

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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President George meets OSCE C-i-O in Lisbon

Invited by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Portuguese Foreign Minister Antonio Martins da Cruz, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Bruce George paid a visit to Lisbon on Tuesday 8 October. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Chairmanship.

The meeting between the President of the Assembly and the Chairman-in-Office, held at the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, addressed various issues of common concern including OSCE strategy to deal with threats to security and stability in the 21st Century, election observation, and perspectives for the Oporto Ministerial. President George informed the CiO about the Assembly's Standing Committee meeting and Conference on the Mediterranean held the previous week in Madrid.

Discussions reaffirmed the common objective of enhancing co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the other OSCE Institutions and structures.

President George also held meetings in Lisbon with the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Mr. João Bosco Mota Amaral, and with the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly led by Mrs. Eduarda Azevedo. The Portuguese Parliament will host the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau to be held in Porto on 5 December before the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting. President George briefed Portuguese parliamentarians on current activities of the Parliamentary Assembly and thanked them for their continuing support of the Assembly.

While in Lisbon President George also attended the opening of the seminar on security in the Western Mediterranean organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU.

During his visit to Lisbon President Bruce George was accompanied by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallares.

Stability Pact Parliamentary Troika Meeting in Tirana

From 14-16 October 2002 the third Conference of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe convened in Tirana at the invitation of the current chair of the Troika: the Council of Europe, and the Albanian Parliament.

The meeting gathered more than 150 delegates from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, parliaments in South-Eastern Europe and international financial organizations.

Representatives of the OSCE PA included Vice-Presidents Ahmet Tan and Rita Süßmuth, as well as Chair of the Third Committee, Elena Mizulina.

Under the overall theme of "Enhancing Security through economic cooperation" the delegations discussed three main topics: 1) Infrastructure projects (energy, transport and water); 2) The fight against crime and corruption; 3) Progress on trade and the free movement of people.

The participants reviewed the progress made in infrastructure development. More than half of the projects financed by the Stability

Pact have started but the development of effective public-private partnership remains to be addressed.

The conference also paid attention to the different projects dealing with the fight against corruption in South Eastern Europe.

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr Schieder urged the actors involved to focus their attention on the causes of corruption and not only on its manifestations. The Troika also commended the negotiation of numerous free trade agreements in the region and encouraged the countries to continue this process.

The conference concluded that enormous progress had been achieved in the region during the past year but that there was still work to be done in which parliamentarians had an important part to play. Delegates insisted that the integration of the countries of South Eastern Europe into the European Union and the Euro-Atlantic community as a whole remains the main objective.

The conference adopted the Tirana declaration available at www.osce.org/pa

Prize Ceremony at Winter Meeting

The Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which met in Madrid on 2 October 2002, amended the procedures concerning the annual OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy. According to the adopted proposal the Prize Ceremony will move from the July Annual Session to the February Winter Meeting in Vienna. **The deadline for the submission of nominees has therefore been changed and is now 1 December.** On the proposal of the Prize Committee the Bureau will take the decision prior to the Winter Meeting. President George said that in his opinion, to announce the Winner and present the Prize at the Winter Meeting in Vienna has enormous advantages for the visibility of the Prize

Upcoming Events

• 4-5 November 2002

Joint OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre- OSCE PA Seminar on Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs, Belgrade

• 6-9 November 2002

Field visit to the OSCE Office in Baku, Azerbaijan

• 1 December

DEADLINE for nominations for 8th OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy

• 5-7 December 2002

PA Bureau Meeting and OSCE Ministerial Council, Porto

• 20-21 February 2003

PA Winter Meeting, Vienna

• 14-16 May 2003

Third OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sub-Regional Co-operation, Bern