



Mr. Goldring was asked to represent Canada at the 20th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia. He reports on the Belgrade Declaration, a political document containing recommendations for national parliaments and the OSCE necessary in the building of a safe and cooperative security community in the years to come.

OSCE BELGRADE SERBIA 2011

The 20th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held from July 6-10, 2011, in Belgrade, Serbia, under the general theme of "Strengthening the OSCE's Effectiveness and Efficiency - A new start after the Astana Summit."

More than 230 parliamentarians from 56 countries voted to pass the Belgrade Declaration, a political document filled with recommendations for national parliaments and the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe on economic, security and

human rights issues. The document contains resolutions on issues including human rights in Belarus, cyber security, human trafficking, hunger, internet freedom, nuclear safety and organ trafficking.

One of the important topics was the issue of nuclear security and nuclear safety, highlighted by it being the 25th anniversary of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl, Ukraine and the meltdown at the Fukushima plant in Japan following the March 2011 earthquake.



OSCEPA president Petros Efthymiou, of Greece, Serbian President Boris Tadić and Member of Parliament for Edmonton East Peter Goldring at the annual Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia, July 2011.

Mr. Goldring brought attention to Canada's significant contributions to complete safety and stabilization work at the Chernobyl plant since the 1986 disaster - our recent pledge of \$30 million over the next four years for a new containment structure will bring our overall aid contributions to Chernobyl at \$105 million. The support for a strong recovery of communities affected by nuclear fall-

out is a responsibility that the international community should hold close, and this is ex-



actly what the OSCE has realized in a pledge to build a new containment structure for Chernobyl.

Certainly, the earthquake in Japan and its devastation of the Fukushima nuclear plant have served to remind us of the importance of vigilance regarding our safety precautions.

As a global leader in the supply of nuclear energy and production of nuclear reactors, Canada has undertaken its responsibilities in this respect, including a legislative framework that governs health, safety, security and the environment in the nuclear sector.

For example, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission also plays an important role in regulating the use of nuclear energy and materials, as well as respecting Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Goldring believes that if the disasters of Chernobyl and Fukushima have taught us anything it is the pressing importance of better preparedness as an international community. Collaborative efforts can ensure a more rapid notification of governments when natural disasters take place in order to better coordinate international assistance to affected areas of disasters and to attract foreign investment to spur the redevelopment of hard-

hit communities.

An increased vigilance for preventative measures and environmental precautions should be made with the consideration that nuclear power is a strong, reliable and safe energy alternative when proper safety measures are in place.

The fact that 35 per cent of Europe's energy is derived from nuclear energy was also an important consideration to take into account, and we worked together to ensure that the practical and important considerations for global energy and safety were at the forefront of our discussions on nuclear safety and preparedness.

Mr. Goldring also made a priority of speaking to the OSCE Assembly on food security and the

promotion of sustainable agricultural development in the impoverished countries of the world.

Representing the Government of Canada Mr. Goldring has had the opportunity to view first-hand the importance of supporting farmers and agriculture in countries such as Haiti and Ghana. If a people cannot feed themselves due to high prices, crop failure or both they will inevitably turn to violence as a solution. The stronger, the more developed



The Canadian delegation to the annual OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Belgrade Serbia (left to right) Michel Marcotte, Secretary; MP Bruce Hyer; Senator Percy Downe; Natalie Mychajlyszyn, Analyst of Delegation; MP Dave Van Kesteren; MP Hedy Fry; Senator Consiglio Di Nino; MP Peter Goldring



and sustainable is the agriculture sector, the greater the agricultural production, and the more effectively poverty and its associated afflictions of malnutrition and poor health are reduced.

He brought attention to Canada's Food Security Strategy that focuses on bringing support to the ability of farmers to cope with climate change, on improving governance in order to strengthen agricultural coordination and accountability, on mitigating the effect of high energy prices on the agricultural sector, and the element of vulnerability and safety that is fundamentally tied to food security.

With these principles in mind, he stressed that the access to education, peace, stability and economic security of communities are inextricably tied to food security and the responsible use of agricultural land. These principles were evident in Canada's support for a successful irrigation project in Haiti, untying its good aid budget, and in our government's support to strengthen Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Food security is a fundamental precursor to development and he was glad to see it at the forefront of OSCE priorities.

With incidents in recent years involving illegal human trafficking and criminal activity, the Canadian people are all too aware of the

pressing challenges posed by this growing criminal activity. Mr. Goldring's colleague Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul in Manitoba has been at the forefront of the efforts. Constituents have contacted him about their views on this important matter, and he is very aware of these changing challenges that face our society and our obligations to those victims of this trafficking, recently coined as 'modern day slavery'.

When considering the implications of this trafficking for the OSCE, he spoke to bring awareness to bring important attention to the victims of this criminal activity. There is a pressing need for effective legislation and effective enforcement mechanisms that will target perpetrators and protect the victims of the despicable practice, and our responsibility

as a security organization should surely reflect these pressing needs.

As this is an international criminal problem it is important to have transnational solutions. Canada acting alone cannot end this scourge on humanity – it is through organizations like the OSCE that the practice can be ended and the criminals brought to justice. There is a need for collaboration on a global scale to tackle organized crime and the activities of human smugglers.



At The OSCE 2011 Parliamentary Assembly Peter Goldring spoke about the international implications of human trafficking.

It is the duty of parliamentarians of all countries to ensure that our labour markets are governed by appropriate regulations, and that any potential loopholes are rectified in order to prevent criminals from exploiting the lives of innocent people for their own financial gain. The Government of Canada has provided \$4 million to the International Labour Organization to promote labour rights and prevent illegal labour trafficking to China.

The issue of "frozen conflicts" in Europe was another pressing issue that he spoke about. These unresolved wars, conflicts without fighting but also without peace, such as the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia

over Nagorno-Karabakh, prevent growth in the region.

The 20th annual parliamentary session of the OSCE concluded with the passing of the Belgrade Declaration, a political document of recommendations to national parliaments and the OSCE that contained motions on nuclear safety, human trafficking, world hunger and the peaceful resolution of frozen conflicts across the world. Mr. Goldring believes they will be playing an important role in our efforts to build a cooperative security community for the good of all people in the years to come.

Update: The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is composed of 56 countries spanning Europe, Central Asia and North America, providing a forum for parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen international cooperation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues. Its next meeting will be held in October, 2011.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Should Canada participate in organizations that promote international security?

Yes

No

Do you feel that with the proper safeguards that nuclear power is essential?

Yes

No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
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