

# News from Copenhagen

## Efthymiou and Kiljunen visit Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen



President Petros Efthymiou, together with Chara Papazoudi and Petra Jezkova



Kimmo Kiljunen and Spencer Oliver

Assembly President Petros Efthymiou (Greece) visited the OSCE PA's International Secretariat on Monday, meeting with staff from both the Copenhagen and Vienna offices, as well as with the OSCE PA's Special Representative for Central Asia, Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland). The President was briefed on the work of the Secretariat by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, the Assembly's Special Representative in Vienna.

Discussion focused on the PA's plans for the coming year and on the ongoing challenges that the Assembly faces, particularly with election observation problems and co-operation with the governmental side of the Organization. Mr. Efthymiou emphasized that the Parliamentary Assembly is an essential OSCE Institution. The independence and flexibility of elected parliamentarians, he said, gives them the ability to act proactively rather than reactively.

Regarding election observation, particular focus was placed on making sure that the 1997 Co-operation Agreement, brokered by the OSCE Chairmanship to ensure effective and credible OSCE election observation, is respected by the OSCE/ODIHR. The Assembly must ensure that it continues to demonstrate accuracy and credibility in its assessments of elections, Mr. Efthymiou said, and enhance its position in respect to other OSCE Institutions.

Discussed at length were preparations for upcoming Assembly activities including election observation missions and the Fall Meetings in Palermo. Ambassador Nothelle described his office's work in preparing for the election observation mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and

preparations for the OSCE Review Conference on 18-26 October. Also discussed were the election observation missions to Kyrgyzstan, the United States, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

Kimmo Kiljunen briefed the President on his ongoing efforts in organizing an International Independent Commission for Inquiry into the ethnic violence that occurred in southern Kyrgyzstan in June. Mr. Kiljunen has visited the country several times since the June events, meeting with high-level figures including President Roza Otunbaeva. Mr. Efthymiou reiterated his full support for Mr. Kiljunen's activities.

President Efthymiou was supported on his visit by Secretary of the Hellenic Delegation Chara Papazoudi.

### Assembly Activities in the Fall

The International Secretariat is preparing observation missions for the following elections:

- General Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 October
- Parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, 10 October
- Congressional elections in the USA, 2 November
- Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, 7 November
- Parliamentary elections in Moldova, date tbd.

The Fall Meetings will be held 8-11 October in Palermo. Registration forms are available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).



President Petros Efthymiou with the Secretariat staff outside of the Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen