

News from Copenhagen

Danish hosts visit Secretariat to discuss future arrangements



Left to right: Tina Schøn, Kurt Lerras, Per A. Hansen, Carsten U. Larsen and Spencer Oliver

The administrative leadership of the Danish Parliament visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on Monday, 7 September. The Danish Parliament, known as the Folketing, has hosted the OSCE PA International Secretariat in the center of Copenhagen since its establishment in January 1993 and has recently decided to move the Secretariat to newly renovated premises at the end of 2010.

The visit of the Director of the Folketing, Mr. Carsten U.

Larsen, and the Deputy Director, Per A. Hansen, provided an opportunity to discuss the plan for the new premises and how to upgrade the International Secretariat's technical capacity.

Secretary General Oliver expressed the Assembly's deep appreciation to the Danish Parliament for their generous support as hosts of the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA. Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn and Administrative Director Kurt Lerras also participated in the discussions.

2009 team of Research Fellows supporting Assembly activities

The OSCE PA Research Fellows are busy working on several projects in addition to their regular work of monitoring political developments in OSCE participating States.

To support the work of the Vice-Chairs of the three General Committees in preparing their follow-up reports for the next Annual Session in Oslo, the Fellows are in the early stages of conducting research on the progress made by the international community regarding the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendations made at the 18th Annual Session in Vilnius.

Also in preparation for the Oslo Session, the Fellows are conducting research on possible themes related to the OSCE's three dimensions of security.

Leading up to the Ukraine election observation mission

in January, the Fellows will also be conducting substantive research for the OSCE PA's election briefing report.

The current group of Fellows consists four women and three men from seven participating States: Alyona Blokhina, Russian Federation; Aileen Boniface, United States; Tahire Zümüt Ekinci, Turkey; Cécile Grima, France; Cecilia Lagomarsino, Italy; Andriy Maksymovych, Ukraine; and Borko Milosevic, Serbia.

With combined fluency in French, Italian, English, Spanish, Russian, German, Ukrainian, Serbian, Polish and Dutch, the Fellows offer not only research support but also invaluable language expertise to the Secretariat.

Full biographies are available for each of the Fellows at the Assembly's website, www.oscepa.org.

Soares to lead Assembly's observation mission to Ukraine

President Joao Soares will lead the Parliamentary Assembly's elections observation mission to Ukraine early next year. The presidential election scheduled for 17 January 2010 is expected to generate great interest from the Assembly's members and the goal is dispatch the mission's participating parliamentarians to many parts of Ukraine.

President Soares is also planning to make a pre-election visit to Ukraine sometime during the fall, when he will also, on 19 November, address the OSCE's Permanent Council in Vienna.



Joao Soares and Antonio Henriques during the OSCE PA's election observation mission to the United States last fall