

Krivokapic makes presidential visit to Moscow and Kyiv



President Ranko Krivokapic and State Duma Chair Sergey Naryshkin

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ranko Krivokapic met with Sergey Naryshkin, Chair of the Russian State Duma, and Valentina Matviyenko, Chair of Russia's Federation Council, on 31 March in Moscow

for talks that focused on the need to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine and the OSCE PA's plans to monitor Ukraine's upcoming presidential election.

"A solution to the crisis in Ukraine will only be possible when Russia plays a constructive role," Krivokapic said.

Krivokapic was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev and Director of Presidential

Administration Roberto Montella, as well as several members of his own staff. During his visit to Moscow, Krivokapic met with Russia's Delegation to the PA and was joined by Nikolay Kovalev, the Head of the Delegation, in his meeting with Chairman Naryshkin. Following his Moscow meetings, Krivokapic traveled to Kyiv, where he met with Acting Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov and members of Ukraine's Delegation to the OSCE PA.

In his meeting with Turchynov, Krivokapic underlined the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and pledged that the PA would do whatever it can to assist the country. He also expressed the Assembly's hope that observers will have the possibility to visit all parts of Ukraine on election day and in the pre-election phase.

He was accompanied by OSCE PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas (MP, Sweden), as well as Roberto Montella.

PA delegation conducts pre-election visit to Ukraine, meets with Acting President

A delegation of senior OSCE parliamentarians completed a pre-election visit to Ukraine on 28 March that included discussions with Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov. Joao Soares (MP, Portugal), who will serve as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observer mission for the country's presidential vote in May, led the visit to Kyiv. He was joined by Makis Voridis (MP, Greece), who will head the OSCE PA election observation delegation, OSCE PA Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Programme Director Anna Chernova and Communications Director Richard Solash.

The group also met with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrii Olefirov; the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State-Building and Local Self-Governance David Zhvania; representatives of the Central Election



Joao Soares (left), Ilkka Kanerva (center) and Makis Voridis (right) are interviewed by U.S. National Public Radio above Maidan Square.

Commission; members of Ukraine's Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Long-Term Observation Mission to Ukraine Tana de Zulueta; Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator's Office; and members of the public and the media.

Albanian Speaker of Parliament visits International Secretariat



Speaker Ilir Meta, Ambassador Arben Cici and colleagues meet with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and staff.

Albanian Parliament Speaker Ilir Meta visited the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 2 April.

Speaker Meta stressed the need to continue improving regional co-operation and the PA's role in doing so. Secretary General Spencer Oliver briefed the delegation on ongoing

election observation missions, the Assembly's efforts in Ukraine and the Helsinki +40 Project, and thanked the delegation for Albania's active participation in the PA, highlighting in particular Albania's successful hosting of the 2012 Autumn Meeting.