

News from Copenhagen

Assembly leadership meets in Vilnius to discuss ongoing activities of the PA



Oleh Bilorus addressing the OSCE PA Bureau Meeting on 5 December



Jean-Charles Gardetto and Spencer Oliver listen to OSCE Chair-in-Office Audronius Azubalis

The Bureau of the Assembly met in Vilnius on the eve of the 2011 OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting on 6-7 December.

Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto from Monaco, host of the Assembly's 2012 Annual Session, chaired the meeting. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis briefed the Bureau Members on the prospects for the Ministerial Council meeting. Azubalis also referred to the good co-operation with the Assembly during the Lithuanian Chairmanship and praised the PA for its recent work, mentioning in particular the observation missions to Kyrgyzstan and Tunisia.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Roberto Battelli. Underlining that the PA's finances are in good condition, the Secretary General presented the audit report for the last financial year which was positive without any qualification. Oliver also reported on the activities of the Secretariat in support of the work of the Assembly since the Dubrovnik Fall Meetings in October.

Bureau Members discussed recent activities including the election observation missions to Tunisia (led by Vice-President

Riccardo Migliori), Kyrgyzstan (led by Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas) and the Russian Federation (led by President Petros Efthymiou).

Discussions were held on the preparations for the Assembly's 2012 meetings, including the Winter Meeting (Vienna, 23-24 February), the Economic Conference (Batumi, 11-14 May) and the Annual Session (Monaco, 5-9 July). Bureau Members discussed a possible general theme for the Annual Session with several proposals put forward. There appeared to be a general consensus on "The OSCE: Region of Change." Based on this discussion the President will soon communicate the theme to the Standing Committee.

The Bureau also considered the importance of addressing Mediterranean issues in Monaco and holding the Mediterranean Forum on the margins.

Vice-President Gardetto concluded by thanking the Head of the Lithuanian Delegation Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene and the Secretary of Delegation Kristina Grazyte for their hospitality in hosting the Vilnius Bureau Meeting and assisting Members attending the Ministerial Council.

Posada elected Speaker of Spanish Parliament



Jesús Posada elected Speaker of Parliament

Jesús Posada, a Member of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2001, was elected Speaker of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies on 13 December.

A former President of the Castilla y León region, Posada headed the Spanish Delegation from 2001 to 2004, and since then has served as Deputy Head. He previously served as

Agriculture and Fishing Minister from 1999-2000 and Public Administration Minister from 2000-2002.

PA Vice-Presidents re-elected in Spain, Croatia and Slovenia



Isabel Pozuelo



Tonino Picula



Roberto Battelli

Parliamentary elections have been held in Spain (20 November), Croatia and Slovenia (4 December). Vice-Presidents Isabel Pozuelo and Tonino Picula in Spain and Croatia have been re-elected, as has Treasurer Roberto Battelli in Slovenia.