
Legislatures and Citizens

Mid-Term Regional Conference

6-7 December 2002, Sofia, Bulgaria

Venue

Hilton Hotel Sofia, 1 Bulgaria Boulevard, Sofia, Bulgaria, Tel +359 2 9335000, Fax +359 2 9335111

Participants

Representatives of EU Parliaments and Southeastern European Parliaments; representatives of civil society organisations from Southeastern European Countries; experts from European Union countries and the USA; representatives of inter-governmental agencies; members of the Steering Committee and staff of the East-West Parliamentary Practice Project.

Thursday, 5 December 2002

Arrival of foreign guests in Sofia

19:30 Buffet reception at the hotel (Musala Halls, first floor)

Friday, 6 December 2002

Conference halls Musala, Hilton Hotel

09:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome remarks by Younal Lutfi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bulgaria**

Welcome remarks on behalf of Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, by Dr. Dobrin Kanev, Secretary to the President

Overview of the programme by Jill Adler, Director, EWPPP

10:00 – 13:30 **Session 1: Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society**

The first part of the conference will focus on an exchange of best/worst practices derived from the first phase – feedback meetings and roundtable debates – of the project. One representative from parliament and one from civil society from each country will make a five-minute presentation of the successes and challenges involved in their co-operation (the focus will be on practice, not the particular legislative issue dealt with in each country).

10:00 – 10:45 **The Parliamentary Perspective**
Chair: Elisabeth Lubbers, The Netherlands

Parliamentary co-operation with civil society varies from country to country, but as a rule, it needs to be improved and deepened. All of the Southeastern European countries still face some kind of challenge in the continually evolving relationship between the legislators and citizens. Elected representatives need to be actively encouraged to reach out to civil society for support in both their parliamentary missions of developing effective legislation and of communicating the results to the public. If included as an integral part of the process, in the end the civil society will have an investment in the success of the legislation.

Presentations by representatives of Southeast European parliaments (five minutes):

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- FYR of Macedonia
- Kosovo
- Montenegro
- Romania
- Serbia

10:45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12.00 **The NGO Perspective**
Chair: Kevin Patrick, USA

Civic society is the foundation of democratic parliamentary government. Civil society encompasses a wide array of organisations – from trade unions to independent media to non-profit advocacy groups. Non-governmental organisations often can offer a non-partisan platform for testing ideas, getting civic feedback, educating the public and promoting active citizen participation in public affairs.

Presentations by representatives of partner NGOs (five minutes):

- Albanian Centre for Human Rights (Albania)
- Centres for Civic Initiatives (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation (Bulgaria)
- Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Croatia)
- Centre for Strategic Research and Documentation (FYR of Macedonia)
- Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (Montenegro)
- Pro Democracy Association (Romania)
- European Movement in Serbia (Serbia)

12:00 – 13:30 **Discussion**

Which are the three most important conclusions that can be drawn from the co-operation between the Parliament and civil society during the legislative process in each country?

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch in hotel restaurant

15:00 – 17:30 **Session 2: The European dimension: practices and standards**
Chair: Professor Gabriel Fragniere, Belgium

The key to truly functioning institutions is practice, and the desire to attain EU membership is one of the common goals of all the countries of Southeastern Europe. This session will focus on how EU member states deal with legislature – civil society relations, as well as the perspective from the region.

Introduction by Professor Anne Hermans, Belgium

17:30 Cocktail reception

19:00 Meet in hotel lobby for transfer to restaurant *Chepyshev*
Address: Ivanitsa Danchev Street 27; Tel: +389-2-959 10 10

22:00 Transfer by bus to the hotel

Saturday, 7 December 2002

Conference halls Musala, Hilton Hotel

09:30 – 11:30 **Session 3: Taking an Issue Public**

Chair: Lord John Roper, U.K.

In a democratic system, the public understanding of what is happening in Parliament is crucial. The PR usually does not stand only for Public Relations, but also for Public Responsibility and Public Responsiveness. Transparency and citizen participation make democratic governing both legitimate and sustainable.

09:45 – 10:45 **Topic I: How to create public pressure**

Generating public involvement in legislation can happen with or without parliamentary engagement. It is almost always better for parliamentarians, and even NGOs and their leaders, when an issue is brought to a broader public through co-operation by the two.

Introduction by Kevin Patrick, USA

Introduction by Dimitar Manolov, Bulgaria

10:45 – 11:45 **Topic II: Parliament on tour**

To encourage democratic development in a country the parliament should not only open its doors, but step outside as well. This presentation will focus on different models (principles, conditions included) for effective parliament-public outreach through organising public events.

Introduction by Gregor Niessen, The Netherlands

Discussion

11:45 – 12:15 Coffee break

12:15 – 13:00 Closing of the conference

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch in hotel restaurant

15:30 Cultural tour of Sofia (*Three buses will depart from the Hilton Hotel*)

18:00 Return to the Hilton Hotel

19:15 Departure by bus from the Hilton Hotel to Restaurant *Kopitoto*
Address: Vitosha National Park; Tel: 57 00 00

22:00 Transfer by bus to the hotel

Sunday, 8 December 2002

Departure of participants (please refer to the pick-up schedule for your pick-up time)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

□ Albania

- Makbule Ceco, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, Socialist Party
- Gaqo Apostoli, MP, Social Democratic Party
- Engjell Bejtaj, MP, Social-Democratic Party
- Ridvan Bode, MP, Secretary General of the Democratic Party
- Jemin Gjana, MP, Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Group, Democratic Party
- Niazi Jaho, Board Member, Albanian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR)
- Kozara Kati, Executive Director, Albanian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR)
- Petro Koci, MP, Socialist Party
- Vjollca Mece, Director of the Women's Association
- Fatmir Mediu, MP, Chairman of the Committee for the Stability Pact and European Integration, Chairman of the Republican Party
- Musa Ulqini, MP, Socialist Party

□ Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Dragan Kalinic, President of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Serbian Democratic Party
- Mariofil Ljubic, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian Democratic Union
- Nada Arnaut, Secretary of the House of People of Federation Parliament of BiH,
- Ivica Cavar, Project Coordinator, Centres for Civic Initiatives (CCI)
- Lejla Deronja, Project Assistant, Centres for Civic Initiatives (CCI)
- Milos Jovanovic, MP, House of Representatives, Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, Serbian Democratic Party
- Damir Masic, MP, House of Representatives, Federation Parliament of BiH, Social Democratic Party
- Zijad Mehmedagic, NGO "KLUB 92" – Doboj, Republika Srpska
- Branko Neskovic, MP, National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Association of Independent Social Democrats
- Igor Rajner, MP, House of People, Federation Parliament of BiH, Social Democratic Party
- Mr. Fadil Sero, Executive Director of Civil Society Promotion
- Ibrahim Spahic, MP, House of People of Parliamentary Assembly, BiH
- Nevenka Trifkovic, MP, National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Party of Democratic Progress

□ Bulgaria

- Maria Anguelieva, MP, National Movement Simeon II
- Tatyana Doncheva, MP, Bulgarian Socialist Party
- Petia Gegova, MP, National Movement Simeon II
- Georgi Genchev, Director, Parliamentary Centre for European Law Foundation
- Ivo Hristov, Chief Expert, Committee on Legal Affairs, National Assembly
- Ivan Ivanov, MP, Union of Democratic Forces
- Mariana Ivanova, Executive Director, Association of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities
- Tatiana Kalkanova, MP, National Movement Simeon II
- Chetin Kazak, MP, Movement for Rights and Freedoms
- Emil Koshlukov, MP, National Movement Simeon II, Chair, Committee on Civil Society Affairs
- Lenko Lenkov, Executive Director, Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation
- Mihail Mikov, MP, Bulgarian Socialist Party
- Kapka Panayotova, Executive Director, Centre for Independent Living

- Lyuben Panov, Director, Bulgarian Centre for Non-profit Law
- Dimitry Panitza, Chairman, Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation
- Valerii Roussanov, President, ACCESS Association
- Krasen Stanchev, President, Institute for Market Economy
- Luchezar Toshev, MP, Union of Democratic Forces
- Irena Varadinova, MP, National Movement Simeon II
- Mariana Vitanova, Head, Parliamentary Information Centre Department, National Assembly
- Gergana Zhuleva, President, Access to Information Programme

□ Croatia

- Ankica Gorkic, Serbian Democratic Forum, Zagreb
- Bojan Munjin, Assistant Director for Civil Society, Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
- Dubravka Prodanovic, Civic Committee for Human Rights, Zagreb
- Radmila Sucevic, B.a.b.e., Zagreb

□ FYR of Macedonia

- Miroslav Dobrevski, President of the Association of blind persons of Macedonia
- Hulija Hilmi, Project Manager, Forum
- Blagoja Gosevski, MP, Social Democratic Party
- Branimir Jovanovski, Union of Handicapped in Macedonia
- Dusan Neshevski, Union of organizations of disabled in Macedonia
- Ismet Ramadani, MP, Coordinator, Party for Democratic Prosperity
- Zoran Sapuric, MP, Liberal Democratic Party
- Olivera Tevceva, Project Assistant, Forum
- Zivko Temelkovski, Project Coordinator, Forum
- Abdulai Vejseli, MP, Party for Democratic Prosperity
- Andrej Zernovski, MP, Coordinator, Liberal Democratic Party

□ Montenegro

- Borislav Banovic, MP, Social Democratic Party
- Marko Canovic, Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT)
- Goran Danilovic, MP, Serbian People's Party
- Goran Djurovic, Centre for NGO Development (CRNVO)
- Olivera Komar, Centre for Elections Monitoring (CEMI)
- Nenad Koprivica, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM)
- Predrag Popovic, MP, People's Party
- Miodrag Vlahovic, Project Manager, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM)
- Miodrag Vukovic, MP Democratic Party of Socialists

□ Romania

- Dorel Bahrin, MP, Humanist Party of Romania
- Costica Canacheu, MP, Democratic Party
- Stefan Deaconu, Consultant on legal issues, Center for Legal Resources
- Virgil Popescu, MP, Social Democratic Party
- Eugenia Rotaru, Project Manager, APD
- Ionut Sibian, Programs Coordinator, Civil Society Development Foundation
- Csaba Sobor, MP, Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania
- Radu Ticiu, Board Member, APD
- Codru Vrabie, Expert, Transparency International Romania

□ Serbia

- Dragana Aleksandric, Project Assistant, European Movement of Serbia (EMINS)
- Jelena Becarevic, Center for Policy Studies
- Dragan Lakicevic, Project Manager, European Movement of Serbia (EMINS)
- Stevan Lilic, MP, Democratic Centre
- Miroslav Hristodulu, MP, Social Democratic Party
- Sasha Pasic, MP, President of Democratic Opposition of Serbia, Parliament of Vojvodina
- Lejla Ruzdic, MP, Democratic Centre
- Nevena Ruzic, Yugoslav Committee of Lawyers
- Aleksandar Simic, Judge, Constitutional Court of Serbia
- Ruzica Yeljovic, MP, Democratic Party

□ Outside Experts

- Michael Farnworth, Resident Director Bulgaria, National Democratic Institute
- Professor Gabriel Fragniere, Former Rector of the College of Europe, Brugge, Belgium
- Gloria Jean Garland, Legal Director, European Roma Rights Center, Hungary
- Professor Anne Hermans, Catholic University Leuven; Member of the Council of the Province of Vlaams-Brabant, Member of the European Parliament (1989-1994); Member of Parliament (1995-1999); Belgium
- Johan Hommes, OSCE Mission in Macedonia, The Netherlands
- Elisabeth Lubbers, Member of Parliament (1998-2002), The Netherlands; EWPPP Programme Advisor
- Dimitar Manolov, Vice President, Confederation of Labor "Podkrepa", Bulgaria
- Gregor Niessen, Programme Director, One Europe Foundation, The Netherlands
- Kevin Patrick, Expert on Lobbying, USA
- Lord John Roper, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom; Member of the *Legislatures and Citizens* International Advisory Board
- Radina Stoyanova, U.S. Agency for International Development, Bulgaria
- Otto Vos, Member of Parliament (1994-2002), The Netherlands
- Sevdalina Voynova, Deputy – Director, National Democratic Institute, Bulgaria
- Franklin De Vrieze, Political Affairs Officer, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

□ East-West Parliamentary Practice Project

Steering Committee

- Radu Ghidau, Former Member of Parliament, Romania
- Jozefina Topalli, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, Democratic Party

Amsterdam Headquarters

- Jill Adler, Director
- Marc van Dorth, Project Assistant
- Lyda Doyle, Project Assistant
- Aurela Isufi, Senior Programme Manager

Sofia Regional Office

- Joeri Buhrer Tavanier, Project Manager

□ Translators/interpreters

- Ilir Baci, Albanian language
- Ileana Cosic, Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian language
- Neven Fajdas, Bosnian/ Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian language
- Filipina Filipova, Bulgarian language

- Diana Lesanu, Romanian language
- Cristian Racareanu, Romanian language
- Fetih Salih, Macedonian language
- Mariana Stoycheva, Bulgarian language
- Pranvera Xhelo, Albanian language
- Jasna Vrteva , Macedonian language