

Current Information from the International Secretariat

Expanded Bureau Meets in Limassol

Chaired by President Severin, the Assembly's Expanded Bureau held a meeting in Limassol, Cyprus on 2-3 October 2000. After welcoming remarks by Mr. Severin and the Head of the Cypriot Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mr. Marcos Kyprianou, the Bureau heard a report by the Secretary General, Mr. Spencer Oliver on the activities of the International Secretariat.

The members of the Bureau then informally discussed proposals on a theme for the next Annual Session. During a special meeting of the Rapporteurs, it was decided that the International Secretariat will prepare a working paper as a base for further discussion during forthcoming meetings.

On the second day of the meeting Ambassador Franz Parak, Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, reported on the activities of the OSCE governmental side and took questions from the floor. Questions to the Ambassador focused on the lines of authority within the OSCE and in particular the relationship between the Chairperson-in-Office, the Secretary General of the OSCE and the Permanent Council as well as the impact of Assembly Declarations and Recommendations on the OSCE decision-making process.

The Expanded Bureau heard reports on the activities on the ad Hoc Committees on Belarus, Moldova and Kosovo. The Bureau also discussed the arrangements for the Assembly's forthcoming events. The Bureau meeting in Vienna will be held on 26 November in conjunction with the Ministerial Council Meeting on 27-28 November, 2000. The Standing Committee Meeting in Vienna will be held on 22-23 February followed by the spring Expanded Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen on 26-27 April 2001.

The Expanded Bureau also heard a report from Mr. Bruce George, Chair of the Bureau Working Group on the Rules of Procedure. Members of the Assembly were, once again, invited to submit their proposals, preferably no later than mid-November. At its November meeting in Vienna, the Bureau will co-sponsor proposals for consideration by the Standing Committee at the next meeting in February 2001. Mr. George will soon send a report on the meeting to Heads of Delegations.

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