

# News from Copenhagen

## Voisin, Barnett and Voridis lead election observers in Azerbaijan



Michel Voisin and Tina Schoen at a polling station in Baku.



International observers meet to discuss the post-election statement.



Doris Barnett addresses a pre-election briefing on 8 October.

Approximately 390 OSCE observers, including parliamentarians from 15 countries, are in Azerbaijan this week to observe the presidential election. The assessment of the observation mission will be based on compliance with election-related commitments as outlined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document.

On the recommendation of former OSCE PA President Wolfgang Grossruck, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara appointed Michel Voisin (MP, France) as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observation mission.

Current OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic appointed Vice-President Doris Barnett from Germany to head the OSCE PA delegation, while the Chair of the OSCE PA's First General Committee, Makis Voridis (MP, Greece), is serving as Deputy Head of Delegation.

The OSCE PA is working with colleagues from the OSCE/ODIHR, headed by former parliamentarian Tana de Zulueta, as well as engaging in consultations with PACE and the European Parliament. In two days of briefings this week, OSCE PA observers heard from representatives of NGOs, opposition parties, media professionals, officials from the Central Election Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR.

On election day, PA observers deployed to polling stations in Baku, Gobustan, and Sumgait.

The OSCE PA has observed six elections in Azerbaijan since 1995. From the International Secretariat, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk are supporting the mission. The results of the observation mission will be discussed in Budva on 13 October.

## Secretary General Oliver visits UN and IPU in Geneva



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Spencer Oliver

Secretary General Spencer Oliver travelled to Geneva on Monday for meetings at the United Nations and the 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). During this visit, Mr. Oliver had a meeting and attended a working lunch with Kassym-

Jomart Tokayev, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, who is also the former President of the Senate of Kazakhstan and former Vice-President of the OSCE PA.

Director-General Tokayev indicated that he had recently received credentials from representatives of several international parliamentary assemblies and suggested that he would welcome accrediting a representative from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the UN Agencies in Geneva. Secretary General Oliver noted that the PA had interacted with some of the UN Agencies based in Geneva in the past, particularly the ECE, UNHCR, UNDP, and the WTO.

During his visit, Mr. Oliver also attended a meeting

of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP). Mr. Oliver held discussions with Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who addressed the ASGP on the subject of "How Do National Parliaments Take Forward the Work of Parliamentarians Who Attend International Parliamentary Assemblies?"

In addition, Mr. Oliver met with IPU Secretary General Anders Johnsson. Secretaries General Johnsson and Oliver discussed ways in which the IPU and the OSCE PA could expand their co-operation, particularly on election-related matters. The IPU meeting was held at the Centre international de Conférences de Genève, which will be the venue for the OSCE Autumn Meetings in 2014.

On the margins of the IPU meeting, Oliver met with the Head of the Belgian Delegation, François-Xavier de Donnea. They discussed the future work of the PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform, which is chaired by Minister de Donnea, and the implementation of the recommendations on election monitoring within the OSCE made by Mr. de Donnea at the Annual Session in Istanbul.