

VP Migliori on pre-assessment mission to Tunisia



Vice-President Riccardo Migliori meeting with Minister of Education Taieb Baccouche

OSCE PA Vice-President Riccardo Migliori, recently appointed Head of the OSCE PA's election observers for the upcoming elections in Tunisia, is visiting the country on a pre-election assessment from 6 to 9 September 2011.

In preparation for the elections to the National Constituent Assembly scheduled for 23 October, he is meeting with the High Commissioner for the Fulfillment of Revolutionary Goals, Yadh Ben Achour, Foreign Minister Mohamed Mouldi

Kefi, the Minister of Education, Taieb Baccouche, and the High Independent Authority for Elections, Kamel Jendoubi as well as representatives of political parties and NGOs.

In his meetings, Vice-President Migliori has underlined that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly attaches great importance to the elections, which are the first stemming from the recent Arab revolutions. Mr. Migliori pointed out upon his arrival in Tunis that a successful election in Tunisia will send a positive message to other countries of the region that are undergoing similar processes.

With local authorities, Vice-President Migliori will also discuss the socio-political developments since the 14 January events and assess possible areas of deployment for the OSCE PA observers on election day.

Vice-President Riccardo Migliori was accompanied by PA Deputy Director of Field Operations Roberto Montella and colleagues from the Italian Parliament Pia Califano and Vincenzo Picciolo.

Efthymiou and Habsburg Douglas to visit Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan

Next week, OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou will pay an official visit to Ukraine, while Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas will be in Kyrgyzstan on a pre-assessment mission for the presidential election scheduled for 30 October.

Mr. Efthymiou's agenda includes meetings with Volodymyr Lytvyn, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Mykola Azarov, Prime Minister of Ukraine, and Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshenko. He is also expected to meet with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Ms. Habsburg Douglas is expected to meet with several high-ranking officials including President Roza Otunbaeva, Speaker of the Parliament Akhmatbek Keldibekov, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kazakbaev Ruslan Aitbaevich, as well as the Central Election Commission. The programme in Kyrgyzstan includes a roundtable discussion with political parties as well as briefings by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. A forum

organized by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic and the NGO "Parliament of Political Parties" is also on the agenda, with the theme "The Role of Parliaments in Guaranteeing Free and Fair Presidential Elections."

Also participating in the delegation will be Coskun Coruz, Kathleen Ferrier, Klaas Dijkhoff, and Pauline Meurs, Members of the Dutch Parliament.

Upon the recommendation of President Efthymiou, Ms. Habsburg Douglas has been appointed by Lithuanian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chair-in-Office Audronius Azubalis to lead the short term OSCE observer mission to Kyrgyzstan.

Accompanying the delegation to Ukraine will be OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhayev from the International Secretariat. Programme Director Anna Chernova is accompanying the delegation to Kyrgyzstan.

PA participates in OSCE messaging meeting in Vienna

On 25 August OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier convened two three-hour strategy meetings on OSCE messaging with Institution heads and Gaught Conlon and Associates, a British PR firm. With participation from OSCE PA Director of Communications Neil Simon, the sessions included small break out groups brainstorming about the meaning of "security" and the strengths of the OSCE.

Amb. Zannier expressed his hopes that a new overarching message could become something that all Institutions use in their external communications to increase the profile of the OSCE and lead participating States to become more invested

and involved in the Organization.

In addition to Spokesperson Virginie Coulloudon and other OSCE staff, participants included CPC Director Adam Kobieracki, High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek, Special Representative for Trafficking in Human Beings Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, and Director of the Office of Representative on Freedom of Media Andrey Rikhter. Mr. Simon emphasized the value parliamentarians bring, particularly during election observation missions, to add credibility and visibility to the OSCE's comprehensive security message.