

OSCE PA observers deploy throughout Moldova

Parliamentarians from the OSCE, led by Assembly Vice-President Petros Efthymiou, spread out all over Moldova on Wednesday to observe the country's parliamentary elections. Deployment throughout the country follows intense briefings with key interlocutors in Chisinau.

On Thursday afternoon, Mr. Efthymiou, who has also been appointed Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short term observers, will deliver the post-election statement at a joint news conference at 14:00 in Chisinau.

The 34 OSCE parliamentarians representing 17 countries

were joined in the international election observation mission by colleagues from the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Parliament (EP) as well as by a core team and long term observers from the OSCE ODIHR, led by Ambassador Boris Frlec. Together with the short-term observers, the mission overall mission comprises some 300 observers from 40 countries.

The elections in Moldova come only a few months after the 5th of April elections, since the newly elected Moldovan parliament, requiring a 3/5 majority, twice failed to elect the country's new president.

Kyrgyz presidential election failed to meet key OSCE commitments, despite some positive elements

"We are pleased to see some political pluralism and an active civil society, but this was undermined by an overall uneven playing field in which the distinction between the ruling party and the State was blurred," reported Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and Head of the OSCE PA observation mission to the 23 July presidential election in Kyrgyzstan.

Voters could choose from a number of presidential candidates and civil society played an important role in the election process. But the observation mission also stressed that

the incumbent gained an unfair advantage over his opponents through the misuse of administrative resources and bias in the media coverage of the campaign. Election day was marred by many problems and irregularities, including ballot box stuffing, inaccuracies in the voter lists, and multiple voting.

The OSCE election observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE ODIHR. Senator Di Nino had been appointed to lead the 277 short-term observers, as well as the 28-member delegation from the OSCE PA.

Helsinki Commission holds Mediterranean Seminar in Washington, DC



At a reception hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Representative Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and former Vice-President of the OSCE PA, addressed participants in the Mediterranean Seminar organized by Representative Alcee Hastings, OSCE PA Special Representative for the Mediterranean.

President Joao Soares, along with OSCE PA Bureau Members Goran Lenmarker, Jerry Grafstein and Ben Cardin, made presentations to the seminar, which was attended by parliamentarians and diplomats from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and Jordan, as well as by representatives of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship. Paul Fritch, assistant to the OSCE Secretary General and OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver also contributed to the discussions.