

News from Copenhagen

Four Vice-Presidents elected to the OSCE PA

At the closing of the 17th Annual Session in Astana, OSCE Parliamentarians elected four Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly.



Pia Christmas-Møller (Denmark) was elected Vice-President during the Annual Session in Washington, DC, in 2005 and re-elected during the 2008 Astana Session. Ms. Christmas-Møller has been particularly engaged with election observation activities, including as Head of Delegation.

She has been a Member of the Danish Parliament since 1987, with particular expertise in foreign affairs and human rights issues. Ms. Christmas-Møller has a background in politics and public policy, with extensive experience in working with unemployment insurance.



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev (Kazakhstan) was elected Vice-President in July 2008, in Astana. Head of the Kazakh Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, he has been Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan's Parliament since January 2007.

Mr. Tokayev came to the Kazakh Parliament after having served as Deputy Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He is presently also a member of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Council and head of the Kazakh delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine) was elected Vice-President during the 2008 Annual Session in Astana. Mr. Bilorus is Chairman of the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of the Parliament Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. An economist, manager, and diplomat, Mr. Bilorus has a PhD in Economics and is a Full Professor and member of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Bilorus was first elected a People's Deputy of Ukraine in 1998. Prior to that, he had been the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Director General of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, and Director General of the International Management Institute in Kiev.



Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria) was elected Vice-President after having served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1995 and has been a Member of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE PA since 1996. He has been particularly active in the Assembly's election observation activities. In his work with the Assembly, Mr. Grossruck has visited OSCE missions in Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. With a background in insurance, he is also active in municipal politics and is Mayor of Grieskirchen.

New committee officers elected in Astana

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco) was re-elected as Chair of the First General Committee. He is Head of the Delegation of Monaco to the OSCE PA.

Consiglio Di Nino (Canada) was re-elected Vice-Chair of the First General Committee. As the Head of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA, he will host the Fall Meetings in Toronto.



Riccardo Migliori (Italy) was elected Rapporteur of the First General Committee.

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Petros Efthymiou (Greece) was elected Chair of the Second General Committee, after having served as Vice-Chair.

Roland Blum (France) was elected Vice-Chair of the Second General Committee after having served several terms as Rapporteur of the Committee.



Ivor Callely (Ireland) was elected Rapporteur of the Second General Committee. As Head of the Irish Delegation will host the OSCE PA economic conference in Ireland next year.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Hilda Solis (USA) was elected Chair of the Third General Committee, after having served as Vice-Chair. She has also served as Special Representative on Migration.

Walburga Habsburg-Douglas (Sweden) was elected Vice-Chair of the Third General Committee, having previously served as Committee Rapporteur.

Natalia Karpovich (Russian Federation) was elected Rapporteur of the Third General Committee.

