

News from Copenhagen

Di Nino: Progress and Problems in Kazakhstan Elections



Senator Di Nino observed voting day procedures in Astana

Almost 60 observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took part in the mission to monitor Kazakhstan's parliamentary elections on 18 August. Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino headed the OSCE PA delegation, which also included senior OSCE PA Members such as Treasurer Hans Raidel (Germany), Special Representative Petur

Blondal (Iceland), and heads of delegations Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria), Michel Voisin (France), Maris Krastins (Latvia), Morten Hoeglund (Norway), and Christian Miesch (Switzerland). Senator Di Nino was also appointed Special Co-ordinator by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, to lead the entire OSCE short-term observation mission and to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the Organization at a press conference in Astana on 19 August.

It said that voting was conducted in a calm atmosphere and was assessed over-whelmingly positively by observers. However, the statement also said the vote count was assessed negatively by many, mainly due to procedural problems and lack of transparency.

"Notwithstanding the concerns contained in the report, I believe that these elections continue to move Kazakhstan forward in its evolution towards a democratic country," said Senator Di Nino.

The OSCE PA mission was accompanied by eight staff from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen and Vienna.

Tone Tingsgard visits Kyiv in preparation for election observation

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, has appointed OSCE PA Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden) as his Special Co-ordinator for the 30 September 2007 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

As Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office, Vice-President Tingsgaard will lead the OSCE short-term election observers at the Ukrainian elections, which will include a large delegation of fellow parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Ms. Tingsgaard will deliver the preliminary post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference on 1 October 2007.

As part of the observation mission, Ms. Tingsgaard paid a pre-election visit to Kyiv on 3-6 September. This visit enabled

the OSCE PA delegation to gather information regarding the ongoing campaign and preparations being made by the Ukrainian authorities for these elections. In Kyiv, Ms. Tingsgaard met with representatives of political parties, the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, the Central Election Commission, the Long-Term Observer Mission deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator, and other groups.

Ms. Tingsgaard was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen and Programme Officer Andreas Baker.

All Members interested in participating in the OSCE PA observation mission to Ukraine are kindly requested to return all registration materials to the International Secretariat by this Friday, September 14.

Fall Meetings in Portoroz

Final preparations for the 2007 OSCE PA Fall Meetings, in Portoroz, Slovenia, are underway. The draft programme for the meetings has been distributed to all Delegations, and is also available on the OSCE PA website at www.oscepa.org.

More than 200 participants from across the OSCE area are expected to take part in the Portoroz Fall Meetings.



President Lenmarker in Western Balkans

President Goran Lenmarker is undertaking a visit to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 10 to 12 September. Accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, President Lenmarker will meet with representatives of the OSCE Missions in the two countries, as well as with the delegations to the OSCE PA and political leadership.

Upon the invitation of Carlo Vizzini, Head of the Italian Delegation, Lenmarker, as well as Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Presidential Advisor Gustavo Pallares, will then travel to Italy to meet with the delegation of Italy to the OSCE PA.