CHAPTER 16

# PARLIAMENTARY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA)

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# PARLIAMENTARY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

# NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (NATO PA)

Alliance cohesion is substantially enhanced by the support of freely elected parliamentary representatives.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) (formerly known as the North Atlantic Assembly) is an interparliamentary organisation which, since 1955, has acted as a forum for legislators from the North American and West European member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance to meet together to consider issues of common interest and concern. In the past few years, in keeping with the major political changes which have occurred in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Assembly has significantly broadened both its membership and its mandate.

Seventeen of the Partner countries of the Alliance have associate delegation status in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. This enables them to participate in the work of the Assembly and in its debates. These are focusing increasingly on the security of Europe as a whole, as well as on the specific economic, political, environmental and cultural problems of Central and Eastern Europe.

The countries which have associate delegation status in the NATO Parliament Assembly are as follows:

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Ukraine.

The Assembly is completely independent of NATO but constitutes a link between national parliaments and the Alliance which encourages governments to take Alliance concerns into account when framing national legislation. It also acts as a permanent reminder that intergovernmental decisions reached within NATO are ultimately dependent on political endorsement in accordance with the due constitutional process of democratically elected parliaments. The Assembly was thus directly concerned with assisting in the process of ratification of the Protocols of Accession signed at the end of 1997, which culminated in the accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to the Alliance in March 1999.

<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Delegates to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly are nominated by their parliaments according to their national procedures, on the basis of party representation in the parliaments. The Assembly therefore represents a broad spectrum of political opinion.

The Assembly meets twice a year in Plenary Session. Meetings are held in member and associate member countries on a rotational basis at the invitation of national parliaments. The Assembly functions through six committees: Political; Defence and Security; Economics and Security; Science and Technology; the Civilian Dimension of Security; and the Mediterranean Special Group. These are both study groups as well as major forums for discussion. The committees study and examine all major contemporary issues arising in their respective fields of interest. They meet regularly throughout the year and report to the Plenary Sessions of the Assembly. There is a Secretariat with a staff of 30 people, based in Brussels.

The primary purpose of the Assembly is educative and consensus-building. It allows Alliance legislators to convey national pre-occupations and concerns to their governments and to the decision-making bodies of the Alliance and to inform each other of the very different national and regional perspectives that exist on many key issues of mutual interest. Similarly, members of the Assembly are able to use the experience and information gained through participation in its activities when exercising their roles within national parliaments. This helps to ensure that Alliance interests and considerations are given maximum visibility in national discussions. The Assembly also constitutes an important touchstone for assessing parliamentary and public opinion on Alliance issues and, through its deliberations, provides a clear indication of public and parliamentary concerns regarding Alliance policies. In this sense the Assembly plays an indirect but important role in policy formation. Recommendations and Resolutions of the Assembly are forwarded to national governments, parliaments and other relevant organisations, and to the Secretary General of NATO, who formulates replies based on discussions within the North Atlantic Council.

Relations with Central and Eastern European countries have been coordinated under the so-called Rose-Roth Initiative, initiated in 1990 by US Congressman Charlie Rose, then President of the Assembly, and US Senator Bill Roth. The initiative has three aspects:

- the active participation of Central and Eastern European parliamentarians in the biannual meeting of the Assembly;
- the holding of special Rose-Roth seminars at regular intervals on subjects of specific interest to parliamentarians from CEE countries. These are organised in cooperation with member parliaments or the parlia-

ments of CEE countries and ensure a regular dialogue among legislators on issues of common concern. Since the commencement of the initiative, more than 30 such seminars have been held;

 the programme also supports the development of parliamentary staff through two-week training programmes or short periods spent at the Assembly's Secretariat in Brussels. This programme is designed for parliamentary staff working for Foreign Affairs or Security Committees, or in other fields of international relations.

The aims of the Rose-Roth Initiative are:

- to integrate and involve parliamentarians from CEE countries in Assembly activities;
- to promote a sense of partnership and cooperation at the legislative level;
- to improve mutual understanding among legislators of their various problems and perspectives;
- to provide CEE parliamentarians with information on current issues;
- to promote the development of appropriate civil-military relations in CEE countries by helping CEE legislators to become more knowledgeable about security issues; and by demonstrating the relationship that exists in Alliance countries between parliamentarians, civil servants and military officials;
- to provide CEE legislators with practical expertise and experience in parliamentary practices and procedures;
- to help the development of a parliamentary staff structure in CEE parliaments in order to provide parliamentarians with the kind of assistance available to their Western counterparts.

The Assembly's role in developing relations with Central and Eastern European parliaments was recognised in the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the NATO-Ukraine Charter, both signed in 1997. These documents called for expanded dialogue and cooperation between the North Atlantic Assembly and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada (parliament) respectively.

The Assembly's outreach programme is separate from, but reinforces, the work of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Alliance's Partnership for Peace initiative (PfP). Particular emphasis is placed on helping to achieve a key PfP objective, namely the establishment of democratic control of armed forces. Assembly activities aim to provide the expertise, experience

and information that will help CEE parliamentarians to become more effective in influencing the development of national defence policies and in ensuring that the control of their armed forces is fully democratic.

Further information on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly may be obtained from its International Secretariat:

Place du Petit Sablon 3 1000 Brussels Tel: 32 2 513 2865 Fax: 32 2 514 1847 E-Mail: secretariat@naa.be Website: http://www.naa.be

# THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION (ATA)

The Atlantic Treaty Association created on 18 June 1954, brings together, as Members, national voluntary and non-governmental organisations in each of the Alliance's 19 member states to support the activities of NATO and promote the objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Since the beginning of the 90's, the ATA regularly admits, as Associate Members, national voluntary and non-governmental organisations established in NATO's Partner countries. There are currently 18 associations which are Associate Members. In accordance with the constitution of the ATA, Associate Members may become full members of the Association when their countries become members of NATO and when their new position has been recognised by the ATA Assembly upon the proposal of the ATA Council.

Since 1999, following the amendment of the constitution, the ATA Assembly may also, on proposal by the Council, grant the position of Observer Member to non-governmental organisations created in the countries participating in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue or in those which are directly or geographically concerned with Euro-Atlantic security problems, even if they have not signed Partnership for Peace agreements<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> During its Assembly held in October-November 2000 in Budapest, the ATA admitted the Alliance for Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina as its first Observer Member association.

The objectives of the ATA and of its affiliated national organisations are:

- · to inform the public concerning the missions and responsibilities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation:
- to conduct research into the various purposes and activities of NATO and their extension to countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the furtherance of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue;
- to promote the solidarity of the people of the North Atlantic area and of those whose countries participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme:
- to promote democracy;
- · to develop cooperation between all its member organisations in order to promote the above objectives.

# MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION

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An Atlantic Education Committee (AEC) and an Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders (AAYPL) are active in their own fields. A Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) was formed within the ATA in 1996.

Further information concerning the Atlantic Treaty Association may be obtained from:

ATA 10 rue Crevaux 75116 Paris France Tel: 33 145 53 28 80 Fax: 33 145 55 49 63 E-mail: ata-sg@wanadoo.fr

<sup>3</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

# THE INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS (CIOR)

The CIOR was founded in 1948 by the Reserve Officer Associations of Belgium, France and the Netherlands. The Confederation now brings together all existing Reserve Officer Associations in NATO countries - 18 in total.

The members of these Associations are active as civilians in business, industrial, academic, political and other fields of professional life, in addition to their role as Reserve Officers.

They are therefore in a position to contribute to a better understanding of security and defence issues in the population as a whole, as well as bringing civilian expertise and experience to the tasks and challenges facing reserve forces in NATO.

CIOR is the abbreviated title of the organisation and is derived from the full name in French "Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Réserve". The Confederation is a non-political, non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation dedicated to cooperation between the national Reserve Officers Associations of NATO countries and to solidarity within the Atlantic Alliance.

The CIOR's principal objectives include working to support the policies of NATO and to assist in the achievement of the Alliance's objectives; maintaining contacts with NATO's military authorities and commands; and developing international contacts between Reserve Officers in order to improve mutual knowledge and understanding.

Delegates to the CIOR are elected by their national Reserve Officer Associations. The head of each delegation is a Vice-President of CIOR. The CIOR International President and Secretary General are elected by an Executive Committee. They serve for two years and are members of the same national association.

Apart from the President and Secretary General, the Executive Committee consists of the 18 Vice-Presidents and up to four other delegates from each national Association. Voting is on the basis of a single vote cast by each Vice-President on behalf of his delegation. The Executive Committee is the CIOR's policy body and decides which country will assume the presidency, where congresses will be held, what projects will be assumed by the various commissions and the final actions to be taken on these projects.

The CIOR is financed by annual subscriptions from its component national associations based on the size of the membership of each association and on subsidies, gifts and legacies.

Four permanent commissions and one legal committee work on behalf of the Executive Committee under the guidance of the President. The Commissions are as follows:

- · Commission 1 Defence Attitudes and Security Issues;
- · Commission 2 Civil/Military Cooperation;
- · Commission 3 Communication;
- Commission 4 Competitions.

The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint a sub-committee or sub-commission to consider specific matters outside the terms of reference of permanent commissions or committees.

In order to accomplish its objectives, CIOR meets on an annual basis alternating the location among member countries. A mid-winter conference for the Executive Committee and Commissions is held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, usually during the first part of February.

# THE INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL RESERVE OFFICERS (CIOMR)

The CIOMR (Confédération Interalliée des Officiers Médicaux de Réserve) was established in Brussels in 1947 as the official organisation of medical officers within NATO's reserve forces. Originally founded by Belgium, France and the Netherlands, the Confederation now includes all CIOR member countries. Its objectives include establishing close professional relations with the medical doctors and services of the reserve forces of NATO countries; studying issues of importance to medical reserve officers, including medico-military training; and promoting effective collaboration with the active forces of the Alliance.

The CIOMR is an associated member of CIOR. The CIOMR holds its sessions at the same time and place as the CIOR summer congress and winter conference but follows its own agenda for the discussion of medical matters.

Further information about the CIOR and CIOMR can be obtained from:

CIOR Liaison Office in NATO NATO/IMS/P1P/CIOR NATO HQ 1110 Brussels Belgium Tel: 32 2 707 5295 Reserve Affairs Advisor Public Inform. Office 7010 SHAPE Belgium Tel: 32 65 44 33 89 The Secretary General CIOMR 6 Boterdorpse Verlaat 3054 XL Rotterdam The Netherlands Fax: 31 10 4635307 Further information on national Reserve Officer associations can be obtained from the following addresses:

BELGIQUE L'Union Royale Nationale des Officiers de Réserve de Belgique (URNOR-KNVRO) 24 rue des Petits Carmes 1000 Bruxelles Tel: 32 2 701 3815

CANADA The Conference of Defence Associations of Canada (CDA) Suite 502 359 Kent Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P OR7 Tel: 1 603 236 1552

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