



COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND

COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**BUDGET REQUEST
FISCAL YEAR 2019**

AND

**ANNUAL REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

March 2018

Budget Authority and Appropriation Request for FY 2019

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly called “the Helsinki Commission”) was created on June 3, 1976, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, codified as 22 U.S.C. 3001, et. seq. This statute authorizes and directs the commission “. . . to monitor the acts of the signatories which reflect compliance with or violation of the articles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with particular regard to the provisions relating to human rights and Cooperation in Humanitarian Fields.” Information on the commission’s activities for calendar year 2016 is submitted pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 3006.

The Final Act was agreed to in Helsinki, Finland, in 1975 by 35 countries, including the United States, Canada, West and East European states, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The states which emerged as a result of the breakup of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia subsequently joined the Helsinki process, at which time each new participating State signed the Helsinki Final Act and explicitly and unconditionally agreed to all commitments of the Helsinki process. Mongolia joined the OSCE as a fully participating State in 2012, bringing OSCE membership to 57 countries.

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

As of January 1, 1995, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was further institutionalized as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), focusing on the promotion of free elections, human rights, democracy, conflict prevention and management, and regional security. The organization is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Specialized offices of the OSCE are also in The Hague, the Netherlands, and Warsaw, Poland, and the OSCE maintains field offices in a number of other countries. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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

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

For fiscal year 2019, the commission requests an appropriation of \$2,579,000 for salaries and expenses.

Annual Report: Implementing the Commission's Mandate in 2017

I. Commission Membership

The commission is composed of 21 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.

At the beginning of each odd-numbered Congress, the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Chairman and the Speaker designates a House Member as Co-Chairman. At the beginning of each even-numbered Congress, the Speaker designates a House Member as Chairman and the President of the Senate designates a Senate Member as Co-Chairman. In 2017, Senator Roger F. Wicker (MS) served as Chairman and Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04) Co-Chairman. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (MD) and Representative Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) were Ranking Members. (See Appendix (A) for the list of commissioners in the 115th Congress).

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

II. Commission Personnel

Staff responsibilities are noted in Appendix (B). The commission benefits from the assignment of a Senior Foreign Service Officer, detailed from the Department of State on a full-time basis. The Government Printing Office also details a printing clerk to the commission on a full-time basis.

Since its establishment, the commission has maintained a small but expert professional staff. Staff have expert knowledge in the geographical areas of the OSCE and in the human rights, military security, and economic and environmental dimensions of the Helsinki process. During this reporting period, staff members had proficiency in Russian, French, German, Italian and Spanish (all official languages in the OSCE).

Moreover, due to the extensive experience and service of the commission staff and their primary focus on OSCE issues, the commission provides a continuous and unmatched reservoir of institutional knowledge within the U.S. government on such matters and helps contribute to the development of a consistent and principled policy in keeping with its statutory mandate. This institutional knowledge has been used by Congress and U.S. government agencies, most especially the Department of State, in its preparation for, and participation, in a wide variety of OSCE meetings, as well as by non-governmental organizations and private sector institutions and think tanks. The OSCE community has also recognized the commission's unique leadership,

knowledge, and talent, consulting with commission staff in preparation for meetings, drafting of documents, and participating in other OSCE-related initiatives.

III. Overview

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

In 2017, the Commission held eight hearings, 28 briefings and significantly expanded its public outreach through web publications and broadcasting, social media, and enhanced analytical content.

The commission is mandated to monitor participating States' compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements, with particular attention to what is called in the OSCE "the human dimension."

The human dimension includes the freedoms of speech, assembly, and association; religious liberties; the treatment of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities; combatting anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of discrimination; and the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, and free and fair elections. The Helsinki Final Act also established ten core principles, known as the Decalogue, for guiding relations among participating States, including sovereign equality, the inviolability of frontiers, and respect for territorial integrity.

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

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

The commission pursues its mandate in a variety of ways. Hearings and briefings offer the most public forum to highlight violations of human rights and other OSCE commitments. For certain topics, administration officials testify on U.S. government policies. Commissioners may use these hearings to press the executive branch to take more resolute actions where circumstances warrant. In addition, the commission may receive testimony from the representatives of OSCE participating States when hearings or briefings are convened that directly relate to particular countries.

Webcasting has expanded the reach of commission hearings and briefings exponentially; in 2017, briefings alone reached nearly 228,000 remote viewers through live streaming on

Facebook. (For a complete listing of commission hearings and briefings, see Appendix (D).) The commission also serves as a venue for closed-door briefings and meetings for congressional staff. The commission organized meetings with State Department officials, Senior OSCE representatives, and NGOs.

In addition, commissioners raise specific human rights abuses with representatives of countries of concern in meetings, and through correspondence. Commissioners occasionally offer relevant legislation, resolutions, and *Congressional Record* statements. When warranted by human rights improvements, commissioners draw attention to positive developments as well.

Members of the commission regularly communicate their views to senior officials at the Department of State and other relevant U.S. government agencies and, when necessary, seek to raise or improve the level of U.S. engagement regarding specific countries, cases or issues, including related OSCE policies. Regular staff engagement with the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, the State Department country desk officers and human rights officers at U.S. Embassies abroad—posts with high turnover—helps ensure that these offices are kept informed of longstanding issues or emerging trends of concern to commissioners. The work of the commission has resulted in notable successes in helping to resolve human rights violations.

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

Although commissioners come from both the executive and legislative branches, the commission's leadership rests in the Congress and its membership is primarily drawn from the Congress. The commission works closely with individual Members, committees, subcommittees, and the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

The structure of the commission advances an understanding in foreign capitals that the Congress and the American people attach significant importance to respect for individual human rights and other aspects of the Helsinki process and consider these matters in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. The commission's bipartisan and bicameral nature, its tenure, and its efforts reaffirm that respect for such rights is a matter of basic principle for Americans. Equally important, the commission's work facilitates an understanding by foreign governments of the singular involvement of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs, an aspect of American politics that is often not well understood overseas.

The commission continues to be an active and highly effective 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 European security and cooperation. Following a mid-2016 overhaul of the commission's website, in 2017 web traffic increased a record 45% over 2016

web traffic. This reflected increased Commission activity as well as increased content in terms of quantity and kinds of information published.

In the 2017 calendar year, commissioners and staff attended public fora, delivered presentations, and participated in panel discussions in an effort to heighten public awareness of Helsinki commitments and issues involving specific OSCE participating States. Commission initiatives were covered by a broad spectrum of both the domestic press—ranging from the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post* to *GQ* and *Time*—and foreign media, including *VOA*, *RFE/RL*, and the *BBC*.

The commission has also been the single most active voice for ensuring that the meetings and processes of the OSCE are as open as possible and that non-governmental organizations can participate fully in OSCE human dimension activities.

IV. Countries and Regions of Particular Focus

The commission pays particular attention to those OSCE participating States where persistent violations of human rights or democratic norms occur (especially states where authoritarian regimes cling to power); where there is potential, ongoing or residual conflict; where developments open windows of opportunity to advance human rights; or where there is marked deterioration. In addition to working to address current human rights violations, members of the commission have also sought to improve accountability for past acts, including genocide and mass atrocities. Commissioners also engage on some aspects of the United States' own implementation record, particularly when those issues are raised in the OSCE context.

Russia—Internal Repression

Russia's internal repression against its own people, external aggression against Ukraine, and threats to U.S. and European security continued to be a focus of Helsinki Commission work throughout calendar year 2017.

In early February, Helsinki Commissioners were shocked to learn that Russian democracy activist Vladimir Kara-Murza, who had testified before the commission in 2015 after barely surviving a poison attack in Russia, had for a second time fallen into a coma with "acute poisoning from an undetermined substance." In April, the still-frail Kara-Murza testified at a hearing convened by Chairman Wicker with representatives from Freedom House and Human Rights Watch. The hearing was the first in the 115th Congress focused on internal human rights repression in Russia.

In December, on the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act (title IV of P. L. 112 – 208; 22 USC 5811 note), originally introduced by Sen. Cardin, Chairman Wicker convened a hearing to review its implementation, the resistance of the Russian government to it, and the impact of sanctions on senior members of Putin's inner circle. The law was named for Russian tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who was brutally murdered in prison after uncovering the theft of \$230 million by corrupt Russian officials. It established punitive sanctions, including financial freezes and visa restrictions, for those complicit in Magnitsky's murder and other human rights abuses in the Russian Federation.

Russia's repressive government continues to prevent the functioning of democratic institutions. Free and independent media remained virtually non-existent and the remaining state-controlled media was used to propagandize disinformation and aggression, particularly to advance Moscow's actions in and against Ukraine. In September, Helsinki Commissioner Sen. Cory Gardner (CO) chaired a commission hearing on Russian disinformation, a tool designed to undermine democratic institutions and weaken critical Western alliances such as NATO and the EU.

Chairman Wicker and Co-Chairman Smith also protested actions in Russia that effectively ban Jehovah's Witnesses from worshipping by claiming that they are members of an "extremist organization." In October, the Helsinki Commission organized a joint briefing with the House Freedom of the Press Caucus with remarks from Co-Chairs Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1) and Representative Adam Schiff (CA-28). The briefing focused on intimidation, harassment, arrest, attacks, and murders of journalists in Russia and post-Soviet states. In May and August, commission publications profiled specific cases in Russia of political prisoners and persecuted journalists respectively.

Russia—External Aggression

In May, Chairman Wicker held a Helsinki Commission hearing illuminating Russia's military threats in Europe, its invasion of Ukraine and its attempts to influence events in other neighboring countries, and Russia's ongoing violations of arms control agreements and confidence-building measures.

Chairman Wicker also discussed the conflict in Ukraine, the OSCE's work to provide an accurate depiction of activities and compliance with international treaties, and Russian activity trends in the Arctic and North Atlantic regions with Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commander, U.S. European Command / Supreme Allied Commander Europe, at a March Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. Gen. Scaparrotti stated that there is reason to be concerned as Russia is more aggressive and expanding its presence in the area. He recommended that the U.S. reestablish Cold War deterrence practices in the region. A subsequent Helsinki Commission report addressed the three key themes that arose from the SASC hearing from Helsinki Commissioners' questioning: the challenges Russian military activities, including exercises, pose to the stability of the European security environment; Moscow's flaunting of its security-related commitments; and the role of the OSCE in addressing these violations.

In April, Chairman Wicker introduced S.Con.Res.13. Cosponsored by all other Senate members of the commission, the resolution encourages President Trump to reaffirm America's commitment to the principles and implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. In particular, the resolution calls on the President to urge other participating States to respect their OSCE commitments and to condemn the Russian Federation's "clear, gross, and uncorrected violations" of all ten OSCE principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. Chairman Wicker noted that, "with its actions in Ukraine and Georgia, the Russian Federation in particular has demonstrated how closely internal repression can be tied to external aggression."

In March, the Helsinki Commission organized an interactive, informal, simulation for congressional staff led by the RAND Corporation, which demonstrated RAND's research on the shape and probable outcome of a near-term hypothetical Russian invasion of the Baltic states. The meeting followed the commission's December 2016 briefing, Baltic Security After the Warsaw NATO Summit, where RAND expert Michael Johnson presented the research and war-game approach exploring how a hypothetical Russian invasion of the Baltics would actually play out tactically.

At the invitation of the Government of Belarus, the Helsinki Commission's global security and political-military affairs advisor was one of only two Americans permitted to observe staff member the Joint Strategic Military Exercise ("ZAPAD 2017") conducted by Russia and Belarus from September 14 to September 20. The invitation to the Helsinki commission from the Belarusian president was extended in Minsk when Belarus hosted the 2017 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual session.

Ukraine

On April 23, American citizen Joseph Stone was killed while serving as a paramedic with the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in separatist-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine. Two other SMM personnel, from Germany and the Czech Republic, were also injured in the incident when their vehicle struck a landmine. Stone's death underscored the human cost of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that has resulted in more than 10,000 deaths, some 25,000 wounded, and more than 1.6 million displaced persons. From the floor of the Senate, Chairman Wicker honored Stone's service, observing that his death reaffirmed the need for the OSCE monitors to have unfettered access across the front lines and across the border regions controlled by the separatists. Leaders of the Helsinki Commission condemned the circumstances that led to Stone's death at hearings in Washington and meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Europe.

In the aftermath of Stone's death, commission staff provided background to members of Congress, the press, and the public on Russia's invasion and the work of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission.

SMM reports remain the only source of verifiable, public information on the ongoing conflict and the grave, daily impact it has on the local civilian population. In November, the commission organized a briefing by Alexander Hug, Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict; and an overview of the role of OSCE monitors and the threats they face in carrying out their duties.

A commission briefing focused on the fate of Ukrainian nationals imprisoned by Russia and the illustrative case filmmaker Oleg Sentsov. In May 2014, Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov—an outspoken opponent of Russia's takeover of his native Crimea—disappeared from his hometown of Simferopol only to resurface in Russian custody in Moscow. Convicted on charges of terrorism that the human rights community has condemned as fabricated, Sentsov is now serving a 20-year sentence in a Siberian penal colony.

Turkey

Human rights and democracy in Turkey declined more steeply and precipitously than in any other country in the OSCE region.

In July 2016, an attempted coup in Turkey was followed by a crackdown against alleged coup plotters that swept thousands into prison. In 2017, human rights abuses by the Turkish government proliferated under the state-sanctioned emergency measures imposed in the aftermath of the July 2016 coup attempt. Turkish authorities fired as many as 130,000 public workers, including teachers, academics, police officers, and soldiers, and thousands have been arrested. Hundreds of journalists have had their credentials revoked and dozens of media outlets have been shut down. Human rights groups have documented widespread reports of intimidation, ill treatment, and torture of those in police custody.

For the second consecutive year, Turkey was the world's worst jailer of journalists, with 73 journalists imprisoned for their work. (Worldwide, 262 journalists are behind bars.)

On April 16, Turkey held a referendum on a package of amendments which further consolidated power in the hands of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The position of prime minister was eliminated and the executive powers of the president were expanded, enabling Erdoğan to appoint ministers without parliamentary approval, exert more influence over the judiciary, and call early elections.

In May, the Helsinki Commission co-hosted a briefing with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to examine the situation in Turkey following the referendum changes. Lantos Commission Co-Chairman Rep. James P. McGovern opened the briefing. Chairman Wicker also released a statement expressing concern that Turkey's transformation could undermine the strength of its partnership with the United States. He called on Turkey to lift the state of emergency, stop all forms of repression against the free press, release all imprisoned journalists and political activists, and urgently restore public confidence in the judiciary.

That message was echoed in a letter to President Donald Trump in advance of his meeting in May with Turkish President Erdoğan. The four senior members of the Helsinki Commission—Chairman Wicker, Co-Chairman Smith, Ranking Commissioner Senator Cardin, and Ranking Commissioner Representative Hastings—along with Helsinki Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Representative Randy Hultgren (IL-14) and Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Representative Jim McGovern (MA-02), urged President Trump to seek guarantees that several U.S. citizens currently jailed in Turkey will have their cases promptly and fairly adjudicated and receive full consular assistance.

The letter highlighted the cases of Andrew Brunson, an American pastor, and Serkan Golge, a NASA scientist, both of whom were arrested in Turkey following the coup. At least seven additional American citizens are currently jailed in Turkey.

The letter also noted the case of Hamza Uluçay, a Turkish national employed by the U.S. Consulate in Adana who was arrested earlier this year by Turkish authorities. On the anniversary of the coup attempt, Chairman Wicker and Co-Chairman Smith called on Turkey to end the state

of emergency, release all prisoners of conscience, and guarantee full due process to all those who face credible charges.

In connection with the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September and its focus on the rule of law, the commission released a profile of Serkan Golge, a NASA scientist based in Houston, Texas. At the time the profile was published, Golge had spent 14 months in a Turkish prison, caught in the same dragnet that has ensnared tens of thousands of Turkish nationals since the failed coup attempt.

In October, just hours after President Erdoğan announced a fifth three-month extension of the country's state of emergency, Chairman Wicker, Co-Chairman Smith, Ranking Commissioner Senator Cardin, and Ranking Commissioner Representative Hastings wrote to President Erdoğan urging him to lift the state of emergency that has been in place in Turkey since July 2016 and uphold Turkey's commitment to due process and judicial independence. The letter, also signed by Helsinki Commissioners Senator Marco Rubio (FL), Senator Thom Tillis (NC), Representative Robert B. Aderholt (AL-04), Representative Hultgren, Representative Gwen Moore (WI-04), and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), stated that the prolonged state of emergency is gravely undermining Turkey's democratic institutions and the durability of our countries' longstanding strategic partnership.

Helsinki Commissioner Tillis subsequently presided over a November hearing focused on the mass arrest of tens of thousands of people caught in the post-coup purge, the treatment of American detainees including pastor Andrew Brunson, and deteriorating democratic institutions, particularly the judiciary. Pastor Brunson's daughter, Jacqueline Furnari, testified—the first time a member of his family spoke about his imprisonment before Congress. The Department of State's Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, Jonathan R. Cohen, also testified.

Turkey's repressive measures also affected the work of the OSCE. At the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September, Turkey walked out to protest the registration of a U.S.-based NGO it claimed was a "terrorist" organization due to its alleged connections to Fethullah Gülen and subsequently boycotted the remainder of the meeting. Turkey has continued to demand changes to the public access to and transparency of the OSCE in ways that would have far reaching negative consequences if adopted.

Belarus

U.S. sanctions on Belarus for its egregious human rights and democracy record, spearheaded by Co-Chairman Smith, remain in place.

Mass media is subject to restrictions that impede free expression. Belarus refuses to restore the political rights of former political prisoners, a tool used by the government to neutralize political opponents. The government continues to bring legal procedures brought against people for public demonstrations. Some activists are subjected to a regime of "catch and release"—cyclical arrest, detention, and release without trial and conviction. Engagement in Belarus by the International Republican Institute, National Endowment for Democracy, and National Democratic Institute is still suspended or limited because in 2005, the Belarusian government

made it a criminal act to participate in any unregistered organization or party and banned foreign assistance for NGOs.

In 2016, Belarus offered Minsk as the venue for the 2017 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session. Although there continued to be serious and systemic human rights problems in Belarus, convening the PA meeting there offered an opportunity to put a spotlight on those issues and push for further change.

Prior to the annual meeting, political prisoners were released and a Soviet-style “social parasite” law was suspended (it was fully repealed in early 2018). In a meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko during the OSCE PA Annual Session in Minsk, some members of the U.S. delegation used the opportunity to press for additional reforms.

The commission met with Belarusian officials throughout the year to raise these and other issues. Following the meeting in Minsk, the commission held a briefing on “engaging Belarus on human rights and democracy” with representatives of NDI and IRI. In November, the commission published a report on Belarus with concrete recommendations, including support for OSCE recommendations for electoral reform. Since 1994, the OSCE has not found any Belarusian elections to be free or fair.

Western Balkans

The commission remains deeply engaged in the Western Balkans and other long-standing efforts to achieve justice in the OSCE region. Chairman Wicker welcomed Montenegro into NATO in March, following U.S. Senate approval of the accession of Montenegro to the alliance.

In November, Chairman Wicker, Co-Chairman Smith, Ranking Commissioner Senator Cardin and Ranking Commissioner Representative Hastings applauded the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia’s (ICTY) guilty verdict in the trial of Bosnian Serb wartime commander Ratko Mladic, a senior officer in the Yugoslav military based in Croatia during the conflict that followed Croatia’s assertion of independent statehood in 1991. Mladic was held responsible for the siege of Sarajevo and the genocide at Srebrenica, each of which led to many thousands of deaths. He was found guilty of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

The Mladic trial was the culmination of ICTY’s two decades of work as the first ad hoc tribunal designed to hold individuals accountable for war-related crimes since the Nuremburg and Tokyo trials following World War II. The Helsinki Commission and its leadership played a critical role in the establishment of the tribunal in the mid-1990s. Commission leaders have consistently and strongly encouraged U.S. support for ICTY and the cooperation of the countries of the Western Balkans with the tribunal.

In December, after more than two decades of ground-breaking efforts to prosecute the individuals responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, the ICTY prepared to conclude its work. At a commission briefing, the Tribunal’s Chief Prosecutor assessed the ICTY’s achievements and limitations and what still needs to be done by the countries of the region to seek justice in outstanding cases, bring greater closure to victims, and foster greater reconciliation among peoples.

Throughout 2017, the commission continued to closely follow other developments in the Western Balkans, U.S. policy options, and the role of the OSCE in the region. In January, the United States applied sanctions on Milorad Dodik, President of the Republika Srpska entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for obstructing implementation of the 1995 Dayton Accords, thereby threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. In May, Chairman Wicker met with Austrian diplomat Valentin Inzko, the High Representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and discussed the need to maintain active U.S. diplomatic representation in Bosnia, as well as the potential impact of sanctions or other actions against obstructionist political leaders. At a subsequent commission hearing on Russia's military threat to Europe, expert witnesses indicated the Western Balkans were in "Russian crosshairs" to influence and destabilize.

With Bosnia-Herzegovina a country of particular interest, Chairman Wicker joined fellow Commissioner Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH) in introducing S.864, the Balkan Enterprise Partnership Act, to support economic opportunity and political progress in Bosnia-Herzegovina through the creation of an enterprise fund that will provide financial investment and technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Since the outbreak of the conflicts associated with Yugoslavia's break-up in the early 1990s, the OSCE and its field missions have been a central part of the global response. OSCE field missions continue to exist in virtually every country of the region. In November, the commission held a briefing with Americans who had served or currently are serving in senior positions on OSCE missions in region, joined by Ambassador Marcel Peško, the current Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre in the OSCE Secretariat. The briefing was an important opportunity to consider the remaining challenges in the Western Balkans as well as the role of the OSCE in advancing long-term stability of the region through activities that broadly support democratic institutions and governance.

In the context of the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and its focus on the rule of law, the commission published a staff report on the murder of three American citizen brothers—Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi—who were murdered in 1999 while in the custody of a special operations unit of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs. No individual has been found guilty—or even charged—for the murder of the Bytyqi brothers. Senior U.S. officials and members of Congress, including several serving on the Helsinki Commission, have urged repeatedly that Serbian authorities, including war crimes prosecutors, take action in regard to this case; H. Con. Res. 20 also expresses this view.

In the context of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting's focus on free and fair elections, the commission published a staff report on political participation and ethnic division in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In particular, the report focused on the failure of Bosnia-Herzegovina to implement a decision of the European Court on Human Rights to reform its political system and end *de jure* discrimination. The case was brought jointly by two Bosnian citizens, one Jewish and one Romani, who are legally prevented from holding certain elected and government positions according to a negotiated framework put in place in 1995 intended to help end the bloody ethnic conflict.

Central Europe

Following a series of roundtables focused on Central Europe convened for congressional staff, a July briefing looked at the specific cases of Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland. Panelists from the region addressed concerns regarding the health of the democratic transition in the region, particularly in the face of ongoing governance challenges and persistent corruption.

Chairman Wicker convened a hearing to assess the anti-corruption work in Romania, a country that has been held up as a model for Ukraine and other countries. Witnesses focused on the goal of advancing anti-corruption initiatives consistent with the rule of law.

The commission also addressed issues relating to the Romani minority in the region. In February, the commission hosted a screening of the critically acclaimed Romanian film “Aferim!” (Bravo!), the first Romanian film to depict the enslavement of Roma in 19th century Romania. The screening was timed to coincide with the day that Romania commemorates the end of slavery in Romania and a representative of the Romanian Embassy participated in a panel discussion following the screening.

In August, Chairman Wicker commended the Czech Government for its decision to remove a pig farm on the site of the World War II concentration camp at Lety. The commission had long advocated the need to ensure a proper memorial at the concentration camp site and previously ensured that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was able to secure a copy of the camp’s archives, the only archives of a concentration camp for Roma known to have survived the war.

Central Asia

Helsinki Commission briefings and reports addressed the human rights situation in Central Asian countries, paying particular attention to the situation for journalists, elections, and religious liberties.

Turkmenistan remained the most isolated and repressive state in the OSCE region since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. No independent media, political parties, or human rights organizations exist.

The commission continued to seek answers regarding persons who have disappeared in Turkmenistan’s notorious prisons. Helsinki Commission staff joined a panel at the OSCE’s annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to present a book of poetry written by Turkmenistan’s former Foreign Minister and former Ambassador to the OSCE Batyr Berdiev; the poems were smuggled out of prison and only recently translated. Berdiev was arrested in December 2002 in connection with an alleged coup attempt against then-President Niyazov in November 2002. His “confession” was broadcast on Turkmenistan television later that month, and he was convicted in January 2003 in a closed trial and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He is one of more than 100 people who have disappeared in Turkmenistan’s prisons.

Ahead of October presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan, the commission held a briefing on the political dynamics surrounding the vote, the conduct of the election campaign, and broader human rights issues. The elections were particularly significant for the region because outgoing President Almazbek Atambayev was actually abiding by his constitutional term limit. However,

the vote took place amid mounting concerns of democratic backsliding, particularly regarding the government's treatment of political opposition, civil society, and human rights defenders. Additionally, the election marks only the second peaceful transition of power through elections in Kyrgyzstan following two revolutions—in 2005 and in 2010. Commission staff also participated in the country's OSCE election observation mission.

Commission staff traveled to Uzbekistan to participate in an OSCE conference on media issues and for other consultations. Like Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan remained one of the most repressive countries in the OSCE, using the fight against terrorism to justify a stringent religion law and the imprisonment of many devout Muslims, as well as opposition figures, independent journalists, and human rights activists. A single dictator, Islam Karimov, ruled Uzbekistan from 1989 until his death in late 2016. In 2017, at least sixteen political prisoners were released and there were signs that the human rights situation may ease. Helsinki Commission engagement will be especially important during this period of transition.

The Caucasus and Moldova

In March, Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cardin introduced a Senate resolution supporting the territorial integrity of the nation of Georgia. S.Res.106 condemns the ongoing military intervention and occupation of Georgia by the Russian Federation, as well as Russia's continuous illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region (South Ossetia). The bill also urges Russia to live up to its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, which calls upon signatories to respect the territorial integrity of each of the other participating States of the OSCE.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains one of the world's longest running and seemingly intractable territorial and ethnic disputes. Its fragile no-peace, no-war situation poses a serious threat to stability in the South Caucasus region and beyond. As part of the Helsinki Commission's continued engagement on security challenges across Europe and Eurasia, the commission published a report on the conflict, laying out the conflict's origins and recent evolution, as well as the role of key players including Russia, the United States, and the OSCE. In addition, in October, the commission organized a briefing on averting war in Nagorno-Karabakh, hearing from former U.S. negotiators on the conflict and International Crisis Group.

The commission examined other political and human rights issues in the region. In late March and early April, commission staff participated in the OSCE election observation mission in Armenia.

In May, commission staff participated in the OSCE annual South Caucasus Media Conference, convened in Tbilisi, Georgia. Independent journalists reported on the situation in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan with a focus on disinformation.

Other commission briefings and publications reported on religious liberty and free media concerns in Azerbaijan. In March, Chairman Wicker and Co-Chairman Smith called on Azerbaijan to immediately release all remaining political prisoners and honor its OSCE commitments to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. They noted that former

presidential candidate Ilgar Mammadov is in his fifth year in prison on politically motivated charges.

The commission follows the situation in Moldova, both with respect to the frozen conflict in Transnistria along Moldova's eastern border with Ukraine, where Russia has had a "peacekeeping" force since 1992, and the generally unstable political situation. In June, commission staff participated in the Moldova "Reality Check." The "Reality Check" is a policy review process convened by the Vilnius-based Eastern Europe Studies Centre aiming to gather insights from top domestic and international analysts, practitioners, diplomats, and policy-makers working in and on the Eastern Partnership countries.

The Mediterranean Region

The OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia) and four Asian Partners for Cooperation (Afghanistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand). Australia is also an OSCE Partner for Cooperation.

The OSCE framework provides an additional avenue for dialogue on a range of issues. Although these countries are not signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, the act recognizes that security in Europe is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole. On an operational level, Partners for Cooperation are invited to send observers to participate in OSCE election missions and may second mission members to OSCE field missions. Some Partner States also make voluntary budgetary contributions to the work of the OSCE.

In 2017, the commission was particularly active on issues relating to the Mediterranean. Ahead of the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, several members of the U.S. Delegation led by Chairman Wicker visited Italy, Jordan, and Israel. At the Naples-based headquarters of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, members were briefed on key military issues, including ongoing operations against ISIS; migration flows across the Mediterranean; and Russia's increasingly assertive regional military posture and activities.

In Jordan, King Abdullah II received the delegation and expressed his appreciation for the enduring support of the United States for his government and Jordan's people. He underscored the importance of American leadership in the region and reviewed the regional and domestic challenges facing Jordan, particularly the security and humanitarian consequences of the civil war in Syria and war against ISIS.

In Israel, the delegation met with Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who stressed the grave and existential threat posed by Iran through its nuclear ambitions, advanced missile program, and regional terrorist proxies. He urged the United States to exercise leadership in the region to marginalize destabilizing forces and achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The Delegation also met with Israeli Deputy Minister for Diplomacy Michael Oren and Political Director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Alon Usphiz, who expressed concerns about the instability that arises from power vacuums left by conflicts like the war in Syria.

In connection with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session in Belarus, the U.S. Delegation also visited the Mediterranean nations of Egypt and Greece.

In Cairo, members met with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Shoukry to discuss counterterrorism cooperation, ways to address regional instability, Egypt's plans for economic reform, and respect for human rights. They also met with a group of Islamic religious scholars and Christian prelates to discuss countering extremism and fostering mutual respect and tolerance.

In Athens, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Defense Minister Panos Kammenos met with delegation participants to discuss Greece's response to its ongoing debt crisis, Mediterranean migration flows, and threats to regional stability.

V. Other Human Rights Issues

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

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

Principle VII Detainees

Throughout the year, the commission sought to identify and highlight specific cases of individuals imprisoned in violation of their Principle VII right. Chairman Wicker profiled six illustrative cases of P-VII detainees at the hearing on human rights in Russia, as Commissioner Tillis did at a subsequent hearing on Turkey. A commission briefing focused on Ukrainians imprisoned by Russia as part of Russia's war against Ukraine. Commission publications and leadership statements also addressed other specific cases in Turkey, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Commission participation in the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting ensured specific cases were raised by the United States.

Freedom of Religion

All 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have committed to recognize and respect religious freedom as a fundamental freedom. However, some OSCE countries are among the worst perpetrators of religious freedom violations in the world.

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are currently identified by the Department of State as “Countries of Particular Concern,” a designation required by U.S. law for governments that have “engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom.”

In March, Chairman Wicker, Co-Chairman Smith, and Commissioner Representative Richard Hudson (NC-08) spoke out against the Russian government’s action to ban Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia from worshipping under the guise of counter-terrorism.

A briefing on religious liberties in November echoed those views, amplified concerns about “Countries of Particular Concern,” and shed light on the evolving situations in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are following Russia’s model of repressive practices regarding freedom of religion. Uzbekistan show a glimmer of positive movement that warrants close engagement.

Co-Chairman Smith also condemned the Turkish government’s expropriation of a Syriac Orthodox monastery in the context of post-coup attempt repression. In August, Co-Chairman Smith participated in the International Catholic Legislators Network annual meeting in Rome. Commission staff also participated in an international consultation on Christian persecution convened in Budapest by Hungary’s Government.

Commission articles also detailed the situation of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan, profiling the case of Teymur Akhmedov who has been imprisoned for his faith, and religious discrimination against Methodists and other faiths under Hungary’s 2011 law on religion.

Freedom of Media and Freedom of Expression

Recognizing that freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of the media are essential elements of democracy, commission leaders called for the release of imprisoned journalists and for credible investigations of and prosecutions for attacks against journalists. Commission hearings, briefings, statements, and publications focused in particular on Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, where large numbers of journalists have been imprisoned, attacked or killed.

In the context of the OSCE’s Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the commission released a report on the abuse criminal defamation and insult laws for political purposes and as a tool to suppress free speech. The commission’s recommendations for Belarus also specifically called for the repeal of laws which criminalize libel and make insulting the president or other officials an offense, and laws that criminalize providing media services without accreditation. In November, the commission held a briefing on Internet freedom.

The commission engaged closely with the Department of State in 2017 regarding the appointment process for new senior officials, including a new OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. During the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the commission organized an event with the representative and representatives of participating States to convey commission views on freedom of expression.

Free and Fair Elections

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

Commissioners and staff participate in OSCE election observation missions as part of the Parliamentary Assembly component, allowing commissioners and staff to observe key elections. In 2017, staff participated in OSCE missions to observe elections in Armenia (late March/early April), Kyrgyzstan (September), Germany (September). Commission staff also held meetings related to the French parliamentary elections (June).

In spite of the OSCE commitment to hold free and fair elections, some OSCE participating States have demonstrated even more resistance—if not complete unwillingness—to hold free and fair elections. In a few, a transfer of power is more likely to be the result of death than an election. In some cases, an entire generation has come of age under a single ruler or ruling family.

A commission report issued in connection with the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting asked "Who Stays in Power the Longest and Why?" A separate report looked at *de jure* discrimination in Bosnia-Herzegovina that prohibits Jews, Roma, and other minorities from holding some government offices.

Migration, Refugees, and Displaced Persons

Since 2015, more than 2 million people have traveled north across the Mediterranean Sea, seeking refuge from wars, political repression, famine, and climates of economic and social unrest. In 2017 alone, more than 133,000 refugees and migrants arrived on European shores. Such large population movements leave thousands of people vulnerable to exploitation by human traffickers and other predators. Asylum seekers and migrants, as well as citizens and permanent legal residents who are visibly minorities, have faced a backlash that includes discrimination and violent attacks.

In October, the commission brought together international experts and NGO representatives to assess the current humanitarian situation facing these refugees and the root causes of their flight.

A December briefing focused on sea rescues. In 2017, ships on the Mediterranean rescued at least 117,000 refugees and migrants. Commission staff also participated in an OSCE expert meeting in Brussels on migrants and refugees. In June, the commission published a background paper explaining the difference between human smuggling and human trafficking.

Human Trafficking

Co-Chairman Smith serves as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues and, in that capacity, reported to the Assembly's winter meeting and annual session on his meetings with government officials, newly enacted best practices in the United States, and anti-trafficking bills he authored.

At the 2017 annual session of the OSCE PA, Co-Chairman Smith introduced a supplementary item on “Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Online through Advances in Technology.” The resolution, which examined the ways protections for children have lagged behind technology leaving children vulnerable to trafficking, was adopted. Co-Chairman Smith was also a keynote speaker at a side event in Minsk for lawmakers and civil society on trafficking issues.

Co-Chairman Smith’s efforts culminated in the adoption of a decision on child trafficking in December at the annual ministerial meeting of the OSCE participating States. The consensus decision was modeled on Parliamentary Assembly resolutions he authored and adopted in 2016 and 2017. Titled “Strengthening Efforts to Combat All Forms of Child Trafficking, Including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children,” the decision provides practical steps for participating States to protect children from traveling sex offenders, and from misuse of the Internet for child trafficking and other sexual exploitation. Co-Chairman Smith first raised the issue of human trafficking at the 1999 OSCE PA Annual Session in St. Petersburg, Russia, the first time it appeared on the OSCE agenda.

In October, the Helsinki Commission screened “Trafficked,” a drama based on Siddharth Kara’s award-winning book, follows the stories of three girls from different countries as they lose and reclaim their freedom. The screening was followed by a panel discussion of the root causes of vulnerability to trafficking, the role of the buyer in trafficking, police corruption and accountability, the psychological effects of trafficking on survivors, and the road to recovery. Commission staff participated in a seminar on “Rights of the Child: Children in Situations of Risk,” focused on vulnerabilities in the context of incarceration or detention and on human trafficking of children.

Child Abduction and Inter-Country Adoptions

Co-Chairman Smith chaired a briefing on international parental child abduction, hearing the personal stories of a victim of parental child abduction to Greece, and from parents whose children were abducted to Greece, Japan, Mali, and Slovakia (later moved to Hungary). In November, the commission held a briefing examining the declining number of inter-country adoptions by Americans. While this decline may reflect an increase in economic stability and domestic adoptions in some children’s home countries, it may also reflect a need for change in the U.S. adoption processes and international aid priorities.

Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance

The commission continued to advance efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region, particularly manifested by violence against Jews, Roma, Muslims, other minorities, and migrants. The commission supported efforts to advance Holocaust era property compensation or restitution, restorative justice, and mass atrocity accountability. Throughout the year, these issues were an active part of commission public outreach and engagement with civil society.

Ranking Commissioner Senator Cardin served as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance. In that capacity, he submitted reports to the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to the Annual Session.

Ranking Member Cardin also held consultations with civil society and government officials on the full range of issues included within his mandate.

In March, Chairman Wicker and Ranking Commissioner Senator Cardin participated in a roundtable on anti-Semitism and intolerance in the OSCE region convened by OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Director Michael Link in Washington and focused on the active role of civil society organizations in the United States and Europe in combating anti-Semitism and violent hate crime.

Commission staff also participated in the OSCE's "Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism" project in Barcelona, which increases the capacity of countries and civil society to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism through security, education, and coalition-building measures.

In March, the commission, in partnership with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), the U.S. State Department, and other stakeholders, hosted the sixth annual Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) workshop in Brussels, Belgium.

In connection with the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference in September, European legislators participated in a Capitol Hill event hosted by Helsinki Commissioners Representative Moore, Representative Jackson Lee, and Representative Hastings on the potentially far-reaching impact of BREXIT and key European elections for the OSCE region.

The Helsinki Commission has had a long record of engagement on issues relating to the human rights of Roma including addressing mob violence against Roma, ending sterilization without informed consent of Romani women, and addressing the denial of citizenship. Following the TILN event in March, thirty-five Romani elected officials and civil society representatives participated in a program organized by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in cooperation with the Helsinki Commission, as part of the European Union's "Roma Week." In November, the commission held a briefing on the situation of Roma. Commission staff also participated in the Department of State's annual training workshop for reporting officer on Romani human rights issues.

VI. Other Issues

Cybersecurity

State-based cyber threats are an increasingly dominant part of the global security landscape. The OSCE has, in recent years, sought to play a leading role in the international system by developing confidence building measures (CBMs) between states to reduce the risks of cyber conflict. Cyber diplomacy at the OSCE features discussions and agreements among 57 participating States, including the United States and Russia.

In September, the commission held a briefing on cyber diplomacy to examine how such OSCE CBMs—which are voluntary in nature and designed to allow states to read one another's postures in cyberspace—might decrease the risk of cyber conflict.

Counterterrorism

As terrorist threats have multiplied in their scope and scale, the 57-member OSCE has sought to play an increasingly central role in facilitating international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, including addressing conditions that create fertile ground for terrorist groups to recruit.

At a Helsinki Commission briefing in October, Dr. Peter Neumann, the OSCE's Austrian Chairmanship's 2017 Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism, presented findings from his report on the OSCE's activities to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Diversity and Inclusion in the Security Sector

A demographic shift spanning both sides of the Atlantic has brought the issues of diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the agendas in the public and private sector, including the security sector, across the OSCE region. Historically, racial, ethnic, religious, and gender minority groups have been underrepresented in the security sector, yet they hold untapped potential to address the new and complex challenges of the 21st century.

At a July briefing, military and police officials from the French, German, Dutch, and United Kingdom governments discussed the ways in which recruitment, personnel, and other security workforce policies and practices are changing in light of Europe's increasing ethnic and religious diversity.

Good Governance, Energy, and Environmental Cooperation

Throughout 2017, the commission maintained an intense focus on corruption.

Three commission events in 2017 focused on different aspects of kleptocracy. An October hearing chaired by Commissioner Whitehouse focused on the development of the EU's beneficial ownership transparency provisions as well as the success of their implementation as it relates to corruption as a vector for authoritarian influence in Europe. Witnesses also discussed transparency and anti-money laundering policies in the United States as they relate to U.S. foreign policy.

A July briefing on "Kleptocrats of The Kremlin" explored ties between business and power in Russia. In December, a commission briefing looked at how the wide-ranging provisions of the Global Magnitsky Act can be used to combat kleptocracy.

The World Bank estimates that 20 billion to 40 billion dollars are stolen from developing countries every year. The majority of stolen funds are never found; even if they are, recovering stolen assets and repatriating victims is a complicated process. In June, the Helsinki Commission held a briefing on asset recovery in the OSCE region. Panelists at the briefing discussed methods to achieve responsible repatriation for corruption.

The global illicit tobacco trade costs governments around the globe approximately \$40 billion to \$50 billion annually. This money is frequently used to fund other criminal activities such as

human trafficking, drug trafficking, and terrorism. Chairman Wicker convened a hearing in July that examined how tax policies fuel tobacco smuggling in the OSCE region and how governments might respond.

Chairman Wicker convened a hearing to examine Romania's anti-corruption efforts, which have simultaneously been held up as a model for other countries and criticized as excessive. In November, the commission issued a detailed report on corruption in Ukraine. The report recommended that Ukraine establish an anticorruption court and end the escalating harassment of civil society.

The Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE agreements established a framework for promoting good governance and energy and environmental cooperation. In July, a Helsinki Commission briefing looked at energy security in Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, and examined challenges and opportunities in the energy sectors of these states. Russia has used its neighbors' dependence on its energy supplies as a source of leverage and sought to keep their energy sectors underdeveloped and corrupt. A Helsinki Commission follow-up report published in August discussed breaking Russia's grip on post-Soviet energy security. In October, a commission briefing examined emerging issues stemming from increased navigability and technological advances in the Arctic. The changes open the way for further exploration, and an abundance of natural resources is driving investment in the region.

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

The commission continues to focus on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy, human rights as part of a comprehensive approach to security, and the OSCE. Engagement with senior 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.

Commission leaders also engage directly with senior OSCE political leaders. 2017 was exceptional in that the four most senior positions in the OSCE—Secretary General, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the High Commissioner on National Minorities—were vacant simultaneously. Chairman Wicker met with many of the candidates for these positions during their consultations in Washington and the commission engaged with the Department of State throughout the appointment process.

The commission also published numerous background papers explaining current OSCE issues or aspects of the OSCE's work. In the context of the selection of new senior officials, the commission published a paper on each of the four positions explaining their respective mandates and how each is selected. A detailed report on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh looked at OSCE conflict de-escalation efforts. Other background papers examined the OSCE decision-making process and the "Moscow mechanism," a tool used to establish extraordinary missions.

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. Commission staff also reinforced specialized OSCE meetings on trafficking in human beings, tolerance and non-discrimination, legal issues relating to the OSCE, economic issues, and military security. Participation in U.S. delegations to OSCE meetings enables commission staff to advance commissioner priorities, provide U.S. delegations with expertise on the OSCE, and engage directly with other governments and with civil society representatives.

In September, the OSCE convened Europe's largest annual human rights meeting, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Held in Warsaw, it is especially significant for the opportunity it presents for direct civil society engagement with government officials. The commission has long championed greater transparency of OSCE meetings and the 2017 sessions were webcast live and video archived.

During the 2017 meeting the Helsinki Commission rolled out a series of articles to focus on specific cases or situations of interest to members and designed to amplify other Helsinki Commission advocacy. 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.

In December, Austria's yearlong chairmanship ended in Vienna with a meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. Reflecting Co-Chairman Smith's Parliamentary Assembly resolutions from 2016 and 2017, the Ministerial adopted a decision on combating child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. Commission staff participated directly in the negotiations on the decision. On the margins of the Ministerial, commission staff also participated in a parallel civil society event.

Commission staff hold a unique body of institutional knowledge that supports U.S. efforts to counter efforts to weaken the OSCE's effectiveness from within. For example, for many years, Russia has orchestrated an effort to fundamentally alter the structure of the organization, its modalities, rules, procedures, and legal status—the OSCE equivalent to the Rules Committees in Congress. In 2017, Russia obstructed the OSCE's work in virtually all areas. Those efforts were directed first and foremost against joint action to promote human rights and democracy.

In addition to the Russian efforts to undermine human dimension work in the OSCE, Turkey walked out of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to protest the registration of an NGO it claimed was a "terrorist" organization due to its alleged connections to Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish cleric who lives in Pennsylvania. Turkey has continued to protest the participation of civil society and OSCE meetings.

VII. The Parliamentary Dimension of the OSCE

Both commissioners and staff have continued to participate in the work of the OSCE PA, as well as to solicit the involvement of other members of Congress in these activities. Representation at these inter-parliamentary events demonstrates a solid, ongoing congressional commitment to

maintaining and strengthening U.S.-European relations.

U.S. participation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly goes beyond meeting attendance. Members of Congress have traditionally played an active leadership role in the Assembly. In 2017, Chairman Wicker completed another year as chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, and he was elected to serve a three-year term as one of several Vice Presidents of the assembly. Reflecting the utility of the assembly to advance issues of concern, Co-Chairman Smith serves as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Human Trafficking while Ranking Senator Cardin serves as Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance. Commissioner Hudson serves as a Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Commissioner Jackson Lee serves as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

The OSCE PA promotes parliamentary involvement in the activities of the OSCE and facilitates inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians from the OSCE participating States. Other important objectives of the assembly include assessing the implementation of OSCE commitments by participating States; discussing subjects under consideration by the Ministerial Council and summit meetings of OSCE Heads of State or Government; developing and promoting mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts; supporting the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in the participating States; and contributing to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations and cooperation with other OSCE institutions.

A total of 323 parliamentarians, including up to 17 members of the U.S. Congress, can participate in the assembly's major meetings, which include a winter meeting in Vienna, an annual session in changing locations, and an autumn meeting, which also changes venues each year. The Bureau, an equivalent to an executive committee, also meets every April and December, and every two years or so there have been spring conferences focused on economic issues. Beyond these meetings, parliamentarians also contribute their political and regional expertise by serving as Special Representatives, members of Ad Hoc Committees and participants on election observation missions undertaken by the Assembly throughout the year. Commissioners and commission staff participate as members of OSCE PA election observations

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

Approximately 250 parliamentarians from 53 participating States took part in the 2017 Winter Meeting in Vienna. In addition to Chairman Wicker, the U.S. Delegation included Helsinki Commissioners Representative Hastings, Representative Aderholt, Representative Steve Cohen (TN-09), and Representative Hudson, as well as Senator Lamar Alexander (TN), Representative Eliot L. Engel (NY-16), Representative Lloyd Doggett (TX-35), Representative Steve King (IA-04), and Representative Trent Kelley (MS-01). The robust engagement was particularly significant in the context of an ongoing terrorist threat in Europe, Russian aggression against

Ukraine and other neighboring countries, and the challenges of the massive influx of refugees and migrants into Europe from the Middle East and Africa.

Members of the U.S. delegation advanced security, religious freedom, and human rights in times of crisis. While in Vienna, the U.S. Delegation hosted two additional events to facilitate an exchange of views: one for 15 of the Parliamentary Assembly's leaders and heads of delegation, including Austrian parliamentarian and current President Christine Muttonen; and a second for senior OSCE officials. Bilateral talks with the delegates from Georgia, Israel, Poland, Romania, and Russia took place on the margins of the meeting.

Chairman Wicker also led a Congressional delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session in Minsk, Belarus, in June.

The Annual Session brought together more than 260 parliamentarians from 55 countries in North America, Europe, and Asia. Topics under discussion ranged from human trafficking, migration, and religious freedom to counterterrorism and Russian aggression against Ukraine and its other neighbors. Helsinki Commission Co-Chair Smith introduced one of the 18 resolutions considered at the meeting. U.S. lawmakers also introduced 28 amendments to draft texts targeting challenges currently facing the OSCE region. All U.S. items were adopted by the Assembly in its concluding document, the Minsk Declaration.

The bipartisan, bicameral delegation led by Chairman Wicker was the largest U.S. congressional delegation to visit Belarus to date. In addition to Co-Chairman Smith and Commissioner Hudson, participants included Helsinki Commissioners Representative Hastings, Representative Jackson Lee, Representative Moore, Representative Cohen, and Representative Hultgren; Representative Bob Goodlatte (VA-06), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Representative Eliot Engel (NY-16), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Representative Steve King (IA-04).

The principal initiative of the U.S. delegation was a resolution authored by Co-Chairman Smith that examined ways to use technology to protect children from sexual exploitation online.

U.S. amendments to resolutions under consideration included text introduced by Chairman Wicker drawing attention to the death of American paramedic Joseph Stone while he was serving as an OSCE monitor in Ukraine. Commissioners Representative Jackson Lee and Representative Moore each sponsored several amendments on issues relating to migration, including efforts to combat intolerance toward migrants and to screen for potential trafficking victims among migrant populations. Representative Engel introduced amendments regarding academic freedom—a growing concern in the OSCE region—while Commissioner Cohen addressed criminal defamation laws that restrict freedom of speech. Commissioner Hastings focused his amendments on the need to support stability in Libya, democratic progress in Tunisia, and engagement with all of the OSCE's Mediterranean Partner countries. Commissioner Hudson led efforts to include the U.S. perspective in the Assembly's efforts regarding counter-terrorism and energy security. Commissioner Representative Hultgren ensured the text of a resolution condemning discrimination against Christians and Muslims reflected the U.S. approach to a major threat throughout the OSCE region.

While in Minsk, the delegation met with Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko as well as with representatives of civil society and the democratic opposition. While a wide range of topics were discussed, the need for greater respect for human rights and further democratic development in Belarus were high on the bilateral agenda.

In addition to attending the Annual Session in Minsk, several members of the delegation also visited Lithuania. In Vilnius, Lithuanian Minister of Defense Raimundas Karoblis briefed the group on Lithuanian concerns regarding Russian aggression in the region. Participants also discussed the deployment of U.S. and NATO assets to deter possible threats, and the upcoming Russian military exercise (ZAPAD 2017) taking place in Russia and Belarus in September.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its annual Autumn Meeting in Andorra la Vella from October 3 to 5, 2017. Commission staff represented the United States at this smaller gathering. Approximately 180 parliamentarians focused on new challenges and responses in regional security, with a focus on cybersecurity, climate change, and education. Commission staff participated in discussions on counterterrorism and migration, and on OSCE PA reform. They also attended side events on disability rights and on the denial of human rights in occupied regions of Georgia. The meeting took place in the aftermath of the October 1 referendum on independence organized in the neighboring Spanish autonomous community of Catalonia, leading to substantial discussion of the referendum itself and the actions of law enforcement dispatched by Madrid in an effort to block it.

Helsinki Commission staff also participated in a visit to Rabat, Morocco, organized by Morocco's upper house of Parliament—the House of Counselors—and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to discuss the so-called “Moroccan Approach” to countering violent extremism. By hosting the OSCE PA delegation, the Kingdom of Morocco took an important step in advancing communication between the participating States of the OSCE and the six North African and Middle Eastern countries that comprise the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

Appendix (A)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
115th Congress

Legislative Branch Commissioners

U.S. House of Representatives

Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey
Co-Chairman

Alcee L. Hastings, Florida
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Michael C. Burgess, Texas
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Richard Hudson, North Carolina
Randy Hultgren, Illinois
Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas
Gwen Moore, Wisconsin

U.S. Senate

Roger F. Wicker, Mississippi
Chairman

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 – vacant
Department of Commerce – vacant
Department of Defense – vacant

Appendix (B)

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(2017)

Staff Members

Ambassador David Killion	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Mark Milosch	<i>House Senior Staff Representative</i>
Scott Rauland	<i>Senior State Department Advisor</i> Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia
Bob Hand	<i>Policy Advisor; Secretary of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia; OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Janice Helwig	<i>Representative of the Helsinki Commission to USOSCE</i> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; OSCE Structures and Procedures; Afghanistan
Allison Hollabaugh	<i>Counsel; Acting General Counsel</i> Trafficking in Persons; Women's Issues; International Parental Child Abduction; Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children
Stacy Hope	<i>Director of Communications; CSCE Liaison to the Chairman's Communications Staff</i>
Nathaniel Hurd	<i>Policy Advisor</i> International Freedom of Religion; Refugees and Humanitarian Crises
Paul Massaro	<i>Policy Advisor</i> Economic and Environmental Issues; Policing and Border Management; OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation; Mongolia; Security Officer
Everett Price	<i>Policy Advisor</i> Cyprus, Greece, Turkey; Armenia and Azerbaijan; Islamic Affairs; OSCE Mediterranean Partners

Erika Schlager

Counsel for International Law

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia; Romani Minority Issues; Property Claims; OSCE and International Legal Issues; Domestic Compliance Issues

Mischa Thompson

Policy Advisor

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

Alex Tiersky

Policy Advisor, Global Security / Political Military Affairs

OSCE 1st Dimension issues, including military (+ protracted) conflicts and defense cooperation, arms control and confidence building measures, NATO, cybersecurity, counterterrorism; Ukraine

Jordan Warlick

Director of Administration; Policy Advisor

Media Freedom

(Vacant)

General Counsel

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

(Vacant)

Policy Advisor

Appendix (C)

OSCE Participating States as of March 2017

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

Latvia	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Liechtenstein	original participating State
Lithuania	admitted as new participating State on September 10, 1991
Luxembourg	original participating State
Macedonia	admitted as observer as of April 1993; admitted as new, fully participating State on October 12, 1995 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Malta	original participating State
Moldova	admitted as new participating State on January 30, 1992
Monaco	original participating State
Mongolia	admitted as a participating State on December 2, 2012
Montenegro	admitted as new participating State on June 26, 2006 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia, and then as part of Serbia and Montenegro)
Netherlands	original participating State
Norway	original participating State
Poland	original participating State
Portugal	original participating State
Romania	original participating State
Russian Federation	original participating State as the Soviet Union; Russia succeeded to the Soviet Union's seat on January 11, 1991
San Marino	original participating State
Serbia	originally participated as Yugoslavia; suspended from participation in decision making on May 12, 1992; suspended from participating in meetings on July 7, 1992; re-admitted as new, fully participating State November 10, 2000; renamed Serbia and Montenegro on February 4, 2003; Montenegro separated from Serbia by referendum in May 2006
Slovak Republic	admitted as new participating State January 1, 1993 (previously participated as part of Czechoslovakia, an original participating State)
Slovenia	admitted as an observer on January 31, 1992; admitted as new, fully participating State March 24, 1992 (previously participated as part of Yugoslavia)
Spain	original participating State
Sweden	original participating State
Switzerland	original participating State
Tajikistan	admitted as new participating State January 30, 1992
Turkey	original participating State
Turkmenistan	admitted as new participating State January 30, 1992
Ukraine	admitted as new participating State January 30, 1992
United Kingdom	original participating State

United States	original participating State
Uzbekistan	admitted as new 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

Appendix (D)

Hearings, Briefings and Commission Delegations in the 115th Congress, 1st Session

Hearings

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN RUSSIA: NO END IN SIGHT

April 26, 2017

- Vladimir Kara-Murza, Vice-Chairman, Open Russia
- Rachel Denber, Deputy Director of the Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch
- Daniel Calingaert, Executive Vice President, Freedom House

THE GROWING RUSSIAN MILITARY THREAT IN EUROPE

May 17, 2017

- Michael Carpenter, Senior Director; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement
- Steven Pifer, Senior Fellow and Director of the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative, The Brookings Institution
- Stephen Rademaker, Principal; former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the Bureau of Arms Control and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, The Podesta Group

THE ROMANIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION PROCESS: SUCCESSES AND EXCESSES

June 14, 2017

- Ambassador Mark Gitenstein, Special Counsel, Mayer Brown
- Heather Conley, Senior Vice President, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- David Clark, Foreign Policy Commentator and Consultant
- Philip Stephenson, Chairman, Freedom Capital

A HAZY CRISIS: ILLICIT CIGARETTE SMUGGLING IN THE OSCE REGION

July 19, 2017

- Louise Shelley, Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center, George Mason University
- David Sweanor, Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Ottawa
- Marc Firestone, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Phillip Morris International

THE SCOURGE OF RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION

September 14, 2017

- John F. Lansing, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG)
- Melissa Hooper, Director of Human Rights and Civil Society Programs, Human Rights First
- Molly McKew, CEO, Fianna Strategies

COMBATING KLEPTOCRACY WITH INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY

October 3, 2017

- Charles Davidson, Executive Director, Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute
- Pat O'Carroll, Executive Director, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
- Caroline Vicini, Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to the United States
- Gary Kalman, Executive Director, FACT Coalition

PRISONERS OF THE PURGE: THE VICTIMS OF TURKEY'S FAILING RULE OF LAW

November 15, 2017

- Jonathan R. Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- CeCe Heil, Executive Counsel, American Center for Law and Justice
- Jacqueline Furnari, Daughter of Andrew Brunson
- Nate Schenkkan, Director of the Nations in Transit Project, Freedom House

THE MAGNITSKY ACT AT FIVE

December 14, 2017

- William Browder, CEO, Hermitage Capital Management
- Hon. Irwin Cotler, PC, OC, Chair, Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights
- Garry Kasparov, Chairman Human Rights Foundation

Briefings

SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION: AFERIM! (BRAVO!)

February 16, 2017

- Dr. Margareta Matache, FXB Center for Health & Human Rights, Harvard University
- Cristian Gaginsky, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Romania
- Dereck Hogan, Director of the Office of Central European Affairs, Department of State

OLEG SENTSOV AND RUSSIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST UKRAINIAN CITIZENS

April 27, 2017

- Natalya Kaplan, Cousin of Oleg Sentsov, Journalist in Kiev
- Mustafa Nayyem, Member, Ukrainian Parliament
- Halya Coynash, Spokesperson, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group

TURKEY POST-REFERENDUM: INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

May 2, 2017

- Henri Barkey, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Ebru Erdem-Akçay, Turkish political scientist
- Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, Regional Director for Europe and Eurasia, International Foundation for Electoral Systems
- Nate Schenckkan, Project Director, Nations in Transit, Freedom House

COUNTERING CORRUPTION IN THE OSCE REGION: RETURNING ILL-GOTTEN ASSETS AND CLOSING SAFE HAVENS

June 1, 2017

- Charles Davidson, Executive Director of the Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute
- Brian Campbell, U.S.-based Attorney
- Ken Hurwitz, Senior Managing Legal Officer on Anticorruption, Open Society Justice Initiative

ENERGY (IN)SECURITY IN RUSSIA'S PERIPHERY

July 13, 2017

- Peter Doran, Executive Vice President and Interim Director, Center for European Policy Analysis
- Edward Chow, Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Andrian Prokip, Senior Associate, Kennan Institute
- Lyndon Allin, Associate, Baker McKenzie
- Mamuka Tsereteli, Senior Fellow, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

KLEPTOCRATS OF THE KREMLIN: TIES BETWEEN BUSINESS AND POWER IN RUSSIA

Jul 20, 2017

- Brian Whitmore, Senior Russia Analyst, Radio Free Europe
- Ilya Zaslavskiy, Research Expert, Free Russia Foundation
- Dr. Anders Aslund, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
- Marius Laurinavicius, Senior Analyst, Vilnius Institute for Policy Analysis
- Ambassador Daniel Fried, Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council

ENGAGING BELARUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

July 21, 2017

- Sanaka Samarasingha, United Nations Chief in Belarus
- Katie Fox, Deputy Director of the Eurasia Department, National Democratic Institute
- Stephen Nix, Regional Program Director for Eurasia, International Republican Institute

MUSLIMS & MINORITIES IN THE MILITARY

July 26, 2017

- Rozemina Abbasi, United Kingdom, Assistant Head, Armed Forces Targets, Ministry of Defense
- Samira Rafaela, The Netherlands, Organizational Strategy Advisor, Dutch National Police
- Dr. Elyamine Settoul, France, Professor, Institute for Strategic Research at the Military College, French Ministry of Defense
- Dominik Wullers, Germany, Economist, Spokesman of the Federal Office for Federal Ministry of Defense Equipment, and, Vice President of Deutscher.Soldat

DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

July 26, 2017

- Andrew Wilson, Managing Director, Center for International Private Enterprise
- Peter Golias, Director, Institute for Economic and Social Reforms, Slovakia
- Andras Loke, Chair, Transparency International, Hungary
- Marek Tatala, Vice-President, Civil Development Forum, Poland
- Jan Surotchak, Regional Director for Europe, International Republican Institute
- Jonathan Katz, Senior Resident Fellow, German Marshall Fund

KYRGYZSTAN: PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AND THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

September 26, 2017

- Marc Behrendt, Director for Europe and Eurasia Programs, Freedom House
- Anthony Bowyer, Caucasus and Central Asia Senior Program Manager, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- Dr. Erica Marat, Associate Professor, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University

BUILDING CYBER CONFIDENCE BETWEEN ADVERSARIES

- Tim Maurer, Co-Director and Fellow, Cyber Policy Initiative, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Alex Crowther, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Research, National Defense University
- Jaisha Wray, Acting Deputy Director, Emerging Security Challenges Office, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, U.S. Department of State

SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS IN RUSSIA AND OTHER POST-SOVIET STATES

October 4, 2017

- Thomas Kent, President and CEO, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
- Amanda Bennett, Director, Voice of America
- Nina Ognianova, Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator, Committee to Protect Journalists
- Karina Orlova, Washington DC Correspondent, Echo of Moscow

A NEW OCEAN IN THE NORTH: PERILS AND POSSIBILITIES

October 5, 2017

- Julia Gourley, Senior Arctic Official, U.S. Department of State
- Iina Peltonen, Embassy of Finland in the United States
- Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister, Commander, 17th Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard
- Melanie Bahnke, President and CEO, Kawerak, Inc.
- Mark Smith, CEO, Vitus Energy

REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE AND TURKEY

October 20, 2017

- Matthew Reynolds, Regional Representative for the United States and the Caribbean, United Nations High Commission for Refugees
- Luca Dall'Oglio, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (Washington, DC office)
- Philip Hyldgaard, Executive Director, A21 Campaign
- Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell, Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist, Catholic Relief Services and on behalf of Caritas Europa

TRAFFICKED: UNTANGLING THE BONDS OF MODERN SLAVERY

October 12, 2017

- Siddharth Kara, Director of the Program on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery , Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Producer, "Trafficked"
- Alex Trouteaud, Ph.D., Director of Policy and Research, Demand Abolition
- Marcia Eugenio, Director, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor

AVERTING ALL-OUT WAR IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

October 18, 2017

- Ambassador Carey Cavanaugh, Professor of Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, University of Kentucky, Former U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (1999-2001)
- Magdalena Grono, Europe & Central Asia Program Director, International Crisis Group
- Ambassador James Warlick, Partner and Senior Policy Advisor, Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners, Former U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (2013-2016)

COUNTERING RADICALIZATION

October 26, 2017

- Professor Peter Neumann, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism
- Seamus Hughes, Deputy Director, Program on Extremism, The George Washington University
- Matthew Levitt, Fromer-Wexler Fellow and Director, Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, The Washington Institute

THE CRIME OF INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

October 27, 2017

- Leo Zagaris, Survivor of parental child abduction to Greece
- Alissa Zagaris, Advocate and former left-behind parent of child abducted to Greece
- Augusto Frisancho, M.D., Father of three children abducted to Slovakia
- Jeffery Morehouse, Father of child abducted to Japan and Executive Director of Bring Abducted Children Home (BAC Home)
- Noelle Hunter, Ph.D., President of the iStand Parent Network and former left-behind parent of daughter abducted to Mali

THE WESTERN BALKANS: PERSPECTIVES FROM OSCE FIELD MISSIONS

November 01, 2017

- Ambassador Jonathan Moore, Former Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina (2014-2017)
- Mr. Jeff Goldstein, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje (2016-present)
- Mr. Michael Uyehara, Former Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, (2014-2017)
- Ambassador Marcel Peško, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE Secretariat (2015 – present)

THE SITUATION OF ROMA

November 7, 2017

- Soraya Post, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden;
- Ethel Brooks, Chair, Board of Directors, European Roma Rights Centre; Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council
- Alfiaz Vaiya, Coordinator, European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup

WORKING TOGETHER TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

November 14, 2017

- Suzanne Lawrence, Special Advisor for Children's Issues, U.S. Department of State
- John Carver, Father of six children adopted from the OSCE region
- Ron Stoddart, President, Save Adoptions
- Kathleen Strottman, Former Legislative Director, Senator Mary Landrieu

INTERNET FREEDOM IN THE OSCE REGION: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

November 14, 2017

- Sanja Kelly, Director, Freedom on the Net, Freedom House
- Dariya Orlova, Senior Lecturer, Mohyla School of Journalism in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Berivan Orucoglu, Human Rights Defenders Program Coordinator, The McCain Institute
- Jason Pielemeier, Policy Director, Global Network Initiative

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS IN THE OSCE REGION

November 15, 2017

- Ambassador Michael Kozak, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State
- Dr. Daniel Mark, Chairman, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
- Dr. Kathleen Collins, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota
- Philip Brumley, General Counsel, Jehovah's Witnesses

UKRAINE'S FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

November 29, 2017

- Oksana Shulyar, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Ukraine in the United States
- Orest Deychakiwsky, Former Policy Advisor for Ukraine, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Dr. Anders Aslund, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
- Brian Dooley, Senior Advisor, Human Rights First

UKRAINE: REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINES

November 30, 2017

- Alexander Hug, Principal Deputy Chief Monitor, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL AND BEYOND: PURSUING JUSTICE FOR ATROCITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

December 12, 2017

- Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- Nemanja Stjepanovic, Member of the Executive Board, Humanitarian Law Center
- Diane Orentlicher, Professor of Law, Washington College of Law, American University

SEA RESCUES: SAVING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

December 12, 2017

- Catherine Flumiani, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Italy to the U.S.
- Michalis Stamatis, First Secretary and Consul, Embassy of Greece to the U.S.
- Ludwig Blaurock, Political and Military Counsellor, European Union Delegation to the U.S.
- Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration
- John Murray, Marine Director, International Chamber of Shipping

COMBATING KLEPTOCRACY WITH THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY ACT

December 13, 2017

- Alex Johnson, Senior Policy Advisor for Europe and Eurasia, Open Society Policy Center
- Charles Davidson, Executive Director, Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute
- Rob Berschinski, Senior Vice President, Human Rights First

Appendix (E)

Congressional and Staff Delegation sin the 115th Congress, 1st Session

Congressional Delegations

February:

Chairman Roger Wicker, Co-Chairman Chris Smith, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Congressman Robert Aderholt, Congressman Steve Cohen, Congressman Richard Hudson, Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressman Eliot Engel, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Congressman Steve King, Congressman Trent Kelly, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Robert Hand, Janice Helwig, Paul Massaro, Everett Price, and Alex Tiersky traveled to Naples, Italy Amman, Jordan; Jerusalem, Israel; and Vienna, Austria, to participate in the 2017 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting in Vienna, as well as hold further consultations on regional security and human rights issues of particular interest to the United States in Naples, Amman, and Jerusalem.

June:

Chairman Roger Wicker, Co-Chairman Chris Smith, Congressman Alcee Hastings, Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Congressman Steve Cohen, Congressman Richard Hudson, Congressman Randy Hultgren, Congressman Eliot Engel, Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Ambassador David Killion, Mark Milosch, Scott Rauland, Robert Hand, Paul Massaro, Everett Price, Alex Tiersky, Allison Hollabaugh, and Jordan Warlick traveled to Cairo, Egypt; Athens, Greece; Minsk, Belarus; and Vilnius, Lithuania, to participate in the 2017 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Minsk, as well as hold further consultations on regional security and human rights issues of particular interest to the United States in Cairo, Athens, and Vilnius.

August:

Co-Chairman Chris Smith and Mark Milosch traveled to Rome, Italy, to participate in the International Catholic Legislators Network Annual Meeting and hold meetings with foreign government officials and parliamentarians on human rights issues.

November:

Co-Chairman Chris Smith and Mark Milosch traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, to consult with government officials, parliamentarians, and civil society organizations on human rights issues.

Staff Delegations

January:

Janice Helwig traveled to Vienna, Austria, as the Helsinki Commission's Representative at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE for the duration of 2017.

February:

Erika Schlager traveled to Vienna, Austria, to attend the period meeting of the OSCE Working Group on Legal Status.

March:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Vienna, Austria to participate in the OSCE Security Days Conference: Creating Inclusive, Safe, and Sustainable Cities: Local Approaches to Global Challenges.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Brussels, Belgium and Amsterdam, Netherlands to serve as a speaker and facilitator at the Sixth Annual Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network Workshop, German Marshall Fund Young Professionals Summit, and ODIHR/European Parliament Roma Week Events.

Everett Price traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission for the 2017 Armenian parliamentary election.

April:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Tokyo, Japan, and Seoul, South Korea, to hold meetings and consultations on the OSCE Asian Partners grouping, combating corruption, and the potential for a northeast Asian Helsinki Final Act-style agreement.

Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference.

Robert Hand traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, and Copenhagen, Denmark, to conduct consultations with OSCE officials at the Prague Secretariat and attend the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau in Copenhagen.

May:

Erika Schlager traveled to Bucharest, Romania, and Budapest, Hungary, to participate in the Department of State's annual two-day training workshop for reporting officers covering Romani minority issues, as well as hold consultations with U.S. Embassy officials and civil society on Holocaust, ethnic, and religious minority issues.

Jordan Warlick traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia to attend the 14th South Caucasus Media Conference on "fake news," disinformation and freedom of the media.

Alex Tiersky traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, and Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Security Days conference in Prague and the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Vienna.

June:

Scott Rauland traveled to Chisinau, Moldova, to attend the “Moldova Reality Check” conference and hold consultations with Moldovan officials and civil society.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; and Barcelona, Spain, to conduct meetings on the French parliamentary elections in Paris, take part in the U.S. Embassy and European Parliament-hosted International Refugee Events in Brussels, and participate in a conference on combating anti-Semitism in Barcelona.

Janice Helwig traveled to Berlin, Germany, to participate in the OSCE Asian Partners Conference.

July:

Erika Schlager traveled to Vienna, Austria, and Bratislava, Slovakia, to hold consultations on preparations for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna, and consultations with government and civil society in Bratislava.

August:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Paris, France, and Istanbul, Turkey, to hold consultations on anti-corruption and illicit trade issues with civil society actors and international organizations.

September:

Ambassador David Killion, Erika Schlager, Scott Rauland, Janice Helwig, Mischa Thompson, Everett Price, and Jordan Warlick traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to participate as members of the U.S. delegation to the 2017 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Scott Rauland traveled to Berlin, Germany, to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission for the 2017 German federal election.

Paul Massaro traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, to participate in the Concluding Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic & Environmental Forum.

Alex Tiersky traveled to Minsk, Belarus, to observe the joint Belarus-Russia military exercise known as ZAPAD 2017.

October:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Economic & Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Robert Hand and Alex Tiersky traveled to Andorra and Barcelona, Spain, to participate in the 2017 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Janice Helwig traveled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Ms. Helwig participated in an election observation mission of Kyrgyzstan's presidential elections, attended the OSCE Central Asian Media Conference in Uzbekistan, and held further consultations in Kazakhstan.

Everett Price traveled to Rabat, Morocco; Cairo, Egypt; and Palermo, Italy, to attend the OSCE Mediterranean Partners Conference and hold consultations on Mediterranean security.

Mark Milosch traveled to Budapest, Hungary, to consult with Hungarian officials and Hungarian and international civil society organizations on human rights issues, and participate in the International Consultation on Christian Persecution.

Allison Hollabaugh traveled to Warsaw, Poland to attend the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on "Rights of the Child: Children in Situations of Risk."

Jordan Warlick traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the "Role of Free Media in the Comprehensive Approach to Security."

November:

Ambassador David Killion and Paul Massaro traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to speak about the OSCE as a model at the Northeast Asian Peace and Cooperation Forum and held consultations with officials and civil society actors.

Alex Tiersky traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Counterterrorism's first fact-finding visit.

Mischa Thompson traveled to Brussels, Belgium; London, United Kingdom; and Athens, Greece. In Brussels, Thompson participated in and delivered remarks at the ODIHR Democracy Department's Expert Meeting on migrants and refugees. In London and Athens, she held consultations with government and civil society on refugee and migrant issues.

December:

Ambassador David Killion, Paul Massaro, Allison Hollabaugh, and Jordan Warlick traveled to Vienna, Austria, to participate in the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.