

OSCE PA official visit to Finland



Ranko Krivokapic meets with Ilkka Kanerva in Helsinki.

On 10-12 September President Ranko Krivokapic paid an official visit to Helsinki, at the invitation of Mr. Eero Heinäluoma, Speaker of the Eduskunta. The delegation, which included Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver, PA Senior Counselor Semyon Dzakayev and PA Presidential Advisor Roberto Montella, as well as the members of Mr. Krivokapic's Montenegrin Cabinet, met with Mr. Ilkka Kanerva MP, Head of the Finnish Delegation and Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Ms. Päivi Lipponen MP, Chairperson of the Committee for the Future; Mrs. Miapetra Kumpula-Natri MP, Chairperson of the Grand Committee; Ms. Pia Kauma MP, Member of the Delegation and 1st Committee Rapporteur; and Mr. Johannes Koskinen, former Head of the OSCE PA Transparency and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee.

The President concluded his visit with a bilateral meeting with Mr. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland.

In his meetings, the President expressed his appreciation to the Finnish authorities for their invitation to host the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki. The President underlined that it is a great honor for the Assembly to hold its main annual event in Helsinki at the same time that the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. The President and the Secretary General expressed their opinion that the 40th anniversary of the organization should constitute an opportunity to revive the organization and make reforms which will make the organization more effective, transparent and accountable to the public.

Voridis addresses OSCE Malta conference

Makis Voridis, Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Political Affairs and Security, on 12 September addressed the Regional Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the Mediterranean Region held in Malta. Mr. Voridis spoke about the rapid evolution of the Mediterranean region and the benefits that increased co-operation will bring to mutual security. He underlined the importance that parliamentarians, and in particular members of the PA, attach to democratic oversight of armed forces and of the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Georgia pre-election visit



Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Court Konstantin Kublashvili, Speaker of Parliament David Usupashvili, President Ranko Krivokapic and Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

Ranko Krivokapic, OSCE PA President, and Spencer Oliver, OSCE PA Secretary General, conducted a pre-election visit to Tbilisi, Georgia from 16 to 18 September in preparation for the 27 October presidential election.

The President and the Secretary General met with the President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili; Speaker of Parliament David Usupashvili; Prime Minister of Georgia, Bidzina Ivanishvili; Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze; representatives of the parliamentary majority and parliamentary opposition; and the main Presidential candidates. The delegation met the new Chair of the Central Election Commission and senior members of her staff as well as with representatives of NDI, IRI, and IFES, along with representatives of civil society, including Transparency International, the Georgia Young Lawyers Association, ISFED, and other election-related NGOs.

All interlocutors underlined the importance of the OSCE Election Observation Mission in the run up to the 27 October presidential election and reiterated their gratitude for the fundamental role played by the OSCE PA during last year's parliamentary elections.

President Krivokapic, Secretary General Oliver and Mr. Montella also met with the Head of the ODIHR election observation, Mr. Matteo Mecacci, and his deputy, Mr. Donald Bisson, who have also opened their offices in Tbilisi this week.

They agreed that they expect good co-operation in the weeks ahead on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement between the PA and the ODIHR. The 27 October election mark the ninth time the PA has observed Georgian elections.

With all interlocutors, the delegation discussed the pre-election environment including the current situation in the media, the judiciary, and the election administration.

The President expressed his hope that the pre-election campaign and election day will be carried out in a smooth atmosphere and in mutual respect between all presidential candidates and supporters.