



Delegation of the United States of America
to the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**Statement on Behalf of the OSCE PA Special Representatives on Mediterranean Affairs
U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings (FL-23)**

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Mr. moderator, your excellencies, ladies and gentleman, I endeavor to offer you a few thoughts on behalf of U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings who serves as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. He was unable to travel due to some urgent personal matters, but looks forward to corresponding with you all in the near future.

First and foremost, Mr. Hastings would like to offer his solidarity with the remarks of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Petros Efthymiou, as well as the suggestions offered by U.S. Ambassador Ian Kelly and our other panelists during this important session. Mr. Hastings would specifically add the importance of prioritizing the role of youth and civil society. We must foster dialogue through youth networks in our Partners which interface with those in our participating States to enhance mutual learning. Such an effort should also help facilitate participation in events like the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting for civil society from our Partners, so that future leaders can be empowered and we can all learn from their experiences.

This past Sunday in Dubrovnik during its Mediterranean Forum, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly demonstrated its true strength as a venue to explore policies aimed at actualizing OSCE commitments. The productive debate included several strong recommendations referenced in the remarks of President Efthymiou. Additionally, Moroccan parliamentarians received unanimous applause when they asserted their eagerness for a stronger role in the Assembly and their insistence on hosting more events, be it the OSCE or its Parliamentary Assembly, within the Mediterranean Partners in the coming year. We must respect this emerging political will and pursue partnerships to this end.

I call to your attention the Parliamentary Assembly's 2010 Oslo Declaration Resolution on "Mediterranean Cooperation" offered by Representative Hastings and the 2011 Belgrade Declaration Resolution on "Mediterranean Political Transition" offered by U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, as referenced during the opening session. These resolutions articulated concepts developed in consultation with interlocutors and parliamentarians from our Partner States that could contribute to a strong Ministerial Declaration regarding our Mediterranean Partners for Vilnius this December.

Also, the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly convened a Seminar on OSCE Mediterranean Partner Engagement in 2009 in Washington, DC which echoed many of the recommendations of this conference session (*see the [official report](#) of the proceedings which can also be found on the Helsinki Commission website at www.csce.gov*). Outcomes of this event advocated for fostering leadership from the Mediterranean Partners in OSCE related activities and recognizing the mutual learning that can occur between our Partners and participating States, as exemplified by the aspirations of the movements led by the people of the Middle East and North Africa.

If Representative Hastings were able to join us today, I am confident that he would remind us of his mantra “An election does not a democracy make.” We must support our Partners in a manner that is meaningful to them and compliments the determination of those who took to the streets to assert their right to dignity and fundamental freedoms. This should look beyond elections and engage institutions for the goal that we all share in this room; establishing more responsive governments to meet the needs of our citizens.

Thank you.