

## New members appointed to Parliamentary Team on Moldova



Canan Kalsin



Pierluigi Mantini



Walburga Habsburg Douglas

President Joao Soares has appointed three new members to the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, which was established in early 2000 to promote peace, stability and the rule of law in Moldova while affirming the unity of the State.

The Team now consists of Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), who was appointed the Team's Chair, Jerry Grafstein (Canada), Canan Kalsin (Turkey) and Pierluigi Mantini (Italy).

The Parliamentary Team's mandate is to promote dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the Moldovan population. Resolving the status of Transnistria is a particular priority of the Parliamentary Team.

Since its formation in 2000 the Team has met regularly with senior Moldovan officials and representatives of civil society.

The Parliamentary Team has sought ways to continue engagement with its partners in Moldova by promoting dialogue with representatives from Tiraspol and Chisinau on the course of the negotiations on the status of Transnistria.

The new members of the Team met during the Fall Meetings in Athens earlier this month. The Team plans to visit Moldova in December 2009.

The Parliamentary Team will continue to work closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, with a particular focus on parliamentary dialogue in support of the Transnistria status negotiations.

## PA participates in OSCE Election Needs Assessment Mission to Uzbekistan

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, represented by Programme Officer Anna Chernova, participated in an OSCE ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Uzbekistan on 21-23 October 2009.

Uzbekistan has invited the OSCE to observe parliamentary elections scheduled for 27 December 2009 and the NAM was dispatched, in part, to determine whether an observation mission is warranted.

The NAM met with the Central Election Commission, representatives of political parties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Radio TV, as well as other representatives of the international community.

Taking into consideration the findings of the Needs Assessment Mission, the Assembly leadership in the coming weeks will make a determination whether to deploy an observation mission. In the past the OSCE has sent limited election observation missions to Uzbekistan.

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan assisted in organizing the NAM.

## President Soares maintains busy schedule in November



Joao Soares

In addition to leading Assembly preparations for the observation mission to the upcoming Presidential election in Ukraine in January 2010, President Joao Soares will maintain a busy schedule on behalf of the PA in the coming month.

In early November, Mr. Soares will be conducting a Presidential visit to Kazakhstan to discuss priorities for the incoming 2010 Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The President will be addressing the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He also intends to travel to Moscow to participate in the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation.

In early December, President Soares will address the Ministerial Council of the OSCE in Athens, where he will also chair a meeting of the OSCE PA Bureau.