

Special Co-ordinator Soares holds high-level meetings in Ukraine



Joao Soares and Arseniy Yatsenyuk



Joao Soares inspects a map of Ukraine at the ODIHR office in Kyiv.



Joao Soares and Ertogrul Apakan

OSCE Special Co-ordinator Joao Soares, appointed by the Chairman-in-Office to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission to the 25 May Presidential election in Ukraine, visited Kyiv and Odessa this week.

Soares met with several senior officials in the Ukrainian capital, including interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the Deputy Foreign Minister and officials in the Security Service of Ukraine. He expressed his strong commitment to helping the Ukrainian people during this transition process, while expressing concern about the security situation for voters. Soares underlined the importance of open dialogue including all communities in the country to overcome current challenges. Interlocutors stressed that conducting a successful election is vital for Ukraine to continue on a stable path.

Special Co-ordinator Soares also met with colleagues from the OSCE, including Tana de Zulueta, the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR's election observation mission in Ukraine, as well as

Ambassador Ertogrul Apakan who heads the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

Joined by Greek parliamentarian Andreas Psycharis and staff member Georgios Champouris from the Hellenic Parliament, the PA delegation also visited Odessa, where they met with OSCE/ODIHR long-term observers, a team from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, local election officials and politicians.

The visit to Kyiv was the fourth in a series of visits by the OSCE PA's election observation mission to Ukraine, which has already included visits to central and eastern Ukraine, with further visits expected in the coming weeks.

Soares, a former President of the Assembly and current Deputy Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA, was accompanied by Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Operations Officer Iryna Sabushuk and by Nuno Paixao from the Portuguese Parliament.

Battelli addresses regional heads of OSCE field presences meeting in Montenegro

OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's Vienna Liaison Office participated in the annual regional meeting of OSCE Heads of field presences in South East Europe on 29-30 April, in Milocer, Montenegro.

Battelli addressed the meeting expressing the PA's

appreciation for the field work of the OSCE. He underlined his initiative for enhanced co-operation between the PA delegations coming from the region, which he would also like to see discussed at the PA's Annual Session in Baku this summer. Battelli also used the opportunity to address issues regarding co-operation with Kosovo's institutions.

Annual Session reports and draft resolutions distributed, deadlines approaching

Reports and draft resolutions to be debated at the 23rd Annual Session in Baku have been distributed to OSCE PA delegations and posted on the Assembly's website at www.oscepa.org. Deadlines are also approaching for submitting supplementary items, as well as amendments to the general committee draft resolutions. A full list of deadlines is below:

- Supplementary Items - Saturday, **24 May 2014**
- Amendments to General Committee Draft Resolutions and Compromise Supplementary Items - Saturday, **14 June 2014**
- Amendments to Supplementary Items - Saturday, **21 June 2014**

Delegates are kindly asked to register for the Annual Session by **24 May**.

According to the Assembly's newly amended Rules of Procedure, a Member cannot co-sponsor more than four supplementary items and the Standing Committee may place no more than 15 supplementary items on the agenda of the Annual Session.

Hosted by the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan, the Session will be held from 28 June - 2 July at the Conference Center of the Fairmont Baku Hotel under the theme "Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All."