



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Heads of OSCE PA Delegations

Washington, 12 November 2004

Dear Colleague,

I have sent a letter to all Foreign Ministers in OSCE participating States asking them to support the Chairman-in-Office's proposals for reforms within the OSCE. I attach a letter from Minister Passy outlining his ideas and proposals for reforms. As has been made clear to us during our last Annual Session and Winter Meeting, the OSCE does not function well at the moment and several high level Officials have even used the term 'crisis' to describe the situation. It is evident that there is a need for reform and that this has to be initiated from the highest political level in order to be effective. This is why I am supporting the Bulgarian Chairman-in-Office Minister Solomon Passy in these important efforts. I realize that the Chairmanship's proposals do not go as far as the ones suggested by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in our Declarations, but I do believe that they represent an important first step in the right direction.

Therefore, I would like to ask you, as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation, to contact your Foreign Minister to reinforce the need to reform the procedures in the OSCE and to urge your government to support such changes. I would appreciate knowing of the response you receive and whether or not your Foreign Minister can support the proposals of the Chairman-in-Office.

Thank you very much for your support in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible since the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia is less than three weeks away.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Alcee L. Hastings'.

Alcee L. Hastings
President of the OSCE PA



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REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
THE MINISTER

THE HONORABLE MR. ALCEE HASTINGS
PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Sofia, October 11, 2004

YOUR EXCELLENCY, *Alcee:*

I am pleased to invite you to the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe which will be held in Sofia on 6 and 7 December 2004, in accordance with Decision No. 11/03 adopted in Maastricht.

In 2004 the OSCE finds itself at a crucial juncture. While I feel strong support for the Organisation, many participating States have recently raised questions and made suggestions concerning its future and its activities.

Our meeting in Sofia should help define the Organization's role in the evolving global and European security environment as well as the ways and means to make it better equipped for dealing with the challenges and threats of the contemporary world. In particular, it seems to me of the utmost importance that we should all endeavour to keep, within the European continent, a spirit of trust and confidence.

The Sofia Ministerial Council is of particular importance and I am convinced that your personal participation and contribution to the discussion in Sofia will help to achieve these goals.

Basing myself on my two-years' experience in the Troika, I have put forward at various occasions certain ideas and suggestions aimed at transforming and modernizing the OSCE. In this regard I have the pleasure to enclose for your consideration some written proposals on the same matter. I am ready to personally discuss each of them with you. I will rely on your personal support for their approval in Sofia.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the Twelfth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia in December, I remain

Yours sincerely,

SOLOMON PASSY
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE OSCE

Attachment: CiO's suggestions on OSCE transformation

OSCE TRANSFORMATION SUGGESTIONS OF THE CiO

The new realities in Europe and in the world require an adequate response by the OSCE. We believe that promotion of the OSCE transformation process is an indispensable condition for such a response.

Our thinking in this respect has been going along the following concrete lines:

- Enhancement of the political role of the CiO. The Chairperson-in-Office, while performing his/her duties could have the liberty to come out with own initiatives and proposals, not necessarily related to his/her national government's policies. Such prerogatives will enable the CiO to better serve the overall interests of the OSCE participating states. In procedural terms this could be embodied in the CiO's rights of a "56th OSCE participant";

- The Secretary General to be empowered by the participating States to act – under the guidance of the CiO, as his/her deputy in the overall coordination and management of OSCE activities;

The Secretary General to be included in the Troika, the ensuing "Quartet" being in a position to provide the necessary continuity;

After being appointed by the OSCE Council of Ministers, the Secretary General to be endorsed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

- Moving the venue for:

- The nearest /e. g. 2006/ Economic Forum to Central Asia;
- The nearest /e. g. 2005/ Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to South Caucasus,

as a means of practically supporting these regions, encouraging their democratic development and increasing their visibility.

- The appointment of Heads of Institution to be done by the 55 participating States for a period of one year. A decision on the extension/termination of the contract (within the approved term of office) to be decided on yearly basis by the "Quartet" – the Ministerial Troika plus the Secretary General.

- Shifting budget resources from decreased or discontinued OSCE field activities in the Western Balkans to South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Bulgarian Chairmanship will aim at reaching a consensus among the participating States on these and other important reform issues, so that the Twelfth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, which will take place in Sofia on 6 and 7 December 2004, could open the ways to proceed on this path.