, Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis, Rep. Daniel W. Lipinski, Rep. Andy Harris, M.D., and Rep. Marcy Kaptur are also original co-sponsors.

Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act (CITTPA)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Richard Hudson introduced the Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act (CITTPA) (H.R. 1642). The illicit trade in tobacco underpins transnational threats to the United States and our allies, including money laundering and trafficking in weapons, drugs, antiquities, diamonds, counterfeit goods. Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema a companion bill (S. 1965) in the Senate.

Appendix (A)

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
116th Congress**

Legislative Branch Commissioners

United States House of
Representatives

Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Chairman

Ranking Member Joe Wilson, South
Carolina
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Emanuel Cleaver, II, Missouri
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Richard Hudson, North Carolina
Gwen Moore, Wisconsin
Marc Veasey, Texas

United States Senate

Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Co-Chairman

Ranking Member Benjamin L.
Cardin, Maryland
John Boozman, Arkansas
Cory Gardner, Colorado
Marco Rubio, Florida
Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Thom Tillis, North Carolina
Tom Udall, New Mexico
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island

Executive Branch Commissioners

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

Appendix (B)

Staff Members

Alex Johnson *Chief of Staff*

Kyle Parker *Senior Senate Staff Representative*

Mark Toner *Senior State Department Advisor*

Rachel Bauman *Policy Advisor*
Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Baltic states

Janice Helwig *Commission Representative to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE (until 9/19)*
Senior Policy Advisor (as of 10/19)
Central Asia, trafficking in persons, cultural heritage, OSCE institutions

Jean-Francois Hernandez *Staff Associate (as of 6/19)*

Bob Hand *Senior Policy Advisor*
Secretary of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly
Western Balkans, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Stacy Hope *Director of Communications*

Nathaniel Hurd *Senior Policy Advisor*
Religious freedom, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

Jennifer McCuiston *Director of Operations (as of 11/19)*

Paul Massaro *Policy Advisor*
Economic and environmental affairs, Mongolia and OSCE Asian Partners

Allison Parker *General Counsel (through 7/19)*
Trafficking in persons, women's and children's affairs

Everett Price *Senior Policy Advisor*
South Caucasus, Eastern Mediterranean, Islamic affairs, OSCE
Mediterranean Partners

Erika Schlager *Counsel for International Law*
Visegrád countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Romani affairs,
property claims, domestic compliance

Shannon Simrell *Commission Representative to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE (as of 10/19)*

Mischa Thompson *Director of Global Partnerships, Policy, and Innovation*
Tolerance and non-discrimination, anti-Semitism, migration;
the European Union

Alex Tiersky *Senior Policy Advisor*
Politico-military affairs; podcast host

Jordan Warlick *Office Director (through 8/19)*
Policy Advisor (as of 9/19)
Media freedom, youth, and gender

Hearings, Briefings, and Commission Delegations

HEARINGS

Slovakia's Chairmanship of the OSCE, April 3, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Alcee Hastings – Chairman
- Sen. Roger Wicker – Co-Chairman
- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner
- Rep. Joe Wilson – Ranking House Commissioner
- Sen. Cory Gardner – Commissioner
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick – Commissioner
- Rep. Gwen Moore – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- H.E. Miroslav Lajčák – Slovakia Minister of Foreign Affairs

In 2019, Slovakia held the chairmanship of the OSCE, the world's largest regional security organization, which brings together 57 countries from North America, Europe and Central Asia. At the Helsinki Commission's first hearing in the 116th Congress, Slovakian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajčák, presented the chairmanship's priorities for the OSCE in 2019 and challenges in the region. The hearing continued the Commission's practice of direct engagement with the OSCE's most senior political representatives.

Russia's Counterproductive Counterterrorism, June 12, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Richard Hudson – Commissioner
- Sen. Cory Gardner – Commissioner
- Rep. Robert Aderholt – Commissioner
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Dr. Michael Carpenter – Senior Director, Penn Biden Center
- Rachel Denber – Deputy Director of Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch
- Dr. Mariya Y. Omelicheva – Professor of Strategy, U.S. National War College

This hearing examined the development, history, and repercussions of the Kremlin's approach to counterterrorism measures under Vladimir Putin, including Moscow's attempts to present itself as a regional and global leader on this issue. Witnesses discussed the overly broad use of "terrorism" and "extremism" labels by the Kremlin and authoritarian regimes across Central Asia, country to their human rights commitments. With a view to Russia's role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines

flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, the hearing presented policy questions for the United States including whether Russia should be designated a state-sponsor of terrorism.

Baltic Sea Regional Security, July 2, 2019

Members:

- Sen. Roger Wicker – Co-Chairman
- Rep. Robert B. Aderholt – Commissioner
- Sen. John Cornyn – U.S. Senate
- Rep. Tom Graves – U.S. House
- Rep. Billy Long – U.S. House
- Rep. Andy Harris – U.S. House
- Rep. Lee Zeldin – U.S. House
- Rep. Jeff Duncan – U.S. House

Witnesses:

- Douglas D. Jones – Deputy Permanent Representative of the U.S. Mission to NATO
- Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty – Deputy Commander of the United States European Command
- Minister Raimundas Karoblis – Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Lithuania
- Janne Kuusela – Director-General of the Defense Policy Department of Finland Defense Ministry
- Jan-Olof Lind – State Secretary to the Minister for Defense of the Kingdom of Sweden
- Kristjan Prikk – Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Estonia

For the first time in its 43-year history, the Helsinki Commission held a field hearing outside of the United States. The hearing, focused on Baltic security, convened in Gdansk, Poland, with Members then participating in the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Luxembourg. Senior U.S. civilian and military leaders outlined the United States' collaborative approach to enhancing security in the region and high-level officials from Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, and Estonia provided regional perspectives on the evolving security environment in and around the Baltic Sea. The hearing examined regional maritime threats—including Kremlin aggression—and possible responses; the current effectiveness of NATO's deterrent posture in the Baltics; the transatlantic security architecture; and hybrid and emerging threats.

Responding To Hate: The Role of Religious Actors in the OSCE Region, July 16, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Alcee Hastings – Chairman
- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner
- Rep. Gwen Moore – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers – Rabbi, Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Father James Martin – Editor at Large, America Media, New York, New York

- Radia Bakkouch – President of Coexister, Paris, France
- Alina Bricman – Elected President, European Union of Jewish Students, Brussels, Belgium
- Usra Ghazi – Director of Policy and Programs, America Indivisible, Washington, DC
- Reverend Aaron Jenkins – Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, The Expectations Project, Washington, DC
- Imam Gamal Fouda – Imam, All Noor Mosque, Christchurch, New Zealand

Following hate-motivated attacks on places of worship in Christchurch, Colombo, Pittsburgh, and Poway, claiming more than 300 lives, this hearing examined the role of religious actors in responding to such crimes in the United States and throughout the OSCE region. The hearing focused on how faith-based institutions – as part of a comprehensive effort bringing together government institutions, criminal justice system's, civil society actors, and international organizations – can promote safe and inclusive societies and reduce violence.

State of Media Freedom in The OSCE Region, July 25, 2019

Members:

- Alcee L. Hastings – Chairman

Witnesses:

- Harlem Desir – OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

In the first six months of 2019, two journalists were killed and an additional 92 attacks and threats—including one bombing, three shootings, and seven arson attacks—targeted members of the media, creating increased risks to the lives and safety of journalists in the OSCE region. Harlem Desir, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media outlined he threatens to Media Freedom, as well as disinformation and online content designed to provoke violence and hate. The hearing was followed by a viewing of “A Dark Place,” a documentary about the online safety of women journalists.

The State of Diversity and Inclusion in Europe, September 11, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Alcee L. Hastings – Chairman
- Rep. Gwen Moore – Commissioner
- Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II – Commissioner
- Rep. Steve Cohen – Commissioner
- Rep. Marc Veasey – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Councilor Irene Appiah, Hamburg, Germany
- Domenica Ghidei Biidu – Vice Chair, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
- MEP Romeo Franz – Germany
- MEP Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana – Germany

- MEP Evin Incir – Sweden
- MP Danièle Obono – France
- MEP Samira Rafaela – The Netherlands
- MP Olivier Serva – France
- Alfiarz Vaiya – Coordinator of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup, European Parliament

Convened in advance of the OSCE’s annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (which included a focus on hate crimes and Roma), and the European Parliament’s first ever Anti-Racism and Diversity Week, this hearing examined transatlantic efforts to ensure that the human rights of people from diverse populations are fully respected. Witnesses discussed the issues which propelled them to represent the concerns of their communities as elected officials, including some personal experiences with physical attacks, and illuminated common challenges faced by diverse populations across the OSCE region. The hearing also highlighted the role of social media platforms in fomenting incitement, as well as Russian efforts to exploit and polarize ethnic and racial divisions in other countries.

Tools of Transnational Repression, September 12, 2019

Members:

- Sen. Roger Wicker – Co-Chairman
- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner
- Rep. Joe Wilson – Ranking House Commissioner
- Sen. Cory Gardner – Commissioner
- Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse – Commissioner
- Rep. Marc Veasey – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Alexander Cooley – Director, Columbia University’s Harriman Institute for the Study of Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe
- Sandra A. Grossman – Founding Partner, Grossman Young & Hammond Immigration Law, LLC
- Bruno Min – Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, Fair Trials
- Nate Schenkkan – Director for Special Research, Freedom House

To silence dissent from abroad, autocrats often turn to the International Criminal Police Organization, known as INTERPOL, filing bogus criminal claims seeking the arrest and extradition of their political targets. This abuse of INTERPOL Red Notices and Diffusions enables autocratic governments to harass and intimidate their opponents thousands of miles away, even within free and democratic societies. This hearing examined INTERPOL abuse and other autocratic practices aimed at suppressing dissent across borders, including surveillance, abduction, and assassination. Witnesses described the roots of transnational repression, salient examples of its use, how INTERPOL systems should be reformed to safeguard the rights of the innocent, and INTERPOL abuse affects the American immigration system.

Reform in Armenia: Assessing Progress and Opportunities for U.S. Policy, October 22, 2019

Members:

- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner
- Rep. Marc Veasey – Commissioner
- Rep. Robert Aderholt – Commissioner
- Rep. Frank Pallone – U.S. House
- Rep. Jackie Speier – U.S. House
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee – U.S. House

Witnesses:

- Hamazasp Danielyan- Member of the National Assembly of Armenia
- Daniel Ioannisian – Program Director, Union of Informed Citizens
- Jonathan D. Katz – Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund
- Arsen Kharatyan – Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Aliq Media
- Miriam Lansky – Senior Director, National Endowment for Democracy

In 2018, peaceful mass protests swept Armenia’s ruling party out of power, ending its more than two decades at the helm of Armenian politics. Protest leader and opposition legislator Nikol Pashinyan rode the wave of what has been termed Armenia’s Velvet Revolution to a landslide victory in national elections in December. Voters gave his My Step Alliance two-thirds of the seats in parliament, with a robust mandate to follow through on his promises to fight corruption, govern democratically, and grow the economy.

This democratic opening presents an historic opportunity to advance crucial reforms. This hearing assessed the Armenian Government’s achievements thus far. Witnesses identified priority areas for reform, opportunities for the U.S. to support the reform process, and the importance of international assistance to strengthening Armenia’s democratic institutions—particularly the parliament and judiciary—to ensure the durability of future reforms.

[At What Cost? The Human Toll of Turkey’s Policy at Home and Abroad](#), October 31, 2019**Members:**

- Rep. Joe Wilson – Ranking House Commissioner
- Sen. John Boozman – Commissioner
- Rep. Steve Cohen – Commissioner
- Rep. Marc Veasey – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Henri Barkey – Bernard L. and Bertha F. Cohen Professor, Lehigh University
- Talip Kucukcan – Professor of Sociology, Marmara University
- Eric Schwartz – President, Refugees International
- Merve Tahiroglu – Turkey Program Coordinator, Project on Middle East Democracy
- Gonul Tol – Director of Center for Turkish Studies at the Middle East Institute

Turkish military offensive in northeastern Syria sparked increased tensions between the United States and Turkey reignited the debate about the future of U.S.-Turkish bilateral relations. The Helsinki Commission convened this hearing to review prominent cases of politically motivated prosecution, failures of due process, and prospects for judicial reform as they relate to Turkey's commitments as a member of both the OSCE and NATO. Witnesses also evaluated President Erdogan's plan to return millions of Syrian refugees to their war-torn country or push them to Europe, and the human consequences of his military incursion into Syria, and possible U.S. responses.

The Importance of the Open Skies Treaty, November 19, 2019

Joint Hearing with the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment

Members:

- Rep. Joe Wilson – Ranking House Commissioner
- Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II – Commissioner
- Rep. William Keating – Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Adam Kinzinger – Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Tim Burchett – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Jim Costa – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. David Cicilline – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Michael Guest – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Greg Pence – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Albio Sires – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Abigail Spanberger – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Susan Wild – Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
- Rep. Jimmy Panetta – U.S. House

Witnesses:

- Jon Wolfsthal – Director, Nuclear Crisis Group
- Damian Leader – Professor at New York University and former Chief Arms Control Delegate of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE
- Amy Woolf – Specialist in Nuclear Weapons Policy, Congressional Research Service

As the administration considers withdrawing the United States from the Open Skies Treaty, a key arms control agreement that has enjoyed bipartisan support for decades, this joint hearing of the Helsinki Commission and the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment, explored the continued contributions of the Open Skies Treaty to the security of the United States, as well as its benefits to U.S. allies and partners. The treaty underpins security and stability in Europe by providing for unarmed aerial observation flights over its 34 signatories. The Open Skies Consultative Commission, which oversees implementation of the treaty, meets monthly at OSCE headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The hearing also assessed Russia's partial non-compliance with elements of the treaty and strategies to address this challenge, and evaluated the implications of a possible U.S. withdrawal on security and stability in Europe and Eurasia.

Not-So-Good Neighbors: Russian Influence in Belarus, November 20, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Alcee L. Hastings – Chairman
- Rep. Joe Wilson – Ranking House Commissioner
- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Sofya Orlosky – Senior Program Manager for Eurasia, Freedom House
- Franak Viačorka – Research Media Analyst, U.S. Agency for Global Media
- Brian Whitmore – Senior Fellow and Director of the Russia Program, Center for European Policy Analysis
- Andrei Yeliseyeu – Head of Monitoring Unit, International Strategic Action Network for Security (iSANS)

As a new generation of political leaders in Belarus may be seeking closer ties with the West, Russia has stepped up influence and disinformation campaigns designed to erode Belarusian sovereignty and exploit the strong historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two nations. Witnesses examined how Russia most effectively penetrates Belarusian society, and the extent to which Russia's disinformation and hybrid tactics are influencing the political landscape at a pivotal moment. The hearing decoded Russia's tactics in Belarus and explored how the United States can help promote the sovereignty of Belarus.

Public Diplomacy, Democracy, and Global Leadership, December 5, 2019

Members:

- Rep. Alcee Hastings – Chairman
- Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II – Commissioner
- Rep. Marc Veasey – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Lora Berg – Senior Fellow, Leadership Programs, German Marshall Fund
- Cordell Carter – Executive Director, Socrates Program, Aspen Institute
- Stacie Walters Fujii – Chair of the American Council of Young Political Leaders

For more than a century, the United States has advanced shared human rights, economic, and security policy goals in the transatlantic relationship by cultivating people-to-people ties through public diplomacy initiatives. As democracies around the world face new challenges emanating from demographic shifts, technological advancements, and evolving security threats, the need for public diplomacy initiatives that cultivate leaders who will advance democratic principles, including inclusive and representative governance, grows more relevant. This hearing examined U.S.-led public diplomacy international exchange initiatives that strengthen democratic institutions by engaging young and diverse leaders, encouraging civic engagement, and fostering social inclusion and cohesion in the OSCE region.

BRIEFINGS

Asset Recovery in Eurasia: Repatriation or Repay the Patron? February 13, 2019

Witnesses:

- Sona Ayvazyan – Executive Director, Transparency International Armenia
- Bryan Earl – Retired Supervisory Special Agent/Assistant General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Karen Greenaway – Retired Supervisory Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Kristian Lasslett – Professor of Criminology and Head of School, Ulster University

Asset recovery—the process of repatriating funds previously stolen by corrupt officials—remains one of the most contentious points in the fight against transnational corruption. Though only a small percentage of stolen funds are ever recovered, major questions exist about the best ways to ensure that repatriated funds don't simply reenter the same patronage cycle from which they came. This briefing explored approaches to repatriation in Armenia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Panelists discussed best practices and challenges in asset recovery as well as appropriate policy responses, both by the state in question and the international community, and compared the respective approaches of the three countries.

Developments in Hungary, April 9, 2019

Witnesses:

- Susan Corke – Senior Fellow and Director, Transatlantic Working Group, German Marshall Fund
- Melissa Hooper – Director, Human Rights and Civil Society, Human Rights First
- Dalibor Rohac – Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

At this briefing, Susan Corke, Senior Fellow and Director of the Transatlantic Democracy Working Group at the German Marshall Fund; Melissa Hooper, Director of Human Rights and Civil Society at Human Rights First; and Dalibor Rohac, Research Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute explored recent developments in Hungary. Panelists discussed Hungary's measurable decline on various indicators of good governance and the rule of law, including the assessments of the World

Bank, the Heritage Foundation, and the Cato Institute; patterns of politically organized corruption; and the implications of developments in Hungary for the United States.

Power and Politics: Implications of Ukraine’s Presidential Elections, May 9, 2019

Witnesses:

- Dr. Michael Carpenter – Senior Director, Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement
- Natalie Sedletska – Journalist and Host of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Ukrainian Service

Following the election of Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Ukraine’s president on April 21, 2019, panelists at this briefing explored the state of institutional resilience and political context for that election. This briefing also explored implications for transatlantic engagement and opportunities for reforms on issues related to the rule of law, media freedom, and corruption.

Shady Shipping: Understanding Trade-Based Money Laundering, May 24, 2019

Witnesses:

- John Cassara – Retired Special Agent at the U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Lakshmi Kumar – Policy Director, Global Financial Integrity
- David Luna – President and CEO, Luna Global Networks

Trade-based money laundering (TBML) is the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value through trade transactions in an attempt to legitimize their illicit origins. This highly sophisticated form of money laundering has become a favorite method for transnational criminals, dictators, and terrorists to move ill-gotten gains to new jurisdictions. This event examined what TBML is, how it works, and why it has become such a ubiquitous method of laundering money. Panelists discussed the broader interplay of illicit commerce, global corruption, and TBML and recommended practical steps the United States and non-governmental organizations can take to counter TBML.

Curbing Corruption Through Corporate Transparency and Collaboration: The British Model, May 29, 2019

Witnesses:

- John Penrose, M.P. – U.K. Prime Minister’s Anti-Corruption Champion
- Mark Hays – Anti-Money Laundering Campaign Leader at Global Witness
- Edward Kitt – Serious and Organized Crime Network Illicit Finance Policy Lead at the British Embassy, Washington
- Nate Sibley – Research Fellow, Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute

The United Kingdom has implemented some of the world’s most innovative anti-corruption policies. In particular, its public beneficial ownership registry is the only active one of its kind and its Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce models effective collaboration between law enforcement and the private sector. This briefing examined these policies and the United

Kingdom's broader strategy to counter illicit finance. Panelists discussed how the United Kingdom implements its policies, their successes and shortcomings, and what remains to be done. Though U.S. corporate transparency proposals take a non-public approach, panelists also discussed the lessons that the United States can draw from the British experience.

Why Moldova Matters, June 4, 2019

Witnesses:

- Jamie Kirchick – Journalist and Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institution
- Dr. Cory Welt – Specialist in European Affairs, Congressional Research Service
- H.E. Cristina Balan – Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the United States

Though typically viewed as a state torn between Russian influence and the West, Moldova faces not only external problems but also serious internal challenges. Following February 2019 elections marked by corruption and vote-buying, five years after Moldova signed an accession agreement with the European Union, questions remain about whether the country is willing—or even able—to undertake the comprehensive reforms required to join the EU. Panelists discussed the challenges facing Moldova's deeply divided parliament as it struggled to form a governing coalition against the background of the continuing Transnistria dispute and Moldova's precarious role in the region.

Partially Protected: Non-Asylum Protection in the United States and the European Union, June 14, 2019

Witnesses:

- Marleine Bastien – Executive Director, Family Action Network Movement
- Sui Chung – Attorney at Law with Immigration Law and Litigation Group and Chair of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Committee, American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Jill H. Wilson – Analyst in Immigration Policy, Congressional Research Service
- Catherine Woollard – Secretary General, European Council on Refugees and Exiles

The U.S. Helsinki Commission convened an expert briefing on the background, implementation, and legal and political implications of temporary protection for people in the United States and Europe who come from countries of conflict or natural disaster but not qualify for asylum. An Expert from the Congressional Research Service provided context on Temporary Protected Status in the United States. The discussion explored whether some European Union countries are choosing temporary protection even when asylum claims are credible.

International Election Observation in the U.S. and Beyond: Why It Matters, June 19, 2019

Witnesses:

- Gerardo de Icaza – Director of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, Organization of American States
- Laura Jewett – Senior Associate and Regional Director for Eurasia Programs, National Democratic Institute

- Richard Lappin – Deputy Head of the Elections Department, OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
- Tana de Zulueta – Head of the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to the 2018 U.S. Mid-Term Elections

Since the 1990s, the OSCE has been invited to observe approximately 250 elections in countries throughout the OSCE region, including the United States and Russia. This briefing focused on the benefits and challenges of international election observation, best practices, and emerging issues such as voting technology and security.

Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing: Toward a Unified Future, July 18, 2019

Members:

- Sen. Ben Cardin – Ranking Senate Commissioner
- Rep. Gwen Moore – Commissioner

Witnesses:

- Gail C. Christopher – Founder of the Ntianu Center and Char, Board of the Trust for America's Health
- Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat – Senior Counsel, Covington
- The Hon. Tracy Tansia Bibo – Former City Councilor, Liedekerke, Belgium
- Don Ceder – Municipal Councilor, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Diane Orentlicher – Former Special Advisor to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Panelists at this briefing discussed ways to heal and unify societies divided by war, genocide, hierarchal systems of human value, and other tragedies stemming from extreme nationalism, racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of ethnic and religious discrimination. Speakers addressed official government apologies, truth and reconciliation processes, restitution, reparations, and other policy prescriptions that have been used or are currently being considered to address historic wrongs and unify citizens in countries across Europe and North America.

Pipeline Politics: Energy and Power in Europe, July 23, 2019

Witnesses:

- Ed Chow – Senior Associate (Non-Resident), Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- David Koranyi – Senior Fellow, Energy Diplomacy, the Atlantic Council
- Colin Cleary – Director for Energy Diplomacy for Europe, Western Hemisphere, and Africa, U.S. Department of State
- Efgan Nifti – Executive Director, Caspian Policy Center

At this briefing, the Helsinki Commission invited panelists to discuss the potential use of energy, specifically oil and gas projects, to achieve foreign policy goals, as well as the extent to which energy independence can reduce the ability of hostile actors to destabilize the region by threatening to cut off access to energy supplies. Experts weighed in on the nuances behind pipeline politics in

Europe against the background of the current state of oil and gas markets, and strategic differences among European nations and between the European Union and its individual member states. Panelists also discussed the ability of the United States to influence European pipeline politics, particularly given concerns raised regarding Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in the wake of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Putin's Shadow Warriors: Mercenaries, Security Contracting, and the Way Ahead, November 6, 2019

Witnesses:

- Dr. Deborah Avant – Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
- Dara Massicot – Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation
- Col. Christopher T. Mayer – Former Director of the Armed Contingency Contractor Policies and Programs, U.S. Department of Defense

Reports of shadowy Russian mercenaries in unexpected locations have grown more frequent and alarming. Yet, western understanding of the Kremlin's use of private contractors — useful to Moscow for their deniability and relatively low cost — remains limited. Policy responses can be complicated by the potential conflation of Russian organizations, like the Wagner Group, with the private military and security companies used by the United States and its allies. At this briefing, panelists shone a spotlight on the Kremlin's destabilizing use of mercenaries around the world, clarified the difference between Moscow's approach and that of the United States and its allies, and reviewed efforts underway internationally, within the OSCE and elsewhere, to develop and promote norms that would govern the use of private security and military companies (PMSCs).

It's All About the Money: Corruption as a Brake on Balkan Recovery, December 3, 2019

Witnesses:

- Martina Hrvolova – Program Officer for Europe and Eurasia, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)
- Igor Novakovic – Research Director, International and Security Affairs Centre (ISAC), Serbia
- Misha Popovikj – Project Coordinator/Research, Institute for Democracy Societas Civils Skopje (IDSCS), North Macedonia
- Igor Stojanovic – Researcher, Center for Civic Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina

As the countries of the Western Balkans continue to seek integration as a means of advancing stability and prosperity, the inability to genuinely confront and overcome official corruption has undoubtedly slowed progress. Foreign investment—vital to improved economic performance—is discouraged by a business climate characterized by weak adherence to the rule of law. As a result, the countries of the region are witnessing a “brain drain” as the most talented and well-educated leave. The region also remains vulnerable to malign foreign investors, including Russia, that pursue political influence rather than profits. Panelists from Serbia, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina analyzed the gaps in good governance that facilitate the inflow of “corrosive capital,” enables foreign meddling, and encourages an exodus of the best and brightest. The

briefing also examined specific ways to strengthen economic resiliency, democratic transition, and the possibilities for integration.

Albania's Leadership in Europe, December 11, 2019

Witnesses:

- Ditmir Bushati – Member of Parliament, Albania
- Elona Hoxha Gjebrea – Member of Parliament, Albania
- Rudina Hajdari – Member of Parliament from Albania's opposition Democratic Party

Taking place less than a week after the 2019 OSCE Ministerial in Bratislava, the culmination of the 2019 Slovak chairmanship, this Helsinki Commission briefing took a close look at Albania's interest in chairing the OSCE and how that task may impact Albania in 2020.

Since the role of OSCE Chair-in-Office was inaugurated in 1991, the organization has responded to numerous conflicts and crises in the Western Balkans. As the holder of the 2020 Chairmanship, Albania now seeks make its own contribution to security and cooperation in Europe as a whole. However, leading an organization that requires consensus-based decision-making is a difficult task, especially as the OSCE confronts significant security, economic, human rights, and democratic challenges including Russia's aggression, ongoing regional conflicts, resistance to democratic reforms, and serious democratic backsliding in some OSCE countries.

The panelists, each a member of Albania's delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and representing both ruling and opposition parties, provided a parliamentary perspective ahead of a hearing in early 2020 that will feature the Chair-in-Office and focus more specifically on the priorities and objectives of the Albanian chairmanship.

Appendix (D)

COMMISSION DELEGATIONS

Congressional Delegations

February:

Co-Chairman Roger F. Wicker, Sen. Tom Udall, Sen. Bob Casey, Sen. Mike Lee, Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Sen. Mitt Romney, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Rep. Gwen Moore, Rep. Steve Cohen, Rep. Richard Hudson, Rep. Lloyd Doggett, Rep. Lee Zeldin, along with staff members Kyle Parker, Jordan Warlick, Robert Hand, Everett Price, Alex Tiersky, Paul Massaro, Rachel Bauman, Mark Toner and Robert Murray traveled to Germany, France, Cyprus, and Austria to participate in the 18th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

July:

Co-Chairman Roger F. Wicker, Sen. Rick Scott, Sen. John Cornyn, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Rep. Richard Hudson, Rep. Jeff Duncan, Rep. Tom Graves, Rep. Andy Harris, Rep. Billy Long, Rep. Chris Smith, and Rep. Lee Zeldin, along with staff members Kyle Parker, Mark Toner, Bob Hand, Mischa Thompson, Everett Price, Danica Starks, Rachel Bauman, Janice Helwig, Alex Tiersky, Paul Massaro, Stacy Hope, Jean-Francois Hernandez, Patrick Thompson and Don Bergin traveled to the United Kingdom, Poland, Luxembourg, and Portugal to participate in the 2019 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In the United Kingdom, the delegation traveled to Belfast and London for bilateral and regional security consultations. In Gdansk, Poland, the delegation convened a field hearing and held consultations on European and Eurasian security.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, Sen. Ben Cardin, Rep. Gwen Moore, Rep. Steve Cohen, Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Val Demmings, Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Garret Graves, along with staff members Alex Johnson, Erika Schlager, and Debbie Yamada traveled to Budapest, Hungary, to participate in meetings about anti-Semitism and Luxembourg to participate in the 2019 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

September:

Chairman Alcee L. Hastings, Co-Chairman Roger F. Wicker, Rep. Joe Wilson, Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, Rep. Andy Harris, along with staff members Alex Johnson, Kyle Parker, Bob Hand, Everett Price, Jean-Francois Hernandez, Lale Morrison, and Patrick Thompson traveled to Israel, Tunisia, and Morocco to participate in the 18th Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In Israel and Tunisia, the delegation held consultations regional security with government and civil society.

Staff Delegations

January:

Alex Tiersky traveled to Oslo, Norway, to participate in the OSCEPA Ad Hoc Committee on Counter-Terrorism.

Mark Toner traveled to Vienna, Austria, to hold consultations at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on European and Eurasian security.

February:

Erika Schlager and Mischa Thompson traveled to travel to Bratislava, Slovakia; Salzburg, Austria; and Vienna, Austria, to attend the OSCE Anti-Semitism Conference. Mischa Thompson then continued to Salzburg for a Global Leadership Consortium Global Seminar conference and meetings regarding European Union elections.

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria, to serve as the Helsinki Commission Representative to the USOSCE.

March:

Kyle Parker and Rachel Bauman traveled to Ukraine to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission for the 2019 Ukrainian presidential election.

Erika Schlager traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to speak at the European Union Parliament's "Roma Week" events and held related consultations.

Alex Johnson traveled to Vienna, Austria, for consultations with USOSCE and OSCE institutions.

April:

Mark Toner traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in a conference on the safety of journalists hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and hold consultations on European and Eurasian security.

Kyle Parker and Robert Hand traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to attend the annual Bureau Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and hold consultations at the OSCE PA Secretariat. Robert Hand then continued to Skopje and Strumica, North Macedonia, to observe the North Macedonia presidential elections.

Alex Johnson traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine, for consultations related to the Ukrainian presidential elections and regional security. Alex Johnson then continued to Budapest, Hungary, to meet with Embassy Budapest and civil society partners on Hungarian comprehensive security commitments. Alex Johnson also subsequently traveled to Bucharest, Romania, to meet with the U.S. Embassy, government officials, and civil society partners on human rights and political developments.

Erika Schlager traveled to Bratislava, Slovakia, to speak at the Department of State's annual training workshop on Romani issues for reporting officers.

May:

Paul Massaro traveled to Ottawa, Canada, to attend the 2019 Open Government Partnership

Summit.

Everett Price and Paul Massaro traveled to London, UK, to hold consultations on countering transnational corruption and to discuss Interpol issues.

Mischa Thompson traveled to London, UK, and Bucharest and Fundata, Romania, to consult with government officials on European Union elections, Brexit and anti-discrimination measures. In Romania, she spoke at the Socrates Seminar. Mischa Thompson observed the preliminary European Union election.

Kyle Parker traveled to Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Estonia, and France to address the annual Oslo Freedom Forum, the annual Vilnius Russia Forum, and to participate in the 75th commemoration of the D-Day invasion.

June:

Paul Massaro traveled to Vancouver, Canada, to speak at TRACE International's Bribery and Economic Crime Summit.

Alex Johnson and Mischa Thompson traveled to Brussels, Belgium, to administer the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network program supported by the Department of State, to take part in Brussels Forum, as well as to conduct meetings on Brexit, and European Union (EU) elections. Mischa Thompson continued to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, to meet with Embassy on integration efforts, hold meetings on Amsterdam City integration efforts, speak at Incleaders, and participate in Keti Koti commemorations.

July:

Kyle Parker and Alex Tiersky traveled to Ukraine to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission for the 2019 Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

August:

Alex Johnson, Kyle Parker, and Paul Massaro traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for regional security consultations. Janice Helwig joined the delegation in Tokyo, Japan, where together they served as the U.S. Delegation to the 2019 OSCE Asian Conference.

September:

Paul Massaro traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, to participate in the Concluding Meeting of the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; Warsaw, Poland; and Aspen, U.S., from September 17 to October 2 to speak at the Inclusive Leadership Summit regarding the Commission's partnership in the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network, and conduct post-European Union election meetings with Embassy Brussels and the European Commission

Alex Johnson, Mark Toner, Janice Helwig, Shannon Simrell, and Jean-Francois Hernandez

travelled to Warsaw, Poland, as members of the U.S. delegation to the 2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Nathaniel Hurd traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, for consultations with the United States Mission to International Organizations, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, and non-governmental organizations.

October:

Paul Massaro traveled to London, United Kingdom; Valletta, Malta; and Vienna, Austria, with a staff delegation focused on countering illicit finance. Alex Johnson joined the delegation for consultations in Malta on governance and countering corruption, as well as consultations in Vienna, Austria, with USOSCE and OSCE institutions.

Shannon Simrell traveled to Vienna, Austria, to serve as the Helsinki Commission Representative at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE for the duration of the 116th Congress (2019-2020).

Camille Moore traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the 2019 Economics and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting.

November:

Alex Tiersky, Everett Price, and Cory Welt (Congressional Research Service) traveled to Georgia to discuss radicalization and visit the Administrative Boundary Line overlooking South Ossetia and a Russian “border” base. Everett Price continued his travel on official business to Azerbaijan.

Mischa Thompson traveled on official business to Milan, Italy, to launch the “On the Road to Inclusion” joint Helsinki Commission and State Department initiative focused on young leaders and civic participation, as well as to address participants on the behalf of the Commission at Promoting Civic Engagement, Civil Society, and Civil Rights: Europe and the United States.

Kyle Parker traveled to London, United Kingdom, to address the Sergei Magnitsky Human Rights Awards ceremony.

Alex Johnson held consultations in Chisinau, Moldova, on political transformation, institutional reform, and OSCE field operations in Moldova. Alex Johnson continued to Paris, France, to participate in the Paris Peace Forum. Alex Johnson subsequently traveled to Lund, Sweden, where he represented political leadership of the Commission to address the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Conference, “From Lund to Ljubljana: Promoting Participation of National Minorities as a Pathway to Integration of Diverse Societies.”

Robert Hand, Nathaniel Hurd, and Rachel Bauman traveled to Belarus to join the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation as observers of the 2019 parliamentary elections.

December:

Alex Johnson, Mark Toner, Shannon Simrell, Alex Tiersky, and Janice Helwig traveled to Bratislava, Slovakia, to participate in the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting

Janice Helwig extended her official business in Vienna, Austria, to provide support for the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and participate in consultations with the OSCE delegations.

PODCASTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Helsinki on the Hill Podcasts

In the Beginning – June 19, 2019

Helsinki Commission's first staff director, Spencer Oliver, shares how the commission evolved from the 1970s to become an organization that reflects the overarching commitment of the U.S. to security and cooperation in Europe, and that has played a vital role in human rights as an element in U.S. foreign policy decision-making.

Seeking Justice in Serbia – July 15, 2019

Twenty years after U.S. citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi were brutally murdered in Serbia in the aftermath of the 1999 conflict in Kosovo, their brother Ilir documents his family's fight for justice in the face of inaction by Serbian authorities. Ilir is joined by family lawyer Praveen Madhiraju and Helsinki Commission senior policy advisor Robert Hand.

Civilians in the Crossfire – August 19, 2019

Alexander Hug, former principal deputy chief monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, describes the toll taken on civilians in Eastern Ukraine's war zone, the dangers faced by the unarmed civilian mission, and the urgent need to generate the political will to end the unnecessary conflict.

Open Skies – September 16, 2019

What was a Russian military plane doing taking pictures over Washington, DC? Arms control experts Alexandra Bell, Senior Policy Director at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, and Anthony Wier, Legislative Secretary for Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, discuss the Treaty on Open Skies.

Equitable and Inclusive Democracies – October 21, 2019

How can the United States and Europe achieve a long-term vision of stable, and sustainable, and inclusive democracies? Political inclusion and economic empowerment in the face of discrimination and intolerance are imperative.

Defending Against Disinformation – November 18, 2019

President and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Jamie Fly, Helsinki Commission Senior State Department Advisor Mark Toner, and RFE/RL Journalist Tatiana Vaksberg discuss tools that democracies can use to battle the threat of disinformation by Russia and other malign actors in today's contested information space.

Disappeared in Turkmenistan – December 16, 2019

Kate Watters of the Prove They Are Alive! Campaign joins Helsinki Commission Senior Policy Advisor Janice Helwig to discuss the tragedy of those who have been disappeared, as well as the current situation in Turkmenistan and the steps that are being taken to encourage the Government of Turkmenistan to halt the practice and live up to its international commitments to human rights.

Publications

Undermining Human Rights in the Name of Countering Terror — January 30, 2019

The OSCE and the OSCE PA's role in balancing efforts to counter terror and promote human rights and rule of law.

Unorthodox? The Russian Orthodox Church as a Tool of Kremlin Soft Power — February 4, 2019

How the Russian Orthodox Church is being steered by the Russian government and is seeking status as a religious and regional hegemon.

Slovak Chairmanship Convenes Conference on Anti-Semitism — February 22, 2019

Special Representative Commissioner Sen. Ben Cardin urges parliamentarians to combat anti-Semitism during an OSCE conference in Slovakia.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Defends Human Rights, Regional Security at OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna — February 27, 2019

Co-Chairman Sen Roger Wicker-led congressional delegation to the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in February to discuss security and human rights in the OSCE region.

First Person: A Divided Island's Long Road to Peace — April 1, 2019

Senior State Department Advisor Mark Toner's reflections on a visit to Cyprus and the challenges facing the country amid an intractable frozen conflict.

Climate Disruption: Environmental Security and the OSCE — April 15, 2019

How climate change will magnify the challenges facing the OSCE region and how countries should respond to expanding migrant, environmental and economic crises.

First Person: #UkraineElections 2019 — April 19, 2019

Election observation in Ukraine.

Chernobyl: Radioactive and Reclaimed by Nature — June 4, 2019

First person account of Rachel Bauman and Senior Senate Staff Representative Kyle Parker's visit to the site of the Chernobyl disaster and an analysis of future scenarios for the exclusion zone.

A New European Parliament — How Will EU-U.S. Relations Change? — June 5, 2019

Discussion of the May 2019 EU elections and the future of the transatlantic relationship.

Standard for Justice: June 10, 2010 — June 10, 2019

This Day in Commission History: a reflection on U.S. Helsinki Commission statements following the conviction of seven Bosnian Serb officials in the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

U.S. Helsinki Commission Participates in D-Day Commemorations — June 18, 2019

Helsinki Commission participation in D-Day commemorations for the 75th anniversary in Normandy.

Commemorating Hate: Lessons from the Past, Leadership for the Future — July 5, 2019
OSCE PA annual session in Luxembourg and Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin's role as Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.

Minority Faiths Under the Hungarian Religion Law — July 16, 2019
Update on Hungary's religion law, which stripped hundreds of faith of their legal status and deprived them of state resources to which they had previously been entitled.

Helsinki Commissioners Visit Hungary: Focus on Democracy, Strengthening Bilateral Relationships — July 17, 2019
Helsinki Commission Congressional Delegation to Hungary to discuss U.S.-Hungary relations and civil society.

Invasion and Revision: This Day in History July 22, 1981 — July 22, 2019
This Day in Commission History: Helsinki Commission response to the Soviet-Afghan War.

First Person: Ukrainian Parliamentary Elections — July 29, 2019
Senior Policy Advisor Alex Tiersky's firsthand account of observing the 2019 elections in Ukraine.

First Person: The Role of the Peace Corps in Promoting Democracy — July 30, 2019
Charles B. Rangel Fellow Gabriel Cortez' reflection on his time in the Peace Corps in Ukraine and the role of the Peace Corps in promoting democracy.

Simulating a Baltic Security Crisis — September 10, 2019
Helsinki Commission participation in a simulated security crisis in the Baltic Region, following a field hearing on Baltic Sea regional security.

2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting — September 13, 2019
OSCE 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, addressing hate crimes, media protections and minority rights.

A Global Pandemic: Disinformation — September 16, 2019
Analysis of the role of fake news, disinformation and misinformation campaigns around the world and solutions to stopping its dissemination.

Safe and Dignified Return: Action at the OSCE PA — September 20, 2019
OSCE PA 2019 Annual Session in Luxembourg's focus on the rights of refugees and the adopted Luxembourg Declaration.

The Lund Recommendations: 20 Years Later — September 24, 2019
Reflection on the anniversary of the 1999 Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life and current efforts.

Inclusive Leadership Summit — October 18, 2019 From September 18 to September 20, 2019, more than forty European and U.S. leaders representing 12 countries across Europe and the United States participated in the second annual Inclusive Leadership Summit.

Remembering Rep. Elijah E. Cummings and His Global Legacy in the Security Sector — October 24, 2019

Remembering Rep. Cumming's work in advancing diversity in the security sector and promoting security around the world.

2019 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting — October 28, 2019

Recap of OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension and Implementation Meeting in Vienna, Austria.

Helsinki Commission Provides Robust, Bipartisan U.S. Representation at Inter-Parliamentary Gathering in Morocco – November 4, 2019

Recap of Chairman Rep. Hastings-led congressional delegation to Marrakech, Morocco for the 18th Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA.

U.S. Helsinki Commission Hosts Staff Briefing on World's Biggest Data Set of Hate Crime Statistics – November 6, 2019

Article on Helsinki Commission briefing addressing hate crimes in Europe and the United States and on the ODIHR Annual Report on Hate Crime.

On the Road to Inclusion – December 4, 2019

Overview of U.S. Helsinki Commission and State Department transatlantic democracy program for young leaders.

Mongolia: The OSCE's Newest Participating State – December 17, 2019

Mongolia's participation in the OSCE since entering in 2012 and its commitment to OSCE commitments. Also includes overview of Helsinki Commission staff visit to Mongolia.

Appendix (E)

OSCE Participating States as of December 31, 2019

Country	Participating State
Albania	admitted as observer on June 20, 1990; admitted as fully participating State on June 19, 1991
Andorra	admitted as new participating State on April 25, 1996
Armenia	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Austria	original participating State
Azerbaijan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Belarus	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Belgium	original participating State
Bosnia-Herzegovina	admitted as new participating State on April 30, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, an original participating State)
Bulgaria	original participating State
Canada	original participating State
Croatia	admitted as observer on January 31, 1992; admitted as fully participating State on March 24, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, an original participating State)
Cyprus	original participating State
Czech Republic	admitted as new participating State on January 1, 1993 (previously participated as part of Czechoslovakia, original participating State)
Denmark	original participating State
Estonia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Finland	original participating State
France	original participating State
Georgia	admitted as new participating State on March 24, 1992

Germany	originally participated as two separate countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic; participation as single country began with German unification on October 3, 1990
Greece	original participating State
The Holy See	original participating State
Hungary	original participating State
Iceland	original participating State
Ireland	original participating State
Italy	original participating State
Kazakhstan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Kyrgyzstan	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Latvia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Liechtenstein	original participating State
Lithuania	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Luxembourg	original participating State
Malta	original participating State
Moldova	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Monaco	original participating State
Mongolia	admitted as a participating State on December 2, 2012
Montenegro	admitted as new participating State on June 26, 2006 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, and then as part of Serbia and Montenegro)
Netherlands	original participating State
North Macedonia	admitted as observer as of April 1993; admitted as new, fully participating State on October 12, 1995 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
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 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 Asian Partners for Cooperation

Afghanistan	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on April 3, 2003
Australia	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on January 1, 2010
Japan	affiliated with the Helsinki Process since July 10, 1992; formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Republic of Korea	formally designated Partner for Cooperation on December 7, 1995
Thailand	admitted as a Partner for Cooperation on Nov. 9, 2000