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PA at Stability Pact Meeting in Bucharest

Mr. Martián Dan, Member of the Delegation of Romania to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, represented the Assembly at the Plenary Meeting of the Stability Pact Working Table 1 on Democratization and Human Rights, held on 26-27 October 2000 in Bucharest. The Meeting included discussion of the Action Plan on Parliamentary Co-operation adopted in Ohrid, in April 1999. The Action Plan is mainly aimed at strengthening the democratic process in the parliaments of the countries in the region, with a specific objective of creating links between parliamentarians, and organizing training and exchange programmes for parliamentary staff. A proposal was put forward that bi-lateral and multilateral meetings with the purpose of exchanging experience between national parliaments and international parliamentary assemblies (such as the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe and the European Union) should take place at regular intervals, providing invaluable expertise and complementary experience in consolidating democracy.

President Severin addresses Mediterranean Seminar in Portorož

President Severin addressed the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar entitled "Confidence-Building Measures and Confidence and Security Building Measures: the OSCE Experience and its Relevance for the Mediterranean Region", which was held from 30-31 October 2000, in Portorož, Slovenia. In his address to representatives from OSCE Member States, Mediterranean Partners and OSCE Institutions, Mr. Severin focused on the importance of the parliamentary dimension in any comprehensive approach to confidence-building measures and emphasized that the issue of Mediterranean security should be brought from the periphery to the centre of OSCE activities since European security is inextricably linked to that of the Mediterranean Partners. "What is needed is a model of co-operation, based upon our commonly shared principles and values within the economic, cultural and political spheres, in order to

ensure that lessons learned are utilized and overlaps minimized. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly with parliamentarians from 54 Member States provides a frame within which common solutions may be facilitated." said Mr. Severin. The OSCE PA President also elaborated on the issue of migration stressing that adequate policies and legislation must provide the immigrants with real perspective for an improved future within their own countries, while liberalising the circulation of people in Europe. "More generosity shown towards the Mediterranean Partners is not a matter of charity but a means of consolidating European security itself. We must increase the awareness of our own people on this point." the President added. He concluded that the nature of the Parliamentary Assembly does not allow it to be always directly involved in the process of finding solutions for the various crises in the Mediterranean

area, but it could contribute through inter-parliamentary dialogue and civic society programmes to the establishment of a suitable environment within which solutions may be identified and effectively implemented.

On the margins of the Seminar Mr. Severin held bilateral meetings with H.E. the President of Malta, Professor Guido de Marco and H.E. the Foreign Minister of Slovenia, Mr. Alojz Peterle and had discussions with the Secretary General of the OSCE and other Institutions in order to explore the possibility for broadening future co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners.

President Severin was accompanied in Portorož by Mr. Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer, Adviser to the Secretary General.



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OSCE PA President participates in Troika Meeting

President Severin participated in the Troika meeting which was held on 27 October in Vienna and included the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Troika – Benita Ferrero-Waldner of Austria, Petre Roman of Romania, and Espen Barth Eide (State Secretary) of Norway. The Secretary General of the OSCE, Ján Kubiš, the Director of the

ODIHR, Gérard Stoudmann, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve, also participated. During his visit to Vienna, President Severin also met with the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Dr. Heinz Fischer. Mr. Severin was accompanied in Vienna by Mr. Vitaly Evseyev, Deputy Secretary General.