

News from Copenhagen

International Secretariat looking forward to a productive 2012



Voting at the 2011 Belgrade Annual Session. The 2012 Annual Session will be held in Monaco.



The eleventh Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA will be held at the Hofburg in Vienna on 23-24 February 2012.

The OSCE PA will kick off the new year with an event-filled January, beginning with OSCE PA participation at the opening of the Irish Chairmanship and annual Heads of Missions and Institutions Meeting in Vienna on 11-13 January. The PA is expected to be represented at the event by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen and the PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle. President Petros Efthymiou and Spencer Oliver have also been invited to Dublin to meet with the PA's Irish Delegation in early 2012.

President Emeritus Joao Soares will lead the Assembly's observation mission to the 15 January early parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. Soares, who also serves as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on the South Caucasus, has previously led five OSCE PA observer delegations, most recently to the United States in November 2010. For the mission to Kazakhstan, he is expected to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Astana on 16 January.

The deadline for registering for the OSCE PA election observation mission to Kazakhstan is Thursday, 5 January.

On 17-19 January, senior staff members of the OSCE PA International Secretariat will visit Turkey on a preparatory mission for the 2013 Annual Session.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier is scheduled to visit the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 24 January, where he will be received by OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Tina Schoen and Gustavo Pallares, and Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev.

Dutch parliamentarians Coskun Coruz, Rapporteur of the PA's human rights committee, and Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier are planning a visit to Ukraine on 3-5 February to discuss judicial independence, migration and other human dimension issues. The PA's planned visit is supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Senior staff from the Secretariat will travel to Monaco on the second week of February on a preparatory visit for the

21st Annual Session, scheduled for 5-9 July 2012.

Preparations will continue in February for the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting on 23-24 February. Completed registration forms for the Winter Meeting should be received by the International Secretariat by 20 January. The draft schedule of the meetings, including the theme of the special debate, will be forwarded in due course.

Preparations are also underway for the Spring Economic Conference, to be held in Batumi, Georgia, on 11-14 May. In advance of the meeting, Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev visited Georgia on 14-16 November, where they were hosted by the Vice-Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, George Tsereteli and met with the Secretary General of the Georgian Parliament David Janiashvili, the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and other officials.

Publication of *News from Copenhagen* will be suspended next week, to resume in early January.

All of us at the International Secretariat would like to offer thanks for a fruitful 2011, and to extend warm holiday greetings and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

