

# News from Copenhagen

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## *Election Update*

Twenty-one parliamentarians from nine OSCE participating States including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom will observe the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Saturday 11 November 2000. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation will be headed by Mr. Bruce George, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Chair of the Defence Committee of the House of Commons. Prior to the elections the parliamentarians will be extensively briefed by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is responsible for the technical arrangements of the elections. They will also be briefed by representatives of political parties, government officials, the UN Office of the High Representative and SFOR. On Election Day the parliamentarians will be deployed across the country to observe the voting process. At a press conference on Sunday 12 November a statement will be delivered on the conduct of the elections.



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## **OSCE PA Democracy Team Visits Kosovo**

From 25-29 October 2000, four OSCE Parliamentarians, Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Democracy Team on Kosovo, visited Kosovo to continue their work to further democratic development. The Team, headed by Assembly Vice-President Dr Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), also included Vice-President, Senator Tana de Zulueta, (Italy), Mrs. Elisabeth Meijer, MP (Netherlands) and Mrs. Grethe Fossum, MP (Norway).

During their stay the parliamentarians visited Pristina, Prizren, Gračanica and Dragash and held meetings with representatives of the

international community, leaders of political parties and media representatives.

The main purpose of the visit was to follow-up on the first visit to Kosovo by the Democracy Team on 12-15 August 2000. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established its Kosovo Democracy Team to concentrate especially on helping to build civic society by promoting dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the population in Kosovo. During their second visit to Kosovo the parliamentarians focused in particular on furthering the involvement of women and youth in

politics, as well as the development of free and critical media.

The Delegation also had the opportunity to follow the Municipal elections in Kosovo on 28 October 2000. Senator de Zulueta and Mrs. Fossum visited several polling stations in the area around Pec/Peja, whilst Mrs. Süßmuth and Mrs. Meijer visited the areas around Pristina and Gnjilane/Gjilan respectively. The Team regarded the local elections as an important element in the building of democratic institutions and civic society in Kosovo and therefore of great significance in relation to the future work of the Team.

### ***President Severin to address Ministerial Council***

President Severin will address the Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, which will be held on 27 and 28 November 2000. Prior to the Ministerial Council Meeting the Bureau of the Assembly will hold its meeting in Vienna on Sunday, 26 November in the Austrian Parliament.

The meeting of the Bureau will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau Working Group on the Rules of Procedure. Bureau Members will be able to join President Severin as part of the delegation of the OSCE PA to the Ministerial Council Meeting.

### ***OSCE PA Representation at Nordic Council Session***

Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, Deputy Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE PA, will represent the Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Nordic Council, which will take place from 6-8 November 2000 in Reykjavik.

