OSCE PA Election Observation

1993-2015

4,854 OSCE parliamentarians observe 145 elections
Preface

Since 1993, the OSCE PA has played a leading role in election observation across the OSCE area. As politicians who have fought elections themselves, parliamentarians have particular expertise in political campaigns and electoral processes, bringing added credibility to the conclusions of OSCE observation missions. As Members of Parliament, they are also in an excellent position to relate their experiences directly into policy circles in their national parliaments.

By taking part in these missions, and taking time out of their busy schedules, parliamentarians make a bold statement about the importance of legitimate and genuine elections. Their participation in observation efforts also brings international visibility, as parliamentarians are often sought out by journalists from their home countries to express their expert opinions.

The Assembly’s election observation programme is an important contribution to consolidating democracy in the OSCE region, and parliamentarians can be proud of their leading role in these efforts.

The International Secretariat of the Assembly has supported the active election observation programme since its inception, organizing all of the 145 missions that have deployed 4,854 parliamentarians to observe elections in more than 30 countries. We look forward to continuing this work in the years to come and to supporting this important work by Assembly Members.
At the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in Helsinki (1993) the then Chairperson-in-Office, Swedish Foreign Minister Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas, urged parliamentarians to actively participate in election observation and monitoring. In response to this call, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed a particularly active programme for observing elections in the OSCE area. The presence of parliamentary observers at elections emphasizes the importance of legislatures as institutions that must provide a balance to executive authority.

Since 1993, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has deployed 4,854 parliamentarians to monitor 145 elections across the OSCE area.
A delegation of 36 CSCE parliamentarians from 21 participating States observed the first multi-party elections and the referendum on the constitution in the Russian Federation on 12 December 1993.

The Delegation concluded unanimously that based on their limited investigation, the elections and the referendum, on the whole, were conducted in a free and fair manner. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

CSCE PA Delegation
Ilkka SUOMINEN, President of the CSCE PA, Head of Delegation
Dzim RAPAJ, Albania
Shagin VUKAJ, Albania
Josef HÖCHTL, Austria
Jiri PAYNE, Czech Republic
Vaclav CUNDRLE, Czech Republic
Josef HÖCHTL, Austria
Eva Kjer HANSEN, Denmark
Vello AATPALU, Estonia
Jani CARNOGURSKÝ, Vice-President, Slovakia
Kristina SVENSSON, Sweden
Muniş ISLAMOĞLU, Turkey
Cemal ÖZTAYLAN, Turkey
Mehmet KECİÇİLER, Turkey
Sir Peter EMERY, Treasurer, United Kingdom
Frank COOK, United Kingdom
Aarno von BELL, Finland
Hannu KEMPPIAINEN, Finland
Kyösti TOIVONEN, Finland
Sirkka-Liisa ANTTILA, Finland
Hannu KEMPPAINEN, Finland
Henrik LAX, Finland
Eeva-Liisa MOILANEN, Finland
Pekka HAAVISTO, Finland
Jean de LIPKOWSKI, France
Gertraud HÖCHTL, Austria
Jaakko HISSA, Finland
Bernadette GAYET, France
Anne-Laure MEYER, France
Haukur HAUkSSON, Iceland
Dgenia BERNARDINI, Italy
Dgenia BERNARDINI, Italy
Maris STEINS, Latvia
Guillaume WAGENER, Luxembourg
Mario COSTA, Malta
Carmel CHIRCOP, Malta
Huseyin KERIMOĞLU, Turkey
R. Spencer OLIVER, Director, International Secretariat of the CSCE PA
Deputy Director
Vitaly EVSEYEV, Deputy Director
Gen. Services Officer
Kurt ANDERSEN, Secretary
Press Officer
Gina DARK, Assistant
Margarita AVDONINA, Assistant
Guy NETSCHER, Assistant
Gina DARK, Assistant
Margarita AVDONINA, Assistant
Margarita AVDONINA, Assistant

Accompanied by
Antonio GRAZIANI, Austria, interpreter
Janis AGZDINS, Finland, senior staff
Erna HENNICOT, France, journalist
Jaakko HISSA, Finland, interpreter
Dgenia BERNARDINI, Italy, interpreter
Maris STEINS, Latvia, advisor
Guillaume WAGENER, Luxembourg, advisor
Huseyin KERIMOĞLU, Turkey, advisor

The First Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation
A delegation of 18 CSCE Parliamentarians from 9 participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 27 February 1994. The overall conclusion of the Delegation was that the elections were carried out in a free and fair manner. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**CSCE PA Delegation**

Javier RUPÉREZ  
Head of Delegation  
Josef KRUPÍK  
Pavel SEIFER  
Andrus VILLELM  
Antonio GRAZIANI  
Angelo CRESCO  
Antanas RACAS  
Corneliu BALAN  
Emil COJOCARU  
Cornel PROTOPOPESCU  
Marcel MOLDOVEANU  
Nicole BATEANU  
Ludovic RAKOCZI  
Ion DOBRESCU  
Iohail VIZIRU  
Peeter LUKSEP  
Ahmet İNCİÖZ  
Yury ELCHENKO  
Spain  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Italy  
Spain  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Italy  
Czech Republic  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
Iohail VIZIRU  
Peeter LUKSEP  
Ahmet İNCİÖZ  
Yury ELCHENKO  
Romania  
Swedem  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
USA  
USA  
Accompanied by John FINERTY  
Senior Staff Congressional CSCE Commission  
Vinca SHOWALTER  
Senior Staff Congressional CSCE Commission  
International Secretariat of the CSCE PA  
Penti VAANÄNEN  
Deputy Director  
Secretary  

On 7 March 1994 a delegation of nine CSCE Parliamentarians from eight participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. The conclusion of the CSCE Observer Team was that the election process did not meet the standards which CSCE participated States have pledged to uphold. The provision which allowed nearly one-quarter of the new Parliament to be virtually appointed by the President, combined with the widespread violation of Article 46 of the Electoral Code and apparent abuse of authority by local electoral commissions, made a positive conclusion by the CSCE PA Team impossible. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**CSCE Delegation**

Jan van HOUWELINGEN,  
Head of Delegation  
Vedat SAKALLA  
Tomas SVOBODA  
Milan LOUKOTA  
Michel VOISIN  
Hans-Dirk BIERLING  
Ricardas ZURINSKAS  
Kristina SVENSSON  
Müniş ISLAMOĞLU  
Jan van HOUWELINGEN,  
Head of Delegation  
Vedat SAKALLA  
Tomas SVOBODA  
Milan LOUKOTA  
Michel VOISIN  
Hans-Dirk BIERLING  
Ricardas ZURINSKAS  
Kristina SVENSSON  
Müniş ISLAMOĞLU  
Netherlands  
Bulgaria  
Czech Republic  
France  
Germany  
Sweden  
Turkey  
Accompanied by Anne FRAGO, Administrator  
Hüseyin KERIMOGLU, Interpreter  
International Secretariat of the CSCE PA  
R. Spencer OLIVER  
Gina DARK  
France  
Turkey  
Director  
Assistant
A delegation of 23 CSCE Parliamentarians from 16 participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Ukraine on 27 March 1994. The delegation concluded that the first round of these elections was carried out in a free and fair manner. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**CSCE Delegation:**
- Sir Peter EMERY, United Kingdom
- Treasurer of the CSCE PA, Head of Delegation
- Peter MARIZZI, Austria
- Alexander SHIPKO, Belarus
- Michael ZHEBRAK, Belarus
- Gueorgui T. BOZHINOV, Bulgaria
- Mikhail D. NEDELCHEV, Bulgaria
- Andreas KOUKOUMAS, Cyprus
- Josef KUBIS, Czech Republic
- Miroslav RAZKA, Czech Republic
- Anette JUST, Denmark
- Mart NUTT, Estonia
- Willy WIMMER, Germany
- Karlis LEISKALNS, Latvia

**International Secretariat of the CSCE PA**
- Vitaly EVSEYEV, Deputy Director
- Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN, Deputy Director
- Kurt ANDERSEN, General Services Officer
- Camilla BENINCASA, Secretary

*The First Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation*
On 16 and 30 October 1994 a CSCE PA delegation of 16 parliamentarians from 10 participating states observed the first presidential and parliamentary elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since it declared its independence. Based on its findings the delegation concluded that the elections were carried out in a sufficiently free and fair manner. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

CSCE PA Delegation:
- Javier RUPEREZ, Spain
- Emil KOSTADINOV, Bulgaria
- Vaclav CUNDLER, Czech Republic
- Cestmir HOFHANZL, Czech Republic
- Zlatko KRAMARIC, Croatia
- Ivan MILAS, Croatia
- Bozidar PETRAC, Croatia
- Giuseppe DOPPIO, Italy
- Guikje ROETHOF, Netherlands
- Roberto BATTELLI, Slovenia
- Vladimír SEMAGO, Russia
- Munir ISLAMOGLU, Turkey
- Camal OZTAYLAN, Turkey

Accompanied by:
- Buket GITAY, Advisor
- Anatoly SHOSTAK, Advisor
- Bob HAND, Advisor
- Janice HELWIG, Advisor

International Secretariat of the CSCE PA:
- Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN, Deputy Secretary General

On 5 March 1995 a OSCE PA delegation of 17 parliamentarians from 8 participating states observed the second parliamentary elections held in Estonia since the country’s independence in September 1991. Based on its findings, the delegation concluded that the elections were carried out in a free and fair manner and that Estonia has established itself as a European parliamentary democracy. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

CSCE PA Delegation:
- Are NAESS, Norway
- Jaromir KALUS, Czech Republic
- Tomas STERBA, Czech Republic
- Velta PURINA, Latvia
- Maris ZVAIGZNE, Latvia
- And Aud GAUNDAL, Norway
- Ionel ROMAN, Romania
- Feric EMERIC, Romania
- Andrey ZAHAROV, Russia
- Michail VAKULENKO, Russia
- Viktor DAVYDKIN, Russia
- Irina ZUBKEVICH, Ukraine
- Georgiy MANCHULENKO, Ukraine
- Boris KOZHEVNIKOV, Ukraine

Accompanied by:
- Marina SVIRINA, Advisor

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
On 14 and 28 May 1995 a delegation of 12 OSCE Parliamentarians from 6 participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Belarus. Because of weaknesses in the regulations, inappropriate government involvement, the general lack of public information on the elections, and the extensiveness of irregularities in the polling stations, the Belarus parliamentary elections were deemed by the delegation to have not met conditions for free and fair elections. The President of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**CSCE PA Delegation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willi FUHRMANN</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaclav CUNDRLE</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan DECKER</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Jaromir KALUS</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Tomas STERBA</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tönu KAUBA</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Kaisa AULA</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Zourab SHENGELIA</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aud GAUNDAL</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erik SOLHEIM</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ionel ROMAN</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimitri MOCANU</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pentti VAANANEN</td>
<td>Dep. Sec. General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric RUDENSHIOLD</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stig KJELDSEN</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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On 5 July 1995 a delegation of 13 OSCE Parliamentarians from 8 participating states observed the first multiparty elections held in Armenia since independence. A referendum on the adoption of a new constitution was also held in conjunction with the parliamentary elections. The OSCE PA observers concluded that the elections were conducted in a generally free manner. However, pre-election flaws marred the overall fairness of the elections and referendum. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annette JUST</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaclav CUNDRLE</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Jan DECKER</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Tomas STERBA</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tönu KAUBA</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liisa HYSSÄLÄ</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christos VIZOVITIS</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. BRAKATSOUHAS</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. APOSTOLOU</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varujan VOSGANIAN</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor PICA</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone TINGSGAARD</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. RUDENSHIOLD</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abigail CARTER</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavo PALLARÉS</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stig KJELDSEN</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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</table>
A delegation of 6 OSCE Parliamentarians from 6 participating states monitored the two-day elections on 30 September – 1 October 1995 to the Latvian Saeima.

The Delegation concluded that the elections were free and fair. However, unclear clauses in the Election Law, as well as the laws on pre-election canvassing and party financing, led to confusion during the pre-election period. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Peter KAPRAL (Austria) – Head of Delegation
- Pierre BEAUFAYS (Belgium)
- Titt KÄBIN (Estonia)
- Ernesto STAJANO (Italy)
- Pavel NEDRANKO (Moldova)
- Andrei ZAKHAROV (Russia)

**Accompanied by:**
- Marina Svirina (Russia) - Advisor
- International Secretariat of the OSCE PA

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On 29 October 1995 a delegation of 15 OSCE Parliamentarians from 9 participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Croatia. The Delegation concluded that the Croatian law provides sufficient conditions for free and fair elections. They also concluded that the authorities, in particular the officials in the polling stations, performed their duties in an efficient and orderly manner. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Are NAES (Norway) – Head of Delegation
- Gerolf ANNEMANS (Belgium)
- Patrick HOSTEKINT (Belgium)
- Josef JEZEK (Czech Republic)
- Dalibor MATULKA (Czech Republic)
- Bjørn ELMQUIST (Denmark)
- Titt KÄBIN (Estonia)
- Louis COLOMBANI (France)
- Jean-Michel FOURGOUSS (France)
- Marcel PORCHER (France)
- Olaf FELDMANN (Germany)
- Hans RAIDEL (Germany)
- Bjorg Hope GALTUNG (Norway)
- Ciril PUCKO (Slovenia)
- Josef KOPSE (Slovenia)

**Accompanied by:**
- Robert HAND (USA) – Advisor
- Janice HELWIG (USA) – Advisor
- Eyvette LEVY-HEISBOURG (France) – Advisor
- Cathy SALAY (USA) – Advisor
- International Secretariat of the OSCE PA

**Deputys:**
- Pentti VAANANEN (Deputy Secretary General)
- Susanne SCHOEDEL (Assistant)
- Christopher SHARMAN (Assistant)
On 5 November 1995 a delegation of 7 OSCE Parliamentarians from 5 participating states observed the parliamentary and presidential elections in Georgia. The Delegation concluded that the elections were generally well run on election day, and were not seriously marred by other pre-election conditions. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Erik SOLHEIM, Norway
- Vaclav GRULICH, Czech Republic
- Rudolf OPATRIL, Czech Republic
- Vaclav EXNER, Czech Republic
- Alexandru MOSANU, Moldova
- Oleg ZHAROV, Russian Federation
- Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, Programme Director
- Stig KJELDSEN, Assistant

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A delegation of 9 OSCE Parliamentarians from 8 participating states observed the parliamentary elections and constitutional referendum in Azerbaijan on 12 November 1995. Based on its findings the delegation concluded that the elections did not meet all internationally recognized standards for free and fair elections. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden
- Jan DECKER, Czech Republic
- Isidoros MAKRIDES, Cyprus
- Ants PAJU, Estonia
- Tuija-Maaret PYKALAINEN, Finland
- Odd ERIKSEN, Norway
- Grethe FOSSLI, Norway
- Ionel ROMAN, Romania

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Vitaly EVSEYEV, Deputy Secretary General
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, Programme Director
- Rita AVDONINA, Secretary
- Stig KJELDSEN, Assistant
A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observed the Parliamentary Repeat-elections in Belarus on 29 November 1995. Observers noted the achievement of the election authorities in organizing the election process. They stated, however that in order to meet the OSCE commitments, elections require adequate voter access to information about the various political programmes. It is also essential that political parties and candidates enjoy proper access to the national media. These conditions were not met in Belarus.

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following members:

OSCE PA Delegation: Jacques FLOCH, Head of Delegation
Accompanied by: Anne Gompel, Secretary of Delegation

International secretariat of the OSCE PA
Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN Deputy Secretary General

A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observed the Parliamentary elections on 5 and 9 December 1995. Despite the generally efficient organization of the elections in polling stations, several concerns were raised by the observers that if not corrected in the future could compromise Kazakhstan’s commitment to a democratic elections process.

The delegation in particular noted the widespread practice of voters collecting and casting multiple ballots per person. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation: Jan NAVRATIL, Michel VOISIN

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Eric RUDENSFIOLD Programme Director
Stig KJELDSEN Assistant
Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the elections to the Russian State Duma on 17 December 1995. The Delegation, led by Sir Peter Emery (UK), Treasurer of the OSCE PA, consisted of 114 observers, including 83 parliamentarians from 23 OSCE countries, representatives of the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA), the Western European Union (WEU) and the US Congressional Helsinki Commission. The Delegation concluded that the Russian Federation successfully carried out its second multi-party elections in an overall free and fair manner. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sir Peter Emery</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Erhard Meier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Andre Bougeous, Jacques Devolder, Anne-Marie Lizin, Luc Goutry, Suzette Verhoeven, Andre Grosjean, Dirk Van Der Maelen, Jean-Pierre Detremmerie, Roger Hotermans, Geert Versnick, Francis LeBlanc, Loris Lyssiotis, Jiri Payne, Vaclav Cunrdle, Jan Decker, Vaclav Grulich, Jan Krycer, Svatomir Recman, Zdenek Trojan, Cestmir Hofhazl, Jan Navratil, Jaromir Kalus, Otakar Vachodil, Helle Degen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Suzette Verhoeven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Andre Grosjean, Dirk Van Der Maelen, Jean-Pierre Detremmerie, Roger Hotermans, Geert Versnick, Francis Leblanc, Loris Lyssiotis, Jiri Payne, Vaclav Cunrdle, Jan Decker, Vaclav Grulich, Jan Krycer, Svatomir Recman, Zdenek Trojan, Cestmir Hofhazl, Jan Navratil, Jaromir Kalus, Otakar Vachodil, Helle Degen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Sir Peter Emery, Head of the Europe Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Ivars Kezbers, Ivars Kezbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Ricardas Zurinskas, Lithuanian Embassador</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Jacques-Yves Henckes, Luxembourg Embassador</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
<td>Aurel Cepeoi, Moldovan Embassador</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Guikje Roethof, Dutch Embassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Ingvald Godal, Norwegian Embassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Fredrik Jon Frank Gunseren, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Bjorg Hope Galtung, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Wojtek Lamentowicz, Polish Embassador</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Victor Bostinaru, Romanian Embassador</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Roberto Battelli, Slovenian Embassador</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Branko Janc, Swiss Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Axel Andersson, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Yvonne Sanberg-Fries, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Ola Karlsson, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Eskil Eerlandsson, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Lars Leijonborg, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Tanja Lindberg, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Bodil Francke Ohlsson, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Tuve Skanberg, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Karin Wegestal, Swedish Embassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sir Dudley Smith, United Kingdom</td>
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Accompanied by:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Pia Mortensen</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Orest Dyehakiwsky</td>
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<td>Assistant</td>
<td>Dan Hindsgaard</td>
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A delegation of eight OSCE parliamentarians from seven participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Albania on 26 May 1996. The delegation concluded that Albanian legislation provides a basis for free and fair elections. However, they criticized some parts of the legislation and the manner in which some authorities implemented it.

According to the delegates' observations, the procedures on polling day were generally orderly, but a number of irregularities were also observed. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Raoul ÜKSVÄRÄV, Estonia (Head of Delegation)
- Jef TRAVENIER, Belgium
- Jan KRYCER, Czech Republic
- Toomas ALATALU, Estonia
- Hans RAIDEL, Germany
- Urban AHLIN, Sweden
- Algan HACALOGLU, Turkey
- Accompanied by:
  - Janice HELWIG, Advisor, USA
  - Bob HAND, Advisor, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Presidential Elections**

**16 June 1996**

In two rounds of voting, held on 16 June and 3 July 1996, the Russian Federation conducted its first multi-candidate presidential election. A delegation of 39 parliamentarians from 24 OSCE participating states monitored the first round of elections in the Moscow region where the vote was held in conjunction with mayoral elections.

The elections appeared to be generally well run, and were not deemed to have been seriously marred by some problems which occurred in the pre-election campaign. The delegation considered the first round of the Russian Presidential elections to have been conducted in a generally free and fair manner. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Andras BARSONY, Hungary (Head of Delegation)
- Sir Peter EMERY, United Kingdom (Deputy Head of Delegation)
- Javier RUPÉREZ, Spain (Deputy Head of Delegation)
- Willi FUHRMANN, Austria
- Agabek ASKEROV, Azerbaijan
- Alain DESTEXHE, Belgium
- Philippe MAHOUX, Belgium
- D. van der MELEN, Belgium
- Sergei IVANOV, Ukraine
- Indrek KANNIK, Latvia
- Tõnu KÕRDA, Estonia
- Kimmo KILJUNEN, Finland
- Ilkka SUOMINEN, Finland
- Anne MEYER, France
- Arthur PAECHT, France
- Jacques ROZENBLUM, Germany
- Hans-Dirk BIERLING, Germany
- Fiorello PROVERA, Italy
- Ludmilia KUPIRJANOVA, Latvia
- Juris VIDINŠ, Latvia
- Vladimir JAMROLENKO, Lithuania
- Emanuelus ZINGERIS, Lithuania
- Ricardas ZURINSKAS, Lithuania
- Jacques-Yves HENCKES, Luxembourg
- Alexandru NEMTEV, Moldova
- Dzingsiz GABOR, Portugal
- Ingvaiod GODAL, Portugal
- Erik SOLHEIM, Portugal
- Tadeusz SAMBORSKI, Poland
- Accompanied by:
  - Manuela Ferreira LEITE, Portugal
  - Isabel Videira LOPES, Portugal
  - Mario Videira LOPES, Portugal
  - Ionel ROMAN, Romania
  - Roberto BATTELLI, Slovenia
  - Henrik LANDERHOLM, Sweden
  - Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden
  - Mustafa KAMAŁAK, Turkey
  - Hikmet Sami TÜRK, Turkey
  - John FINERTY, USA
  - Manuela Ferreira LEITE, Portugal
  - Isabel Videira LOPES, Portugal
  - Mario Videira LOPES, Portugal
  - Ionel ROMAN, Romania
  - Roberto BATTELLI, Slovenia
  - Henrik LANDERHOLM, Sweden
  - Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden
  - Mustafa KAMAŁAK, Turkey
  - Hikmet Sami TÜRK, Turkey
  - John FINERTY, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Deputy Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Programme Director
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Press Officer
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Assistant Secretary

**Observers Council of Europe PA (PACE):**
- Klaus BÜHLER, Germany
- Sir Ivan PATNIC, United Kingdom
- Sadyr NAVIK, Georgia
- Algirdas GRICIUС, Lithuania
- Evgen MARMAZOV, Ukraine
- John HARTLAND, Adviser
- Bonnie THEOPHLOVA, Adviser
On 14 September 1996, the OSCE PA observed the Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were conducted in accordance with the Dayton process for building a sustainable peace in the former Yugoslavia. The vote was held for a collective Presidency and the House of Representatives, as well as for offices in the country’s two Entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

61 OSCE PA observers from 21 participating states monitored the vote. Observers generally agreed that although elections followed a pre-election campaign seriously marred by widespread violations of election regulations and the Dayton Peace Agreement, the voting process on Election Day generally appeared to proceed smoothly. OSCE PA observers were impressed by the high voter turnout on Election Day and expressed their hope that the elected legislative bodies would further the reconciliation and re-integration process. Observers emphasized that the development of democratic, multi-ethnic institutions, even those that are borne from an imperfect process, were critical to the future of the nascent state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
A delegation of six OSCE parliamentarians monitored the parliamentary elections in Yugoslavia on 3 November 1996. The delegation concluded that the state-owned TV and radio, being the dominant media in the FRY, acted in a blatantly biased manner which seriously compromised the fairness of the elections. The delegation also noted that on polling day the procedures were mostly efficient and in accordance with the law.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA**

**Parliamenary Elections**

**3 November 1996**

A delegation of 14 OSCE Parliamentarians from 6 participating states monitored the parliamentary and presidential elections in Romania on November 3. In their press statement, the delegation congratulated Romania for conducting its third multi-party and multi-candidate elections and recognized this effort as an important commitment to further democratic development. Delegation members also expressed their sincere hope that the increased popular participation in all aspects of the election process, including the holding of democratic elections, would further contribute to political and economic stability in Romania.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 15 OSCE Parliamentarians from 9 participating states, led by Guikje Roethof of the Netherlands, observed the Presidential elections in Croatia on 13 April 1997. The Delegation concluded that Croatian law provides citizens with sufficient opportunities to freely express their will in the electoral process.

The delegation felt, however, that some aspects of the pre-election campaign gave reason for concern. Much of the media, including the state-owned television and radio, did not cover the campaign in an impartial manner, focusing extensively on the activities of the ruling party. However, the election authorities in general appeared to have performed their duties in an efficient and orderly manner. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

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<th>OSCE PA Delegation:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guikje ROETHOF,</td>
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<td>Head of Delegation</td>
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<td>Reinhard GAUGG</td>
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A delegation of 14 OSCE Parliamentarians from 11 participating states monitored elections in Bulgaria on 19 April 1997. Based on its findings, the delegation concluded that the elections were carried out in a free and fair manner. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

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<th>OSCE PA Delegation:</th>
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<td>Bjørg HOPE GALTUNG,</td>
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<td>Martina GREDLER</td>
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International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Perti VAANANEN
Deputy Secretary General
USA
Assistant
Fifty-six parliamentarians from 15 OSCE countries monitored the first round of the Albanian parliamentary elections on 29 June. Based on its findings the delegation concluded that the elections can be deemed as acceptable given the prevailing circumstances and that they constitute the foundation for a strong, democratic system. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Javier RÚPEREZ, Spain (President of the OSCE PA)
- Manfred LAKNER, Austria
- Erhard MEIER, Austria
- Ursula STENZEL, Germany
- Gerhard TUSEK, Austria
- Herman MENTIL, Austria
- Volker KIER, Austria
- Karl OLLINGER, Austria
- Jef TAVERNIER, Belgium
- Jacques D’HOOGHE, Belgium
- Marcos KYPRIANOU, Cyprus
- Isidoros MAKRIDES, Cyprus
- P. SULAK, Czech Republic
- E. LANSKY, Czech Republic
- J. PAVLOV, Czech Republic
- Søren SONDERGAARD, Denmark
- Titt KABIN, Estonia
- Tõnu KÖRDA, Estonia
- Hans-Dirk BIERLING, Germany
- Evangelos ARGIRIS, Greece
- Ioannis KAPSIS, Greece
- Dimitrios KOSSIVAKIS, Greece
- Evangelos MALESIOS, Greece
- Georgios SOURLAS, Greece
- Georgios TZITZIKOSTAS, Greece
- Antonios FOUSSAS, Greece
- Apostolos TASSOULAS, Greece
- Stilian ALFIERI, Greece
- Ioannis ARAPIES, Italy
- Antonio DUVA, Italy
- Michele BONATESTA, Italy
- Michele BUCCI, Italy
- Antonio CONTE, Italy
- Tatiana DE ZULUETA, Italy
- Giovanni CREMA, Italy
- Francesco DI COMITE, Italy
- Stefano MORSELLI, Italy
- Stefano BOCO, Italy
- Mario D’URSO, Italy
- Enrico PIANETTA, Italy
- S. VERTONE GRIMALDI, Italy
- Fabio CALZAVARA, Italy
- Furio COLOMBO, Italy
- Franco DANIELI, Italy
- Vito LECCESE, Italy
- Gualberto NICCOLINI, Italy
- Massimo PALMIZIO, Italy
- Bjørg Hope GALTUNG, Norway
- Cornel STURZA POPOVICI, Romania
- Vichentie NICOLAICIUC, Romania
- Vladimir ZORIN, Russia
- G. RAIKOV, Russia
- N. SHAKELEIN, Russia
- D. OSSIPOV, Russia
- Eskil ERLANDSSON, Sweden
- Alexander SHANDEUYK, Ukraine

**Accompanied by:**
- Roberto MILANESCHI, Italy (NATO PA)
- Catherine GUICHERD, USA
- Bob HAND, USA
- Verena WOHLLEBEN, Germany
- Gyoergy CSOTI, Hungary
- Gian G. MIGONE, Italy
- Maria C. NARDINI, Italy
- Nikkiye BETTENDORF, Luxembourg
- R. Spencer OLIVER, Secretary General
- Pentti VÄANÄNEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Nathalie RENAUD, Assistant Secretary General

**Observers from the NATO PA:**
- Roberto MILANESCHI, Italy
- Catherine GUICHERD, USA
- Verena WOHLLEBEN, Germany
- Gyoergy CSOTI, Hungary
- Gian G. MIGONE, Italy
- Maria C. NARDINI, Italy
- Nikkiye BETTENDORF, Luxembourg
A delegation of 11 parliamentarians from 7 OSCE participating States observed the Bosnia and Herzegovina Municipal Elections on 13-14 September 1997. Mr. Javier Rupérez, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Representative for the Election Observation Mission, which also included parliamentary observers from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

The international observers concluded that “While recognizing the long way ahead before elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina become a routine event in compliance with international standards and OSCE commitments, these municipal elections do represent a significant accomplishment in the peace process.”

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following Delegation:

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**Municipal Elections**

**13 – 14 September 1997**

A delegation of 11 parliamentarians from 7 OSCE participating States observed the Bosnia and Herzegovina Municipal Elections on 13-14 September 1997. Mr. Javier Rupérez, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Representative for the Election Observation Mission, which also included parliamentary observers from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

The international observers concluded that “While recognizing the long way ahead before elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina become a routine event in compliance with international standards and OSCE commitments, these municipal elections do represent a significant accomplishment in the peace process.”

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following Delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Javier RUPÉREZ, Spain
  - President of the OSCE PA
  - Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Marcos KYPRIANOU, Cyprus
- Jaroslav STRAIT, Czech Republic
- Søren SØNDERGAARD, Denmark
- Antonio CONTE, Italy
- Grethe G. FOSSUM, Norway
- Tahsin IRMAK, Turkey
- Yahya SIMSEK, Turkey
- Hisseyn KANSU, Turkey
- Enis SÜLÜN, Turkey
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey

**Accompanied by:**
- Mesut ASLANBEK, Turkey
- Janice HELWIG, USA
- Robert HAND, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Zuzana STRAPONECKOVA, Conference Co-ordinator
- Nathalie RENAUD, Assistant

**SERBIA**

**Parliamentary and Presidential Elections**

**21 September 1997**

A delegation of 26 parliamentarians from 12 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary and presidential elections in the Republic of Serbia on 21 September 1997. The delegation concluded that technical implementation of the voting in the polling stations was good, but the process leading up to the elections was flawed. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bjørg HOPE GALTUNG, Norway
  - Head of Delegation
- Marianne HAGENHOFER, Austria
- Milan LINZER, Austria
- Keti GRAMATIKOVA, Bulgaria
- Nicolay ANGELOV, Bulgaria
- Tatiana TOTEVA, Bulgaria
- Jaroslav NOVAK, Czech Republic
- Jaroslav PALAS, Czech Republic
- Jiri MASTALKA, Czech Republic
- Karel VYMETAL, Czech Republic
- Raoul ÚKSVÁRÁV, Hungary
- Tit KÁBIN, Hungary
- Mirko TRIPUNOSKI, FYROM
- Panayiotis SGOURIDIS, Greece
- Georgios TZITZIKOSTAS, Greece
- Dimitrios TSETINES, Greece

**Accompanied by:**
- Mustafa MUSTAFA, Greece
- Dimitrios KOSTOPOULOS, Greece
- Ioannis DIMARAS, Greece
- Peter MADAII, Hungary
- Miklos CSAPODY, Hungary
- Michele BUCCI, Italy
- Nistor BADICEANU, Romania
- Octavian BOT, Romania
- Hasan Tekin ENEREM, Turkey
- Eskil ERLANDSSON, Sweden

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Georgios HAMPOURIS, Greece
- Nicholas KACZOROWSKI, Assistant
A delegation of 20 parliamentarians from 14 OSCE participating States observed the Republika Srpska National Assembly elections on 22-23 November 1997. Mr. Javier Rupérez, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Representative for the Election Observation Mission. The delegation concluded that the RS National Assembly election was well administered and a technically correct process. However, it also noted that this technically sound process took place in a political environment which falls far short of democratic standards.

While recognizing that this election was part of an ongoing conflict resolution process, it was noted that this process can only be effective if the political parties take serious steps in the implementation of all aspects of the Dayton Agreement. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Javier RUPÉREZ, Spain
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- Marianne HAGENHOFER, Austria
- Peter RIESER, Austria
- Stephan GORIS, Belgium
- Joris VAN HAUTHEM, Belgium
- Marcos KYPRIANOU, Cyprus
- Tiit KÄBIN, Estonia
- Didier BOULAUD, France
- Antonio CONTE, Italy
- Grethe FOSSUM, Norway
- Mario VIDEIRA LOPES, Portugal
- Jose SARAIVA, Portugal
- Martjan DAN, Romania
- Axel ANDERSSON, Sweden
- Søren SØNDERGAARD, Denmark

**Accompanied by:**
- Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Sophie PERESSON, Assistant
- Søren STEIN, Assistant

A delegation of 11 parliamentarians from 7 participating States observed the presidential elections in Armenia on 16 March 1998. Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden) was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission.

The observers concluded that the Presidential Election did not meet the OSCE standards to which Armenia has committed itself in the Copenhagen Document of 1990. Although improvements were noted over the 1996 election, the Election Observation Mission observed ballot stuffing, discrepancies in the vote count, a large presence of unauthorized persons in polling stations, and instances of intimidation directed towards voters, election commission members, candidate proxies and international observers. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden
- Svatomir RECMAN, Czech Republic
- Jean - Pierre KUCHEIDA, France
- Antonio CONTE, Italy
- Bjorn HERNABS, Norway
- Christopher STENSAKER, Norway
- Zbigniew ROMASZEWSKI, Poland
- H. Tekin ENEREM, Turkey
- Lutfullah KAYALAR, Turkey

**Accompanied by:**
- Yahya SIMSEK, Turkey
- Ahmet BILGE, Turkey
- Yasemin ELIBOL, Turkey
- Dirkan ALTUN, Turkey
- Michael OCHS, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Vitaly EVSEYEV, Deputy Secretary General
- Sergei SOLODOVNIKOV, Assistant
A delegation of 31 parliamentarians from 10 participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 22 March 1998. Markus Aaltonen (Finland) was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that the election process as a whole was satisfactory. The candidates could compete under generally good conditions, and the voters could freely express their will on Election Day.

A major exception to this positive assessment was found in Transdniestria, where - due to the lack of *de facto* control by the government of the Republic of Moldova - neither the candidates nor the voters had even close to adequate conditions for exercising their civil rights. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Markus AALTONEN,
- Gvikje ROETHOF, Deputy Head of Delegation
- Marianne HAGENHOFER
- Walter MURAUER
- Jiri PAVLOV
- Jiri SENKYR
- Theo van den DOEL
- Andries POSTMA
- Marteen ZIJLSTRA
- Oddbjørg A. STARRFELT
- Ryszard ZBRZYZNY
- Josef KALETÁ
- Jerzy OSIATYNSKI
- Barbareso DAN
- Sandu DIMTRIU
- Szekely ERVIN
- Buga FLOREA
- Mihail GRAMA
- Nicu IONITA
- Baciu MIHAIL

**Accompanied by:**
- Fenoghen SEVASTIAN
- Gheorghe VALERIV
- Miclaus VASILE
- Stan VASILE
- Vetismanu VASILE
- Barbarosie VICTOR
- Axel ANDERSSON
- Ahmet BILGE
- Tekin ENEREM
- Lyttullah KAYALAR
- Sabri TEKIR
- Jindrich PIETRAS
- Cem ERYLMAZ
- John FINERTY
- Wayne MERRY

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Pentti VAANANEN
- Deputy Secretary General
- Thomas von HANDEL
- Assistant Secretary General

**Country Representation:**
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Austria
- Czech Republic
- Norway
- Poland
- Romania
- Turkey
- Sweden
- USA
A delegation of 29 parliamentarians from 11 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Ukraine on 29 March. Andras Barsony (Hungary), was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that the elections were conducted under a generally adequate legal and administrative framework. However, the campaign was marred by incidents of violence, arrests and actions against candidates and abuse of public office that represented a serious shortcoming in the conduct of the campaign, and raised questions about the neutrality of the state apparatus in the election. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Andras BARSONY, Hungary
Vaclav EXNER Czech Republic
Milena KOLAROVA Czech Republic
Martin PRIBAN Czech Republic
Kimmo KILJUNEN Finland
Jean-Claude LEFORT France
Michel VOISIN France
Benedetto ARSINI Italy
Michele BUCCI Italy
Giovanni CREMA Italy
Franco Di COMITE Italy
Andries POSTMA Netherlands
Guijk ROETHOF Netherlands
Kjell ENGBRETSEN Norway
Edward DASZKIEWICZ Poland
Danuta GRABOWSKA Poland
Krzysztof MAJKA Poland
Dariusz WOJCIK Poland
R.C. SERBAN Romania
Cornel Sturza POPOVICI Romania
Vichentie NICOLAICIUC Romania
Benjamin PETRU Romania
Baban STEFAN Romania
Cevher CEVHERI Turkey
H. Tekin ENEREM Turkey
Hayati KORKMAZ Turkey
Tom COX United Kingdom

For the 11 May parliamentary elections in Hungary, the OSCE PA deployed a delegation of 18 parliamentary observers. Dzsingisz Gabor (Hungary) led the OSCE PA observer team. The observation mission concluded that the Hungarian elections were carried out in a highly professional and transparent manner and were in line with OSCE commitments. In particular, the delegation applauded the effective use of information technology by the Hungarian authorities during the election process.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Dzsingisz GABOR
Head of Delegation
Albert HEROYAN Armenia
Andraik MANUKYAN Armenia
Johann PAYER Austria
Engelbert SCHAUFLER Austria
Hugo OLAERTS Belgium
Milena KOLAROVA Czech Republic
Martin PRIBAN Czech Republic
Tit KABIN Estonia
Didier BOULAND France
Dieter HEISTERMANN Germany
Theo VAN DEN DOEL Netherlands
Corina Sturza POPOVICI Romania
Marian DAN Romania
Vichentie NICOLAICIUC Romania
Benjamin PETRU Romania
Baban STEFAN Romania
Cevher CEVHERI Turkey
H. Tekin ENEREM Turkey
Hayati KORKMAZ Turkey
Tom COX United Kingdom

Accompanied by:

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Eric RUDENSHIOLD Programme Director

Accompanied by:

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Eric RUDENSHIOLD Programme Director

Accompanied by:

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Eric RUDENSHIOLD Programme Director
A delegation of 23 parliamentarians from 13 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Montenegro on 31 May 1998. OSCE PA President Javier Rupérez was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that the elections were generally well conducted and represented a significant improvement over the previous elections held in the Republic of Montenegro. The elections were a step forward towards meeting OSCE commitments.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Javier RUPÉREZ, Spain
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
Wolfgang GROSSRUCK
Marianne HAGENHOFER
Martine SCHÜTTRINGER, Belgium
Marcos KYPRIANOU, Cyprus
Martin PRIBAN, Czech Republic
Josef MANDIK
Karel VYMETAL, Czech Republic
Jiri PAVLOV, Czech Republic
Karen ROENDE
Titi KÄBIN, Estonia
Michele BUCCI, Italy
Antonio CONTE, Italy
Guikje ROETHOF, Netherlands
Martin ZIJLSTRA
Bjoern HERNAES

Accompanied by:
Eva DOSTALOVÁ, Czech Republic
Bob HAND, USA
E. Wayne MERRY, USA
International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Pentti VÄÄNÄNEN, Deputy Secretary General
Lotte MACHON, Assistant

A delegation of 20 parliamentarians from 7 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic on 19-20 June 1998. Tone Tinsgaard (Sweden) was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections were held in accordance with OSCE commitments. International observers attending the two-day elections for the Chamber of Deputies noted the high quality of organization and transparency in the conduct of the elections. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden
Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office
Narcis CASAL, Andorra
Gerolf E. J’ANNEMANS, Belgium
Jacques D’HOOGHE, Belgium
Bjoern HERNAES, Norway
Sigvald Oppeboen HANSEN, Norway
Edward DASZKIEWICZ, Poland
Josef KALETA, Poland
Marcin ZAWILA, Poland
Martian PRIBAN, Czech Republic
Mihail GRAMA, Romania
Titus Nicolae GHEORGHIOF, Romania
Vichierte NICOLAIICIUC, Romania

Accompanied by:
Petre MOLDOVAN, Romania
Dan Mircea POPESCU, Romania
Iosis PANES, Romania
Cornel Sturza POPOVICI, Romania
Adrian SEVERIN, Romania
Hayati KORKMAZ, Turkey
Tekin ENEREM, Turkey
Adriana PESCARU, Romania
Daniel DULCA, Romania
International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Program Director
Assistant
A delegation of 20 parliamentarians from 10 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12-13 September 1998. OSCE PA Vice-President Tana de Zulueta (Italy) was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Election Observation Mission concluded that the campaign was generally well conducted.

As a whole, many aspects of the elections represented an improvement over previous years. The elections were deemed to have been an important step in the further political development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tana De ZULUETA, Italy
- Wolfgang JUNG, Austria
- Patrick HOSTEKINT, Belgium
- Jiří PAVLOV, Czech Republic
- Jan KASAL, Czech Republic
- Karl YVMETAL, Austria
- Brigitte TEGISCHER, Austria
- Karel D’HONDYT, Belgium
- Wolfang JUNG, Austria
- Denis OLAERTS, Belgium
- Franz RICHAU, Austria
- Johanna LEMMETI, Finland
- Brigitte TEGISCHER, Austria
- Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
- Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office
- Accompanied by:
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
- E. Wayne MERRY, USA
- Pentti VAANANEN, Finland
- Deputy Secretary General

The OSCE PA Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections were generally conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. No serious incidents were reported during the elections, and voter turn-out was very high. The election administration worked in an efficient manner, and conducted a technically correct election. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Helle Degn, Denmark
- Thorsten SCHULZE, Germany
- Andreas KOCK, Germany
- Pavel KOZARA, Czech Republic
- Jozef PANES, Slovakia
- Peter MADAII, Austria
- Robert EGER, Austria
- Stephan HAHNE, Germany
- Gabriela RÁBAI, Hungary
- Markus HÖLZL, Austria
- Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
- Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office
- Accompanied by:
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, USA
- Richard FISHER, USA
- Deputy Secretary General

A delegation of 28 parliamentarians from 14 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in the Slovak Republic on 25-26 September 1998. OSCE PA President Helle Degrn was appointed by the Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that the elections were generally conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. No serious incidents were reported during the elections, and voter turn-out was very high. The election administration worked in an efficient manner, and conducted a technically correct election. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Rui CARRETEIRO, Portugal
- Martina DAN, Romania
- Slavica POPOVICI, Romania
- Tekin ENEREM, Vice-President, Turkey
- Yahya SIMSEK, Turkey
- Ahmet BILGE, Turkey
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
- Accompanied by:
- E. Wayne MERRY, USA
- Pentti VAANANEN, Finland
- Deputy Secretary General

The OSCE PA Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections were generally conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. No serious incidents were reported during the elections, and voter turn-out was very high. The election administration worked in an efficient manner, and conducted a technically correct election. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Edvard DASZKIJEWSKI, Poland
- Ryszard DEWACHARIWSKI, Poland
- Robert KAWOWSKI, Poland
- Andrzej KOZAK, Poland
- Marian KOWALSKI, Poland
- Mariusz KUKLINSKI, Poland
- Robert KAWOWSKI, Poland
- Ryszard DEWACHARIWSKI, Poland
- Ryszard DEWACHARIWSKI, Poland
- Ryszard DEWACHARIWSKI, Poland
- Robert KAWOWSKI, Poland
- Ryszard DEWACHARIWSKI, Poland
- deputy Secretary General

The OSCE PA Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections were generally conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. No serious incidents were reported during the elections, and voter turn-out was very high. The election administration worked in an efficient manner, and conducted a technically correct election. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Virgil POPESCU, Romania
- A. VENGEROVSKY, Russia
- Axel ANDERSSON, Sweden
- Mats ABERG, Sweden
- Tine TINGSGAARD, Denmark
- Tekin ENEREM, Turkey
- Ahmet BILGE, Turkey
- Orest DEYCHAKIWSKY, USA
- Orest DEYCHAKIWSKY, USA
- Secretary General
A delegation of 21 parliamentarians from 12 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 18 October 1998. OSCE PA Vice-President Tekin Enerem was appointed by the Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The Observer Team concluded that these elections represented a significant improvement over previous elections.

An important aspect of this improvement was that the new election law enjoyed wide political consensus when adopted by the parliament. The campaign was well conducted by the parties. A number of violent incidents were reported, along with some violations of the campaign silence, but these appear to have been isolated cases. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 12 parliamentarians from 10 OSCE participating states observed the Albanian Referendum on the Constitution on 22 November 1998. OSCE PA Vice-President Tana de Zulueta was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Election Observation Mission. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that the referendum was carried out in a peaceful manner throughout the country.

Only isolated incidents of violence were reported during the vote. The delegation was encouraged to note that all of the parties called upon fulfilled their role in voting commissions at local levels. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tana DE ZULUETA, Italy (Vice President of the OSCE PA)
- Ann-Marie LIZIN, Belgium
- Marcos KYPRIANOU, Cyprus
- Vaclav EXNER, Czech Republic
- Sören SONDERGAARD, Denmark
- Hans RAIDEL, Italy
- Michele BUCCI, Italy
- Dan MIRCEA POPESCU, Romania
- Cornel Sturza POPOVICI, Romania
- Lars U. GRANBERG, Sweden
- Sabri TEKKIR, Turkey

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
- Herborg FISKAA, Assistant

For the 30 May 1999 parliamentary elections in Armenia, the OSCE PA deployed a delegation of 21 parliamentarians, headed by Mrs. Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden). Mrs. Tingsgaard was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as the Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE election observation effort, and reported on 31 May that the elections demonstrated an improvement over previous elections and were conducted in a generally peaceful and orderly manner. The Mission applauded the respect for freedom of association by authorities, but expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of voter lists. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tone TINGSGAARD, Sweden (Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office)
- Gerhard KURZMANN, Austria
- Vaclav EXNER, Czech Republic
- Jiri PAVLOV, Czech Republic
- Petr SULAK, Czech Republic
- Markku ROSSI, Finland
- Helmut RAUBER, Germany
- Antonio CONTE, Italy
- Zhandar KARIBAEV, Kazakhstan
- Kjell ENGEBRETSSEN, Norway
- Sigvald Oppeien HANSEN, Norway
- Edward DASZKIEWICZ, Poland
- Nistor BADICEANU, Romania
- Marian DAN, Romania
- Titu Nicolae GHEORGHIOF, Romania
- Slavomir GVOZDENOVICI, Romania
- Dan Mircea POPESCU, Romania
- Cornel Sturza POPOVICI, Romania
- Peter OSUSKY, Sweden
- Lars GRANBERG, Sweden

**Accompanied by:**
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
- Michael OCHS, USA
- Chadwick GORE, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, Programme Director
- Tina SCHÖN, Research Co-ordinator
- Wenke CRUDOHF, Assistant
A delegation of 15 parliamentarians from 9 OSCE participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan on 10 October 1999. Mr. Ihor Ostash, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed to lead the Observation Mission as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

The delegation concluded that “the 10 October 1999 election of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan marks a tentative step in the country’s transition to democracy. If Kazakhstan is to make further progress in this transition, interference by executive authorities in the broader electoral process must be halted, and their resistance to international standards must be overcome”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

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<tr>
<th>OSCE PA Delegation:</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ihor OSTASH, Vice President of the OSCE PA</td>
<td>Edward DASZKIEWICZ</td>
<td>Kazimierz KLEINA</td>
<td>Cemil CICEK</td>
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<td>Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office</td>
<td>Fridtjof FRANK GUNDESEN</td>
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<td>Martina GRAEDLER</td>
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<td>Jaroslav STRAIT</td>
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<td>Stefano MORSELLI</td>
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<td>Theo VAN DEN DOEL</td>
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<td>Accompanied by:</td>
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<td>Jindrich PIETRAS</td>
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<td>Michael OCHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Secretariat of the OSCE PA</td>
<td>Eric RUDENSHIOLD</td>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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<td>Dmitry SHLAPACHENKO</td>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
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</table>
A delegation of 21 parliamentarians from 12 OSCE participating States monitored the parliamentary elections in Georgia on 31 October 1999. OSCE PA Vice-President Bruce George was appointed Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to lead the Observation Mission. The Delegation concluded that “the conduct of the 1999 parliamentary election represents a step forward towards Georgia’s compliance with OSCE commitments. Despite some irregularities, it appears that Georgian voters were generally able to express their will. Regrettably voting could not take place in Abkhazia and parts of South Ossetia”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- Vice President of the OSCE PA
- Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office
- Haroutjun PAMBUKIAN, Armenia
- Gagik VOSKARIYAN, Armenia
- Gerolf ANNEMANS, Belgium
- Andre GEENS, Belgium
- Meryem KACAR, Belgium
- Jiri PAVLOV, Czech Republic
- Jiri SENKYR, Czech Republic
- Tiit KABIN, Vice President, Estonia
- Mart NUTT, Estonia
- Paula KOKKONEN, Finland
- Heiner BARTLING, Germany
- Angelo FARRUGIA, Malta
- Martin ZIJLSTRA, Netherlands
- Kjell ENGBRETSEN, Norway

**Accompanied by:**
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
- Michael OCHS, USA
- Torsten BRANDIS, Security Officer, Germany
- Michael Gavin DELANY, Security Officer, Germany
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, Programme Director, Programme Director
- Tinah SCHÖN, Co-ordinator
- Emmett BELIVEAU, Assistant

**Representatives:**
- Sigvald HANSEN, Norway
- Martian DAN, Romania
- Corneli POPOVICI, Romania
- Slavomir SVOZDENOVICI, Romania
- Mehmet KAYA, Turkey
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey
- Martian DAN, Romania
- Cornel POPOVICI, Romania
- Slavomir SVOZDENOVICI, Romania
- Mehmet KAYA, Turkey
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Eric RUDENSHIOLD, Programme Director
- Tinah SCHÖN, Co-ordinator
- Emmett BELIVEAU, Assistant
A delegation of 75 parliamentarians from 26 OSCE participating states observed the 19 December 1999 election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation. Helle Degen, President of the OSCE PA was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as his Special Representative to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission.

In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the Delegation concluded that the State Duma elections marked significant progress for the consolidation of democracy in the Russian Federation and an increased level of confidence in the democratic process. Concerns were expressed in the statement regarding issues such as media bias, campaign expenditures and interference by executive authorities in the election process. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Helle DEGN Denmark
- President of the OSCE PA
- Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office
- Head of Delegation
  - Vahagn GRIGORYAN Armenia
  - Amayak HOVHANNISKYAN Armenia
  - Gerhard KURZMANN Austria
  - Erhard MEIER Austria
  - Karl WILFING Austria
  - Theo KELCHTERMANS Belgium
  - Marie-José LALOY Belgium
  - Jean-Paul MOERMAN Belgium
  - Francis VAN DEN EYNDE Belgium
  - Yiannakis THOMA Cyprus
  - Stanislav FISHER Czech Republic
  - Vladimir HRADIL Czech Republic
  - Jiří KARAS Czech Republic
  - Petr MARES Czech Republic
  - Jiří PAVLOV Czech Republic
  - Petr PLEVA Czech Republic
  - Dusan TESNAR Czech Republic
  - Pavel TOLLNER Czech Republic
  - Karel VYMELAČ Czech Republic
  - Jan ZAPLETAL Czech Republic
  - Sergei IVANOV Estonia
  - Peeter KREITZBERG Estonia
  - Vladimir VELMAN Estonia
  - Kimmo KILJUNEN Finland
  - Paula KOKKONEN Finland
  - Henrik LAX Finland
  - Petri NEITTIANMAKI Finland
  - Rene ANDRE France
  - Jose BALARELLO France
  - Jean-Luc BECART France
  - Nicole CATALA France
  - Jacques CHAUMONT France
  - Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA France
  - Jean-Claude LEFORT France
  - Aymeri de MONTESQUIOU France
  - Jean-Marie POIRIER France
  - Yvette ROUDY France
  - Henri WEBER France
  - Hans-Dirk BIERLING Germany
  - Christoph MOOSBAUER Germany
  - Winfried NACHTWEI Germany
  - Johann RAIDEL Germany
  - Helmut RAUBER Germany
  - Willy WIMMER Germany
  - Vice-President OSCE PA
  - John CONNOR Ireland

- Accompanied by:
  - Frank FAHEY Ireland
  - Michael HIGGINS Ireland
  - Batt O’KEEFE Ireland
  - Edouard BALLEMAN Italy
  - Michele BUCCI Italy
  - Antonio CONTI Italy
  - Zygmunt MACKIEWICZ Lithuania
  - Jacques-Yves HENCKES Luxembourg
  - Mihai CEBAN Moldova
  - Grigore SIRBU Moldova
  - Jacob TIMCIUC Moldova
  - Albert KOENDERS Netherlands
  - Elisabeth MEIJER Netherlands
  - Martin ZIJLSTRA Netherlands
  - Bjorn HERNÆS Norway
  - Jerzy CIESLAK Poland
  - Edward DASZEKIVICZ Poland
  - Jose SARAIVA Portugal
  - Nistor BADICEANU Romania
  - Slavomir GVOZDENOVICI Romania
  - Adrian SEVERIN Romania
  - Cornel STURZA POPOVICI Romania
  - Gustav KRAICZI Slovak Republic
  - Tone TINGSGAARD Sweden
  - Shukhrat SULTANOV Tajikistan
  - Kemal CELIK Turkey
  - Igor HAVRYLOV Ukraine
  - Jennifer HILTON United Kingdom

- International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
  - R. Spencer OLIVER Secretary General
  - Vitaly EVSEYEV Deputy Secretary General
  - Jan JOOREN Press Counselor
  - Eric RUDENSHIOLD Programme Director
  - Kurt ANDERSEN General Services Officer
  - Sophie RICHARDSON Assistant to the SG
  - Gina DARK Conference Co-ordinator
  - Tina SCHON Co-ordinator
  - Johannes BINDER Assistant
  - Massimo CARNELOS Assistant
  - Nikolai MIZULIN Assistant
  - David NICHOLS Assistant
  - Oleg KROKHALEV Interpreter
  - Alexander ILCHENKO Interpreter
  - Petr PENZIN Interpreter
  - Anton USPENSKY Interpreter
A delegation of 26 parliamentarians from 15 OSCE participating states monitored the parliamentary elections in Croatia on 3 January 2000. Helle Degn, President of the OSCE PA was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as his Special Representative to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission. According to the joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and OSCE/ODIHR, the election marked progress towards meeting Croatia’s commitments as an OSCE participating State and as a member of the Council of Europe. The international observers emphasized that they were pleased to have noted an improvement over previous elections, particularly in respect of the high turnout of 76.7 percent.

The joint statement, however, also expressed important concerns related to Croatian legislation, such as the Citizenship Law and the representation of national minorities. Other concerns involved state media bias, the effective participation of political parties in the work of electoral commissions, accuracy and transparency of voter registers, campaign financing provisions, and the need to ensure privacy during voting. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 14 parliamentarians from 10 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 20 February 2000. OSCE PA Vice-President Ihor Ostash (Ukraine) was appointed as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission. The delegation concluded that the 20 February parliamentary elections represented a critical event in the democratic development of the Kyrgyz Republic. Changes to electoral legislation provided the potential for increased competition and party representation and an increased role for civil society in the political process.

However, a series of decisions preventing parties and candidates from competing in the election on a fair and equal basis, and a high degree of interference in the electoral process by public prosecutors and some state officials marred the pre-election period. As a result, the parliamentary elections were not in full compliance with OSCE commitments. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 46 parliamentarians from 20 OSCE participating states observed the presidential elections in Russia on 26 March 2000. OSCE PA President Helle Degn was appointed Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission. In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the international observers concluded that “the 26 March election of the President marks further progress for the consolidation of democratic elections in the Russian Federation”.

President Degn added that the election, “while in general meeting the country’s commitments as an OSCE participating State and as a member of the Council of Europe, revealed some weaknesses. Chief among these are pressure on the media and the decline of credible pluralism”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Helle DEGN (Denmark), President of the OSCE PA
- Werner AMON (Austria), Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office
- Helle DEGN (Denmark)
- Werner AMON (Austria)
- Pieter DE CREM (Belgium)
- Werner AMON (Austria)
- Peter SULAK (Czech Republic)
- Vaclav EXNER (Czech Republic)
- Jiri SENKYR (Czech Republic)
- Hans ENGELL (Denmark)
- Henrik LAX (Finland)
- Ani SINNEMAKI (Finland)
- Esko-Juhani TENNILA (Finland)
- Tomislav STOJANOVSKI (FYROM)
- Chetomir KRALEVSKI (FYROM)
- Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA (France)
- Jean-Claude LEFORT (France)
- Willy WIMMER (Germany)
- Hans-Dirk BIERLING (Germany)
- Hans REIDEL (Germany)

**Accompanied by:**
- Jindrich PIETRAS (Czech Republic)
- Søren DEHN (Denmark)
- Jovan PEJKOVSKI (FYROM)
- Willy SCHELLEN (Germany)
- Irina SOROKINA (Germany)
- Orest DEYCHAKIWSKY (USA)
- John FINERTY (USA)

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Vitaly EVSEYEV (Deputy Secretary General)
- Jan JOOREN (Press Counselor)
- Tina SCHØN (Research Co-ordinator)
- Alexander ILCHENKO (Interpreter)

President Degn added that the election, “while in general meeting the country’s commitments as an OSCE participating State and as a member of the Council of Europe, revealed some weaknesses. Chief among these are pressure on the media and the decline of credible pluralism”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 20 parliamentarians from 12 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan on 5 November 2000. MP Paula Kokkonen (Finland) was appointed Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to lead the Election Observation Mission in Azerbaijan.

In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the international observers concluded that “the 5 November 2000 elections to the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Azerbaijan Republic constitute progress over previous elections, in particular in enhancing political pluralism. However, they fell short of international standards and significant improvements will have to be achieved in order to meet such standards for democratic elections”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Paula KOKKONEN, Finland
Erhard MEIER, Austria
Ilse BURKET, Austria
Didier FAMOUDT, Belgium
Gerolf ANNEMANS, Belgium
Guy HOVE, Belgium
Joris VAN HAUTHEM, Belgium
Dusan TESNAR, Czech Republic
Frantisek CHOBOTD, Czech Republic
Mart NUTT, Estonia
Helmut RAUBER, Germany
Johann RAIDEL, Germany
Asta JOHANNESDOTTIR, Iceland

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
Antonio CONTE, Italy
Kjell ENGBRETSEN, Norway
Sigvald OPPEBØEN-HANSEN, Norway
Dominik RUDKOWSKI, Poland
Ahmet TAN, Turkey
Lutfullah KAYALAR, Turkey
Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom

Accompanied by:
Eva DOSTALOVA, Czech Republic
Michael OCHS, USA

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Paul LEGENDRE, Programme Officer
Tina SCHÖN, Co-ordinator
A delegation of 19 parliamentarians from 9 OSCE participating States observed the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 11 November 2000. In a statement issued on 12 November the parliamentary observers expressed their confidence that these elections, representing significant improvement over previous elections, were an important step forward in the long and difficult path to consolidating democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- Tiit KÄBIN, Estonia
- Otmar BRIX, Austria
- Johann LOOS, Austria
- Terezoka STOISITS, Austria
- Daniel VANPOUCKE, Belgium
- Josy DUBIE, Belgium
- Anne-Marie LIZIN, Belgium
- Jiri PAVLOV, Czech Republic
- Jiri SENKYR, Czech Republic
- Miroslav BENES, Czech Republic
- Vladimir HRADIL, Czech Republic
- Peeter KREITZBERG, Estonia
- Cornel Sturza POPOVICI, Romania
- Margareta VIKLUND, Sweden
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey
- Tahir KÖSE, Turkey

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Penti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 26 parliamentarians from 15 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Serbia on 23 December 2000. OSCE PA President Adrian Severin was appointed Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission. In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the observers concluded that the 23 December National Assembly election in the Republic of Serbia/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia marked significant progress and was conducted largely in line with accepted international standards for democratic elections. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Adrian SEVERIN, Romania (President of the OSCE PA)
- Anton HEINZL, Austria (Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office)
- Anton WATTAUL, Austria
- Mechislav GIRUTS, Belarus
- Patrick MORIJAU, Belgium
- Peter VANHOUTTE, Belgium
- Vaclav EXNER, Czech Republic
- Jeppe KOFOD, Denmark
- Søren SONDERGAARD, Denmark
- Tomislav STOJANOVSKI, FYROM
- Winfried NACHTWEI, Germany
- Michele BUCCI, Italy
- Andrey GREGA, Italy
- Bert KOENDERS, Netherlands
- Slavomir GVOZDENOVICI, Romania
- Leonid KOROTKOV, Russian Federation

**Accompanied by:**
- Konstantin KOSACHEV, Russia
- Sergei LÖBOV, Russia
- Mikhail NUZHDINOV, Russia
- Vasily POSPELOV, Russia
- Yuri POTAPOV, Russia
- Nikolay SAPOZHNIKOV, Russia
- Carles CAMPUZANO, Spain
- Karin WEGSTÄL, Sweden
- Svitlana DRUZIUK, Ukraine
- Nicolaie IAMANDI, Romania
- Valery OSTANIN, Russia
- Jovan PEJKOVSKI, FYROM

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- R. SPENCER OLIVER, Secretary General
- Paul Le GENDRE, Programme Officer
- Tina SCHÖN, Research Co-ordinator
A delegation of five OSCE parliamentarians observed the repeat parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan on 7 January 2001. MP Paula Kokkonen (Finland) was appointed as Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission.

In the joint OSCE PA-Council of Europe PA-OSCE/ODIHR statement, the observers concluded that the 7 January 2001 partial repeat elections to the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan marked some improvement compared to the 5 November 2000 ballot, but did not meet a number of international standards for democratic elections. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**Azerbaijan**

**Repeat Parliamentary Elections**

7 January 2001

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Paula KOKKONEN (Finland), Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Didier RAMOUDT (Belgium)
- Paul WILLE (Belgium)
- Antonio CONTE (Italy)
- Asta JOHANNESDOTTIR (Iceland)

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Paul LeGENDRE (Program Officer)

**Moldova**

**Parliamentary Elections**

25 February 2001

A delegation of 30 parliamentarians from 11 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 25 February 2001. MP Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) was appointed Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office for the Election Observation Mission.

In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the observers concluded that “these third parliamentary elections since the country’s independence in 1991, were conducted in accordance with the OSCE commitments for democratic elections enshrined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document and in the framework of the honouring of commitments and obligations of Moldova as a member State of the Council of Europe”. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Kimmo KILJUNEN, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Petr SULAK (Czech Republic)
- Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA (France)
- Antonio CONTE (Italy)
- Michele BUCCI (Italy)
- O. Ausdal STARRFELT (Norway)
- Edward DASZKIEWICZ (Poland)
- Jerzy OSIATYNSKI (Poland)
- Petru ANDEA (Romania)
- Aron BELASCU (Romania)
- Dumitru BENTRU (Romania)
- Ervin SZEKELY (Romania)
- Eugen NICOLESCU (Romania)
- Gheorghe FLUTUR (Romania)
- Gheorghe TOKAY (Romania)
- Ioan SONEA (Romania)
- Ioan Aurel RUS (Romania)
- Mois VASALIE (Romania)
- Paul Tiberiu NEAMTU (Romania)
- Radu Mihai PRICOP (Romania)
- Sorin Adrian VORNICU (Romania)
- Traian NOVOLAN (Romania)
- Vasilie SUCIU (Romania)
- Mihaela IONESCU (Romania)
- Roberto BATTELLI (Slovenia)
- Tone TINGSGAARD (Sweden)
- Ahmet TAN (Turkey)
- Tarik CENGIZ (Turkey)
- Roberto BATTELLI (United Kingdom)

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Paul LeGENDRE (Programme Officer)
- Tina SCHÖN (Research Co-ordinator)
A delegation of 34 parliamentarians from 17 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Montenegro on 22 April 2001. Tiit Käbin, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for this Election Observation Mission.

In a joint statement of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament, and the OSCE/ODIHR, the observers concluded that the 22 April 2001 parliamentary elections in Montenegro, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, was generally in line with international commitments for democratic elections. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Tiit KABIN, Vice-President of the OSCE PA
- Johannes ZWEYTICK
- Gabriela MOSER
- Roger BOUTECA
- Jean-Pierre MALMENDIER
- Peter VANHOUTTE
- Eduard OUTRATA
- Jiri KARAS
- Jiri LISKA
- Petr SULAK
- Søren SÖNDERGAARD
- Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA
- Vase MANCEV
- Helmut RAUBER
- Panayotis KAMMENOS
- Georgios KIRKOS
- Jonna BJARTMARZ
- Michele BUCCI
- Antonio CONTE
- Tor NYMO

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<td>Jan JOOREN</td>
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<td>Nina CASPERSEN</td>
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**Accompanied by:**
- Oddbjørg STARRFELT, Norway
- Gheorghe TOKAY, Romania
- Gheorghe VALERIU, Romania
- Vasalje MOIS, Romania
- Alexander BELOUSOV, Russian Federation
- Leonid BELYAY, Russian Federation
- Valentin KNYSH, Russian Federation
- Konstantin KOSACHEV, Russian Federation
- Mikhail NUZHDINIV, Russian Federation
- Eduard VOROBIEV, Russian Federation
- Roberto BATTELLI, Russian Federation
- Stig SANDSTRÖM, Turkey
- Ersoy OZCAN, Turkey
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey
- Natalia NOVGORODSKAYA, Russian Federation
- Jovan PEJKOVSKI, FYROM
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
- Jan JOOREN, Counselor
- Nina CASPERSEN, Research Fellow
A delegation of 38 parliamentarians from 16 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Albania on 24 June 2001. OSCE PA Vice-President Bruce George was appointed Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission.

In a joint statement (OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament and OSCE/ODIHR) the observers concluded that the 24 June 2001 elections to the Assembly of the Republic of Albania marked progress towards meeting the OSCE commitments for democratic elections formulated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document and Council of Europe standards as embodied in the European Convention on Human Rights and its case-law. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom (Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office)
- Josef TAVENIER, Austria
- Jiri KARAS, Belgium
- Petr SULAK, Czech Republic
- Titi KABIN, Estonia
- Mart NUTT, Estonia
- Paula KOKKONEN, Finland
- Liisa HYSSÄIÄ, Finland
- Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA, France
- Georgios CHAMPOURIS, Greece
- A. CHRISTODOULOU, Greece
- Pantelis FOVAKIS, Greece
- Nikolaos GATZIS, Greece
- Panayotis KAAMENOS, Greece
- Evangelos KARAPIPERIS, Greece
- Constantine TASOULAS, Greece
- Pantelis TSERTIKIDIS, Greece
- Eleftherios TZIOLAS, Greece
- Michele BUCCI, Italy
- Mario BRUNETTI, Italy
- Eduard BALLAMAN, Italy
- Elizabeth MEIJER, Netherlands
- Bjørn HERNAES, Norway
- Oddbjøerg STARRFELT, Norway
- Edward DASZKIEWICZ, Poland
- Jozef KALETA, Poland
- Aron BELASCU, Romania
- Vasalie MOIS, Romania
- Isabel TOCINO, Spain
- Fátima ABURTO, Spain
- Joaquin BASCUNANA, Spain
- Tomas BURGOS, Spain
- B. GARCIA MANZANARES, Spain
- Jeronimo NIETO, Spain
- Rosita RUNEGRUND, Sweden
- Ahmet TAN, Turkey
- Accompanied by:
- Bob Hand, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
- Alexander STAUN-RECHNITZER, Advisor
A delegation of 54 parliamentarians from 22 participating States observed the presidential elections in Belarus on 9 September 2002. The OSCE PA Observer Team concluded that there were fundamental flaws in the electoral process, some of which are specific to the political situation in Belarus. “These presidential elections fell short of meeting international standards for democratic elections” said Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen, who acted as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the observation mission. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Kimmo KILJUNEN, Finland
Vice-President of the OSCE PA
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
Johann LOOS, Austria
Karl Ollinger, Austria
Jacques D’HOOGHE, Belgium
Georges LENSEN, Belgium
Branislav LOLIC, Bosnia/Herzegovina
Roumiana GUEORGUIEVA, Bulgaria
Lyutvi MESTAN, Bulgaria
Anastasia MOSER, Bulgaria
Jordan PAMUKOV, Bulgaria
Tohso PEIKOV, Bulgaria
Jiri LISKA, Czech Republic
Edvard OTRATA, Czech Republic
Jean-Pierre KUCHEIDA, France
Altmann KISELA-HERTA, Germany
Uta ZAPF, Germany
Edouard BALLAMAN, Italy
Michele BUCCI, Italy
Antonio CONTE, Italy
Stefano MORSELLI, Italy
Erkin BULEKBAEV, Kyrgyzstan
Valery DIL, Kyrgyzstan
Bolotbek SHERNIAZOV, Kyrgyzstan
Antons SEIKSTS, Latvia
Vytautas KVIETKAUSKAS, Lithuania
Romanas A. SEDLICKAS, Lithuania
Victor ANDRUSCIAC, Moldova
Jan ROKITA, Poland
Maria A. DOBRESCU, Romania
Vasilie MOIS, Romania
Adrian SEVERIN, Romania
President of the OSCE PA
Vladimir PLOTNIKOV, Russian Federation
Yuri STEPANOV, Russian Federation
Evgeny ZELENOV, Russian Federation
Urban AHLIN, Sweden
Carina HAGG, Sweden
Tone TINSGAARD, Sweden
Bayram Firat DAVANIKL, Turkey
Tahir KÜSE, Turkey
Almet TAN, Turkey
Vladimir ALEKSEEV, Ukraine
Volodymyr ALEKSIEIEV, Ukraine
Liudmyla BEZUHLA, Ukraine
Volodymyr MANCHENKO, Ukraine
Petro ROMANCHUK, Ukraine
Nataliia VITRENKO, Ukraine
Oleksandr YEROKHIN, Ukraine
MacKinley ANDREW, United Kingdom
Birrovo MIJATOVIC, FR of Yugoslavia
Accompanied by:
Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic
Orest DEYCHAKIWSKY, USA
Ronald McNAMARA, USA
Peter DEUTSCH, USA
Sander GERBER, USA
International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
Paul LEGENDRE, Programme Officer
A delegation of 52 parliamentarians from 17 participating States observed the Assembly Elections in Kosovo on 17 November 2001. The mission concluded that the Assembly Elections were a significant step towards constructing a democratic society based on human rights and the rule of law in the aftermath of the 1999 conflict. “Democracy based on the integration of all ethnic communities is the key to stability and economic improvement in South East Europe. The test of this election will be the functioning of the new Kosovo Assembly,” said Bruce George, who led the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 47 parliamentarians from 19 participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Ukraine on 31 March 2002. The conclusion of the OSCE Observer Team was that the elections indicated progress towards international standards, but significant flaws persisted.

“We are encouraged by the progress made, but the final conclusion on whether these elections have brought Ukraine closer to international standards will depend on the role of the election administration and the judiciary in the post-election phase”, said Bruce George, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for the election observation mission. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:
A delegation of 41 OSCE parliamentarians from 20 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 15 September 2002. OSCE PA Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen was appointed Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE Observation Mission. The delegation concluded that the elections were conducted largely in accordance with OSCE commitments and international standards for democratic elections. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

- Kimmo KILJUNEN, Finland
- Ilse BURKET, Austria
- Franz KAMPICHLER, Austria
- Johanna SCHICKER, Austria
- Pieter DE CREM, Belgium
- Peter VAN HOUTTE, Belgium
- Petr BRATSKY, Czech Republic
- Jiri LISKA, Czech Republic
- Radek MERKL, Czech Republic
- Edvard OUTRATA, Czech Republic
- Jiri SENKYR, Czech Republic
- Tiit KABIN, Estonia
- Mart NUTT, Estonia
- Rouquet RENE, France
- Georgios CHAMPOURIS, Greece
- Christos ZOIS, Greece
- MihalyBALLA, Hungary
- Gabor HARS, Hungary
- Roberts JURDZS, Latvia
- Theo VAN DEN DOEL, Netherlands
- Kjell ENGBRETSEN, Norway
- Jerzy CIESLAK, Poland
- Elzbieta KRUK, Poland

- Jose SARAIVA, Portugal
- Aron BELASCU, Romania
- Vasile MOIS, Romania
- Roberto BAITTELLI, Slovenia
- Fatima ABURTO, Spain
- Carles CAMPUZANO, Spain
- Jeronimo NIETO, Spain
- Stig SANDSTROM, Sweden
- Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom
- Slobodan GAVRILOVIC, Yugoslavia
- Miladin KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Ranko KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Novica KULIC, Yugoslavia
- Milan LUCIC, Yugoslavia

- Krysztot ZAREMBA, Poland
- Eugenio MARINHO, Portugal
- Roberto BATTELLI, Slovenia
- Fatima ABURTO, Spain
- Carles CAMPUZANO, Spain
- Jeronimo NIETO, Spain
- Stig SANDSTROM, Sweden
- Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom
- Slobodan GAVRILOVIC, Yugoslavia
- Miladin KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Ranko KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Novica KULIC, Yugoslavia
- Milan LUCIC, Yugoslavia

**Accompanied by:**

- Krzyszto ZAREMBA, Poland
- Eugenio MARINHO, Portugal
- Aron BELASCU, Romania
- Vasile MOIS, Romania
- Roberto BAITTELLI, Slovenia
- Fatima ABURTO, Spain
- Carles CAMPUZANO, Spain
- Jeronimo NIETO, Spain
- Stig SANDSTROM, Sweden
- Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom
- Slobodan GAVRILOVIC, Yugoslavia
- Miladin KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Ranko KADIC, Yugoslavia
- Novica KULIC, Yugoslavia
- Milan LUCIC, Yugoslavia

- Ivars AISTRAUTS, Latvia
- Dorothy TAFT, USA
- Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
- Paul Le GENDRE, Programme Officer
- Rosa M. ROIG I BERENGUER, Assistant
A delegation of 17 parliamentarians from 12 participating States observed the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5 October 2002. According to the statement made by the OSCE Observer Team, the elections in were largely in line with international standards for democratic elections. Shortcomings included the highly negative and often personalized nature of the campaign with little meaningful debate on reform issues.

On election day, the voting took place in a calm and peaceful atmosphere, and the voting procedures were conducted generally in a well-ordered and efficient way. “These elections mark important progress toward the consolidation of democracy and rule of law under domestic control”, said Pieter De Crem, member of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE PA, who led the OSCE observer mission as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:
An OSCE PA delegation of 13 parliamentarians from nine different countries observed the parliamentary elections in Armenia, held on 25 May 2003. The Mission was headed by Giovanni Kessler, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, who acted as Special Coordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and worked in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

In delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE, Mr. Kessler remarked that following a generally peaceful campaign, the delegation had “observed an election which represents an improvement in meeting international standards, despite a number of serious incidents and shortcomings during the electoral process”. He further regretted the lack of voter confidence in the electoral process. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

An OSCE PA delegation of 13 parliamentarians from nine different countries observed the parliamentary elections in Armenia, held on 25 May 2003. The Mission was headed by Giovanni Kessler, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, who acted as Special Coordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and worked in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

In delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE, Mr. Kessler remarked that following a generally peaceful campaign, the delegation had “observed an election which represents an improvement in meeting international standards, despite a number of serious incidents and shortcomings during the electoral process”. He further regretted the lack of voter confidence in the electoral process. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Giovanni KESSLER, Italy
- Wolfgang GROSSRUCK, Austria
- Vladimir KONOPLEV, Belarus
- Petr SULAK, Czech Republic
- Petr BRATSKY, Czech Republic
- Markus LÖNING, Germany
- Jozsef ÉKES, Hungary
- Luigi COMPAGNA, Italy
- Aron BELASCU, Romania
- Valeriu GHEORGHE, Romania
- Vasalie MOIS, Romania
- Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom
- Tom COX, United Kingdom
- Accompanied by:
  - Michael OCHS, USA
- International Secretariat of the OSCE PA
  - Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
  - Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
  - Tina SCHÖN, Programme Officer
A delegation of seventeen parliamentarians from 13 countries observed the presidential elections in Azerbaijan on 15 October 2003. The Mission was headed by OSCE PA Vice-President Giovanni Kessler, who acted as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and worked in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

In delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE, Mr. Kessler stated that voting in the 15 October election was generally well administered in most polling stations but the overall election process still fell short of international standards in several respects, including a number of irregularities in the counting and tabulation. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Giovanni Kessler, Italy (Vice-President of the OSCE PA)
- Wolfgang Grossruck, Austria
- Karl Öllinger, Austria
- Siquet Louis, Belgium
- Søren Søndergaard, Denmark
- Lapo Pistelli, Italy
- Z. Zhekembiov, Kazakhstan
- Egidijus Klumbys, Lithuania
- Neihat Albayrak, Netherlands
- Zbigniew Kulak, Poland
- Ervin Zoltan Szekely, Romania
- Gheorghe Tokay, Romania
- Ervin Zoltan Szekely, Turkey
- Gaye Erbatur, Turkey
- Michael Ochs, USA

**Accompanied by:**
- Jan Jooren, Press Counselor
- Tina Schon, Programme Officer

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- Egidijus Klumbys, Lithuania
A delegation of 20 OSCE parliamentarians from 10 participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Georgia on 2 November 2003. The observer team’s statement concluded that the elections fell short of a number of international standards. Delays and confusion over voter lists contributed to a lack of public confidence in the governmental and parliamentary authorities’ capacity to manage an effective and transparent election process.

Although the election provided voters with a wide choice of candidates, unrealistic timelines and improvised last minute decisions threatened to undermine the otherwise improved work of the Central Election Commission. OSCE PA President Bruce George, appointed as Special Coordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, regretted that the 2 November parliamentary elections in Georgia “have been insufficient to enhance the credibility of either the electoral or the democratic process.” The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- President of the OSCE PA
- Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Hovik ABOVYAN, Armenia
- Roudik HOVSEPYAN, Armenia
- Walter POSCH, Austria
- Engelbert WEILHARTER, Austria
- Francis Van Den EYNDE, Belgium
- Cernal CA VDARLI, Belgium
- Karim Van OVERMEIRE, Belgium
- Petr BRATSKY, Czech Republic
- Jiri KARAS, Czech Republic
- Jiri LISKA, Czech Republic
- Shamsat ISSABEKOVA, Kazakhstan

Accompanied by:
- Andrejs KLEMENTJEVS, Latvia
- Algars PETERSONS, Latvia
- Egidijus KLUMBYS, Lithuania
- Romanas A. SEDLICKAS, Lithuania
- Zbigniew KULAK, Poland
- Aron BELASCU, Romania
- Valeriu GHEORGHE, Romania
- Vasalie MOIS, Romania
- Jindrich PIETRAS, Czech Republic

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
- Tina SCHØN, Programme Officer

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A delegation of 74 parliamentarians from 27 OSCE participating States observed the State Duma Elections on 7 December 2003. The head of delegation and Special Coordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, OSCE PA President Bruce George delivered preliminary post-election statement, which concluded that the elections were well organized, but failed to meet many international standards. According to the statement, the Central Election Commission deserves credit for its professional organization of these elections.

However, the pre-election process was characterized by extensive use of the state apparatus and media favoritism to benefit the largest pro-presidential party, reflected in voter apathy. “Given that procedures on election day were conducted in a technically correct way, it is even more regrettable that the main impression of the overall electoral process is of regression in the democratization process in Russia”, concluded the statement.

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- President of the OSCE PA
- Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Wolfgang GROSSRUCK, Austria
- Teresija STOISITS, Austria

Accompanied by:
- Hugo COVELIERS, Belgium
- Dominique TILMANS, Belgium
- Lionel VANDENBERGHE, Belgium
- Stavros EVAGOROU, Cyprus
- Eleni THEOCHAROUS, Cyprus
- Petr BRATSKY, Czech Republic
Twelve parliamentarians from nine OSCE countries participated in the OSCE PA election observation mission to Serbia on 28 December 2003. The election observation mission was a joint operation of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA and the OSCE/ODIHR. The delegation was led by Vice-President Ihor Ostash, appointed as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

During the press conference on 29 December, Vice-President Ostash concluded that the elections were in general carried out according to international standards. But he also recommended that the Serbian election law be reformed as a matter of urgency. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
Ihor OSTASH, Vice-President of the OSCE PA
Wolfgang GROSSRUCK, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
Francoise COLINIA, Belgium
Patrick MORIAU, Belgium
Anissa TEMSAMANI, Belgium
Søren SØNDERGAARD, Denmark
Gert WEISSKIRCHEN, Germany
Josif NIKOLIC, Serbia
Zoran BISKUPIC, Croatia
Vladimir KOSIC, Croatia
Zoran DODIK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Jozef EKES, Hungary
Gabor HARS, Hungary
Kjell ENGBREITSEN, Norway
Mustafa TUNA, Turkey
Thomas COX, UK
Igors AIZSTRAUTS, Latvia
Accompanied by:
Pentti VAANANEN, Deputy Secretary General
A delegation of 22 OSCE parliamentarians from 15 participating states observed the 4 January presidential election in Georgia, in conjunction with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The joint statement concluded that the extraordinary presidential election demonstrated notable progress over previous elections and brought the country closer to meeting international commitments and standards for democratic elections.

The Head of Delegation, OSCE PA President Bruce George, appointed as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, said that the authorities showed the political will to conduct democratic elections, making a welcome contrast to the deeply flawed 2 November 2003 parliamentary elections. He emphasized that the forthcoming parliamentary elections would be the true test for the new authorities of their willingness and ability to conduct genuinely democratic elections and that he looked forward to returning for the parliamentary elections to witness further steps towards achieving international standards. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce GEORGE</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>President of the OSCE PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry GRAFSTEIN</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovanni KESSLER</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Treasurer, Deputy Head of Delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara HEARING</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engelbert WEILHARTER</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl BODEN</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cemal CAVDARLI</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Seraphin VAN DEN EYNDE</td>
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<td>Petr SULAK</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Maric RUSOVA</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Peeter TULUISTE</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>Rolf KRAMER</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Luigi COMPAGNA</td>
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<td>Aigars PETERSONS</td>
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<td>Elita SNEPSTE</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Vytautas KVIETKAUSKAS</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
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<td>Romansas A. SEDLICKAS</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bert KOENDERS</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afif DEMIRKIRAN</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Orhan Ziya DIREN</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick PONSONBY</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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**Accompanied by:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael OCHS</td>
<td>USA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Spencer OLIVER</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan JOOREN</td>
<td>Press Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina SCHON</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A delegation of 30 parliamentarians from 17 participating states observed the parliamentary elections in Georgia on 28 March 2004. For the first time in the history of the OSCE PA election observation programme, parliamentarians from OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation participated in the OSCE PA Observer Team. The joint statement published by the delegation concluded that the parliamentary elections demonstrated commendable progress in relation to the previous elections.

It was highlighted that the Georgian authorities had seized the opportunity in the months since the last elections to bring Georgia’s election process closer in line with European standards for democracy. “The contrast with the November 2003 parliamentary elections is very substantial. I am encouraged by the move towards greater democratisation and I look forward on my return to witness the process deepened,” said President George, appointed as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- Bruce GEORGE, United Kingdom
- President of the OSCE PA
- Jerry GRAFSTEIN, Canada
- Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
- Treasurer, Deputy Head of Delegation
- Engelbert WEILHATER, Austria
- Anton HEINZL, Austria
- Cemal CAVDARLI, Belgium
- Patrick HOSTEKINT, Belgium
- Francis VAN DEN EYNDE, Belgium
- Stanislaw BELEHRADEK, Czech Republic
- Edvard OUTRATA, Czech Republic
- Toomas ALATALU, Estonia
- Peeter TULVISTE, Estonia
- Miapetra KUMPULA, Finland
- Hans RAIDEL, Germany
- Haya AL QARALEH, Jordan
- Abdel-Karim DE GHMI, Jordan
- Erkin BULEKBAEV, Kyrgyzstan
- Aleksandrs BARATASEVICS, Latvia
- Dainis TURLAIS, Latvia
- Ingrid HASSLER, Liechtenstein
- Ali Salem CHAGAF, Morocco
- Adil EL MAATI, Morocco
- Khalid Hour ALAMI, Morocco
- Bjorn HERNAES, Norway
- Thore NISTAD, Norway
- Zbigniew KULAK, Poland
- Ryszard ZBRZYZNY, Poland
- Ciril PUCKO, Slovenia
- Alaattin BUYUKKAYA, Turkey
- Jennifer HILTON, United Kingdom
- David HEATH, United Kingdom
- Accompanied by:
- Ron McNAMARA, USA
- Michael OCHS, USA

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA**
- Jan JOOREN, Press Counselor
- Tina SCHØN, Programme Officer
At the invitation of the Algerian Foreign Minister Mr Albdelaziz Belkhadem, a special delegation of the OSCE PA observed the presidential elections held in Algeria on 8 April 2004. The delegation was led by OSCE PA President Bruce George of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. This was the first time that the Assembly observed an election in an OSCE partner State.

In a press conference hours after the closing of polling stations, President George and Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgian Senator expressed their opinion that the elections had been carried out in a proper and orderly manner.

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- GEORGE, Bruce (United Kingdom) President of the OSCE PA
- YALCINTAS, Nevzat (Turkey) Vice President
- LIZIN, Anne-Marie (Belgium)

**Accompanied by:**
- KACZOROWSKI, Nicolas (Election Adviser ODIHR)
- Gustavo PALLARES (Presidential Adviser)

**Head of Delegation:**
- GEORGE, Bruce

**International Secretariat of the OSCE PA:**
- Gustavo PALLARES
A delegation of 28 OSCE parliamentarians from 15 participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan on 19 September 2004. On 20 September 2004 in Astana, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President Ihor Ostash delivered the preliminary post-election statement, in conjunction with Tana de Zulueta, Head of the parliamentary delegation of the Council of Europe, and Ambassador Robert Barry, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission. The joint statement concluded that the elections in Kazakhstan fell short of OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards in many respects. Of particular concern were the failure to fully implement improved election observation legislation and the manner in which electronic voting was introduced, which did not contribute to confidence in the election process. “It is disappointing that the improved election legislation did not result in a more transparent election than we witnessed yesterday,” said Vice-President Ostash, appointed by the OSCE Chairman in Office as the Special Co-ordinator for the Short-term observers. “However, we did note some improvements from previous elections and we stand ready to continue the work with the election authorities to strengthen both the legislation and the process.”

Prior to election day, the parliamentarians attended an extensive briefing programme, during which they heard from leaders of the main political parties, representatives of the mass media, observers and experts. On election day, parliamentary observer teams were deployed in the Almaty and Astana areas. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

- **OSTASH, Ihor,** Ukraine
- **Vice-President** of the OSCE PA
- **GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang,** Austria
- **ÖLLINGER, Karl,** Austria
- **COVELIERS, Hugo,** Belgium
- **DE DONEA, Francois X.**, Belgium
- **KARAS, Jiri**, Czech Republic
- **LISKA, Jiri**, Czech Republic
- **OUTRATA, Edvard**, Czech Republic
- **PLACHY, Jaroslav**, Czech Republic
- **SULK, Petr**, Czech Republic
- **ALATALU, Toomas**, Estonia
- **TULVISTE, Peeter**, Estonia
- **GABASHVILI, Konstatine**, Georgia
- **RAUBER, Helmut**, Germany
- **WEGENER, Hedi**, Germany
- **ZOIS, Christos**, Greece
- **HERNAES, Bjorn**, Greece
- **STENSAKER, Christopher**, Norway
- **GUDZOWSKI, Stanislaw**, Poland
- **KULAK, Zbigniew**, Poland
- **FILIPESCU, Cornel**, Romania
- **MOIS, Vasile**, Romania
- **NICOLAESCU, Ioan**, Romania
- **CAMPUZANO, Carles**, Spain
- **MIESCH, Christian**, Switzerland
- **DEMIRKIRAN, Afif**, Turkey
- **TUNA, Mustafa**, Turkey
- **COX, Tom**, United Kingdom

**Accompanied by:**

- **PIETRAS, Jindrich**, Press Counsellor
- **CHAMPOURIS, Georgios**, Programme Officer
- **JOOREN, Jan**, Press Counsellor
- **INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**, Programme Officer
A delegation of 44 parliamentarians from 25 OSCE participating States observed the parliamentary election in Belarus on 17 October 2004. On 18 October 2004 in Minsk, OSCE PA Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard delivered the preliminary post-election statement, in conjunction with Ambassador Audrey Glover, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission. The statement concluded that the elections in Belarus fell significantly short of OSCE commitments for democratic elections.

The Belarusian authorities failed to ensure the fundamental conditions necessary for the will of the people to serve as a basis for authority of government. Freedom of expression, association and assembly were seriously challenged. This calls into question the willingness of the authorities to respect the concept of political competition on a basis of equal treatment, stated the OSCE Election Observation Mission. “Democratic principles were largely disregarded by the authorities. Many candidates were actively excluded from registering or were deregistered, which limited the choice of voters”, said Vice-President Tingsgaard, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the Short-term Observers. “Although we were here to observe the parliamentary elections, we found that the referendum largely overshadowed the parliamentary election campaign.”

The statement also stressed that the OSCE and its institutions represented in the Election Observation Mission remain prepared and committed to assisting the national authorities, including the National Assembly, and civil society of Belarus, in overcoming the impediments to the conduct of democratic elections. They called upon the Belarusian authorities to respond positively and create the conditions for a meaningful democratic electoral process in Belarus. In this spirit of co-operation, they welcome the National Assembly of Belarus to actively participate in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
TINGSGAARD, Tone Sweden
Vice-President of the OSCE PA
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office
BADEYAN, Manuel Armenia
GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang Austria
Vice-President of the OSCE PA
KONRAD, Olga Austria
DESEYN, Roel Belgium
BRATSKY, Petr Czech Republic
KARAS, Jiri Czech Republic
PLACHY, Jaroslav Czech Republic
RUSOVA, Marie Czech Republic
GJELLEROD, Henning Denmark
MOOS, Helga Denmark
LINDE, Vaino Estonia
MARIANI, Thierry France
GRUND, Manfred Germany
SCHIRMECKE, Georg Germany
ZAPF, Uta Germany
ZOIS, Christos Germany
MAKRI, Zoi Greece
CIANI, Fabio Italy
RIGHETTI, Franco Italy
ZHEXEMBINOV, Zhomartkali Kazakhstan
KASTENS, Oskars Latvia
DMITRJEVAS, Sergejus Lithuania
VAREIKUS, Egidijus Lithuania
CALMATUI, Valeriu Moldova
VAN WISEN, Bart Netherlands

NISTAD, Thore Norway
STENSAKER, Christopher Norway
GUDZOWSKI, Stanislaw Poland
KRZYWICKI, Piotr Poland
KULAK, Zbigniew Poland
BELASCU, Aron Romania
SZTELIGA, Jerzy Poland
BENEDIKTOV, Nikolai Russian Federation
KONDROT, Maros Slovakia
LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus Spain
AHLIN, Urban Sweden
ENOCHSON, Annelie Sweden
WIGSTÖM, Cecilia Sweden
BUYUKKAYA, Alaattin Turkey
HACALOGLU, Algan Turkey
ZIYA DIREN, Orhan Turkey
PONSONBY, Fred United Kingdom

Accompanied by:
CHAMPOURIS, Georgios Greece
IONEL, Ivan Romania
DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest USA
McNAMARA, Ronald USA

International Secretariat
VAANANEN, Pentti Deputy Secretary General
JOOREN, Jan Press Counsellor
LEGENDRE, Paul Programme Officer
A delegation of 46 OSCE parliamentarians from 18 participating States observed the Presidential Elections in Ukraine on 31 October 2004. “With heavy heart we have to conclude that the 2004 Presidential elections in Ukraine did not meet a considerable number of OSCE, Council of Europe and other international standards for democratic elections”, concluded Bruce George, President Emeritus of the OSCE PA, at the press conference in Kiev on 1 November. Mr. George gave this statement on behalf of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), which included representatives from the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, NATO PA, the European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR. Mr. George also felt that “this election process constituted a step backwards from the 2002 elections” in Ukraine.

According to their observations, the campaign of incumbent Prime Minister - and candidate - Mr. Yanukovych’s did not make a clear separation between resources owned or managed by the incumbent political forces and State resources. International observers also criticized the state media and state administration for overwhelming bias in favour of the Prime Minister.

The IEOM also took note of a number of positive aspects and progress in the election process. They concluded that there was political pluralism and competition, which offered voters the potential for real choice.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:

**GEORGE, Bruce**
United Kingdom
President Emeritus of the OSCE PA
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

**GRAFSTEIN, Jerry**
Canada
Treasurer of the OSCE PA
Deputy Head of Delegation

**GASSNER, Kurt**
Austria
WEIHARTER, Engelbert

**JEAN-POL, Henry**
Belgium
Van den EYNDE, Seraphin F.

**MILNE, Lorna**
Canada
KARAS, Jiří

**PLACHY, Jaroslav**
Czech Republic
PLEVKA, Petr

**VAČLÁVEK, Jiří**
Czech Republic
Sediva, Hana

**ALATALU, Toomas**
Estonia
ATONEN, Meelis

**HERKEL, Andres**
Estonia
LANG, Rein

**MEIKAR, Silver**
Estonia
TAMM, Juri

**VELMAN, Vladimir**
Estonia
COVA, Charles

**FAUCHON, Pierre**
France
MARIANI, Thierry

**METREVILI, Petre**
Georgia

**REIDEL, Hans**
Germany
ZOIS, Christos

**KANELLOPOULOU, Krinio**
Greece

**KLEMENTJEVS, Andrejs**
Latvia
PETERS, Krisjanis

**HASSLER, Ingrid**
Liechtenstein

**KUZMIKAS, Kestutis**
Lithuania
SEDLICKAS, Romanas

**TRETIAKOV, Valerij**
Lithuania
BURBIENE, Sigita

**KULAK, Zhigmiew**
Poland

**ILASCU, Ilie**
Romania

**DOBRESCU, Maria Antoneta**
Romania

**SOLOMATIN, Egor**
Russian Federation

**LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus**
Spain
POZUELO MENO, Maria

**AYALAN, Sukru**
Turkey

**Accompanied by:**

**CHAMPOURIS, Georgios**
Greece
IONEL, Ivan

**BORDJENKO, Ija**
Romania

**International Secretariat**

**VAANANEN, Pentti**
Deputy Secretary General

**LEGGENDRE, Paul**
Programme Officer

**O’SULLLEABHAIN, Eoghan**
Research Assistant
Forty-six parliamentarians from 23 OSCE countries led observer teams across the United States in the first comprehensive OSCE election observation mission to that country. The President of the OSCE PA, Alcee L. Hastings, appointed Swiss parliamentarian Barbara Haering, Vice-President of the OSCE PA, to lead the Short-Term Observation Mission and asked the Chairman-in-Office to appoint her as the Special Co-ordinator for the Mission. Upon the request of President Hastings, the C-i-O also appointed Giovanni Kessler as the deputy to Mrs. Haering. Following a decision by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to deploy only a limited observation mission, the PA International Secretariat, assisted by the staff of President Hastings as well as Congressmen Hoyer and Cardin, organized all aspects of the observation mission. Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Fred Turner, Chief of Staff to President Hastings, organized an intensive two days of briefings, which were strictly balanced and non-partisan. After the briefings in the U.S. Congress in Washington, the parliamentarians, accompanied by staff and experts from the PA International Secretariat, followed the election process in the key battleground States of Ohio, Florida, New Mexico, and Minnesota, as well as in Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

On 4 November Mrs. Haering delivered the preliminary post-election statement at the National Press Club in Washington. The statement concluded that the 2 November elections in the USA met most OSCE election-related commitments. According to the statement, the presidential elections were concluded in a highly competitive environment, and the leading candidates enjoyed the full benefits of media. However, the Election Observation Mission took note of the fact that only a very small proportion of the elections for the 434 congressional districts were generally considered to be competitive. In some cases this was attributed to the way congressional boundaries were drawn. Mrs. Haering also underlined the importance of the fact that the US Government had invited the OSCE to carry out this Election Observation Mission. “It is a sign of the credibility of the USA within the OSCE. And carrying out this Election Observation Mission in keeping with normal practice in the OSCE in accordance with agreements made by the 55 OSCE participating countries, enhances the credibility of the Organization”.

Mrs. Haering also told reporters that the U.S. State Department had fulfilled its OSCE obligations by inviting the OSCE to observe the elections. The Parliamentary Assembly had responded not only because of the high interest in the U.S. elections, but also because it is important that the OSCE not be seen as having double standards on election monitoring. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSCE PA Delegation:</th>
<th>KILJUNEN, Kimmo</th>
<th>KUMPULA, Miapetra</th>
<th>LEFORT, Jean-Claude</th>
<th>KAMMENOS, Panos</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>HAERING, Barbara</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>KUMBULA, Miapetra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President of the OSCE PA</td>
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<td>CHERGINETS, Nikolai</td>
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<td>SIMAMBAYEV, Taszay</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVELIERS, Hugo</td>
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<td>BURES, Klaudia</td>
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<td>THEOCHAROUS, Eleni</td>
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MOIS, Vasalie
TOKAY, Gheorghe
IVANCHENKÖ, Leonid
KOZLOVSKII, Alexander
OSTROVSKII, Alexey
DJDJEVIC, Toplica
HÄGG, Carina
LENMARKER, Göran
LINDESTAM, Åsa
ÖZURKUT, Sermin
MIESCH, Christian
YALCINTAS, Nevzat
BUYUKKAYA, Alaattin
KEPENEK, Yakup

Romania
Romania
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Serbia & Montenegro
Sweden
Sweden
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey

International Secretariat

International Secretariat

Deputy Secretary General
Press Counselor
Special Representative
Assistant to the Secretary
Programme Officer
Programme Officer

Accompanied by:
MILOU, Panagiota
OJETTI, Emanuele

Greece
Italy
An OSCE PA delegation of 22 parliamentarians from 14 participating States observed the second round of the Ukrainian presidential elections on 21 November 2004. “The second round of the Ukrainian Presidential elections did not meet a considerable number of OSCE commitments, Council of Europe and other European Standards for democratic elections”, concluded Mr. Bruce George, President Emeritus of the OSCE PA, who was appointed by PA President Alcee L. Hastings and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission. At a press conference in Kiev on 22 November, Mr. George delivered the conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), which consisted of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament, NATO PA and the OSCE/ODIHR. Mr. George reminded his audience that three weeks earlier, the IEOM had appealed to the Ukrainian authorities to use the interim three weeks between the two rounds of elections to improve on the shortcomings noted in the first round. “Today I announce that it is with an even heavier heart that we have to conclude that the authorities did not respond positively to our appeal.”

The IEOM statement lists a number of significant shortcomings. In particular, they noted the abuse of state resources in favour of the incumbent Prime Minister, demonstrating a widespread disregard for the fundamental distinction between the State and partisan political interests.

The IEOM statement also refers to the bias in the State controlled media and inaccuracies in the voter lists. The statement also refers to a number of encouraging aspects of the electoral process. It was noted that citizens in many regions seemed more confident in exercising their basic right to free expression and that a large number of journalists had openly protested against effective censorship. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE, Bruce</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASSNER, Kurt</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>WEILHARTER, Engelbert</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>Van den EYNDE, Seraphin F.</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>KARAS, Jiri</td>
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<td>RUSOVA, Marie</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>LINDE, Vaino</td>
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<td>MEIKAR, Silver</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>OUN, Aivar</td>
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<td>TAMM, Juri</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARIANI, Thierry</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>ZOIS, Christos</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIANI, Fabio</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLEMENTJEVS, Andrejs</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAREMBA, Krzysztof</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELASCU, Aron</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILASCU, Ilie</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Accompanied by:**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus</td>
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<td>POZUELO, Isabel</td>
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<td>AHLIN, Urban</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>AYALAN, Sukru</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>TUNA, Mustafa</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>CHAMPOURIS, Georgios</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>IONEL, Ivan</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINNERTY, John</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNAMARA, Ronald</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHS, Michael</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAANANEN, Pentti</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGENDRE, Paul</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation
An OSCE PA delegation of 89 parliamentarians from 22 participating States observed the repeat second round of the presidential election in Ukraine on 26 December 2004. “I cannot express to you how delighted I am to say that in our collective view, Ukraine’s elections have moved substantially closer to meeting OSCE and other European standards in such a short period of time. In our judgment the people of this great country can be truly proud that yesterday they took a great step towards free and democratic elections, by electing the next President of Ukraine”, announced Mr. Bruce George, President Emeritus of the OSCE PA, who was appointed by PA President Alcee L. Hastings and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE Election Observation Mission.

Mr. George made his statement at a press conference in Kiev on 27 December on behalf of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), which was composed of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, European Parliament, NATO PA and the OSCE/ODIHR. The IEOM concluded that there had been great improvement in the work of the election administration, and in particular of the Central Election Commission. Other positive elements included fewer examples of abuse of state resources, respect for the freedom of association, significantly greater balance in coverage by the media, editorial instructions were no longer issued to journalists and there were far fewer reports of people dependent on the State for their livelihood being pressured in their choice of candidate. However, some shortcomings remained, such as poorly prepared voter lists, inflammatory campaign material and the failure to incorporate provisions in the newly amended electoral legislation clarifying the role of the police on election day and requiring the Central Election Commission to publish all polling station results promptly.

The IEOM deployed a record 1 370 observers, including some 150 parliamentarians representing four parliamentary institutions. The OSCE PA deployed 90 observers, providing the largest number of parliamentary observers.

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- **George, Bruce**
  - United Kingdom
  - President Emeritus of the OSCE PA
- **Hastings, Alcee L.**
  - USA
  - President of the OSCE PA
- **Grafstein, Jerahmiel**
  - Canada
  - Treasurer, Deputy Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
- **Gassner, Kurt**
  - Austria
  - Gassner, Kurt
- **Weilharter, Engelbert**
  - Austria
  - Weilharter, Engelbert
- **Boukorna, Mohammed**
  - Belgium
  - Boukorna, Mohammed
- **Van den Eynde, Seraphin F.**
  - Belgium
  - Van den Eynde, Seraphin F.
- **Buchkov, Nikolai**
  - Bulgaria
  - Buchkov, Nikolai
- **Chaus, Hyusein**
  - Bulgaria
  - Chaus, Hyusein
- **Kenarov, Plamen**
  - Bulgaria
  - Kenarov, Plamen
- **Peykov, Tosho**
  - Bulgaria
  - Peykov, Tosho
- **Teneva, Atanaska**
  - Bulgaria
  - Teneva, Atanaska
- **Bigras, Bernard**
  - Canada
  - Bigras, Bernard
- **Christopherson, David**
  - Canada
  - Christopherson, David
- **Di Nino, Consiglio**
  - Canada
  - Di Nino, Consiglio
- **Goldring, Peter**
  - Canada
  - Goldring, Peter
- **Bratsky, Petr**
  - Czech Republic
  - Bratsky, Petr
- **Karas, Jiri**
  - Czech Republic
  - Karas, Jiri
- **Outrata, Eduard**
  - Czech Republic
  - Outrata, Eduard
- **Rusova, Marie**
  - Czech Republic
  - Rusova, Marie
- **Sulak, Petr**
  - Czech Republic
  - Sulak, Petr
- **Christensen, Carina**
  - Denmark
  - Christensen, Carina
- **Poulsen, Troels Lund**
  - Denmark
  - Poulsen, Troels Lund
- **Aidma, Rein**
  - Estonia
  - Aidma, Rein
- **Arjakas, Kullo**
  - Estonia
  - Arjakas, Kullo
- **aru, Peep**
  - Estonia
  - Aru, Peep
- **Eesma, Enn**
  - Estonia
  - Eesma, Enn
- **Hanson, Margus**
  - Estonia
  - Hanson, Margus
- **Jogi, Helmer**
  - Estonia
  - Jogi, Helmer
- **Kerge, Ago-Endrik**
  - Estonia
  - Kerge, Ago-Endrik
- **Lang, Rein**
  - Estonia
  - Lang, Rein
- **Lenk, Heimár**
  - Estonia
  - Lenk, Heimár
- **Linde, Vaino**
  - Estonia
  - Linde, Vaino
- **Lootsmann, Varner**
  - Estonia
  - Lootsmann, Varner
- **Lotman, Mihail**
  - Estonia
  - Lotman, Mihail
- **Mae, Tiit**
  - Estonia
  - Mae, Tiit
- **Magi, Leino**
  - Estonia
  - Magi, Leino
- **Meikar, Silver**
  - Estonia
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- **Maikar, Silver**
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  - Maikar, Silver
- **Pei, Ants**
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  - Pei, Ants
- **Purk, Kaarel**
  - Estonia
  - Purk, Kaarel
- **Peisk, Ivar**
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  - Peisk, Ivar
- **Rahumagi, Jaanus**
  - Estonia
  - Rahumagi, Jaanus
- **Tamm, Juri**
  - Estonia
  - Tamm, Juri
- **Tulviste, Peeter**
  - Estonia
  - Tulviste, Peeter
- **Roos, Reet**
  - Estonia
  - Roos, Reet
- **Kiljunen, Kimmo**
  - Finland
  - Kiljunen, Kimmo
- **Letfre, Jean-Claude**
  - France
  - Letfre, Jean-Claude
- **Rouquet, Rene**
  - France
  - Rouquet, Rene
- **Taillet, Frederic**
  - France
  - Taillet, Frederic
- **Grill, Kurt Dieter**
  - Germany
  - Grill, Kurt Dieter
- **Grund, Manfred**
  - Germany
  - Grund, Manfred
- **Schafer, Axel**
  - Germany
  - Schafer, Axel
- **Dimaras, Giannis**
  - Greece
  - Dimaras, Giannis
- **Makryan, Miltiadis**
  - Greece
  - Makryan, Miltiadis
- **Ekes, Josef**
  - Hungary
  - Ekes, Josef
- **Hars, Gabor**
  - Hungary
  - Hars, Gabor
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

ALEKSEJEVS, Andrejs, Latvia
GILIS, Valdis, Latvia
PATMALNIEKS, Janis, Latvia
PIETKEVICS, Mihails, Latvia
TOMELS, Janis, Latvia
PLAVINA, Anda, Latvia
RUGATE, Anta, Latvia
PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas, Lithuania
STARKEVICIUS, Kazys, Lithuania
ZINGERIS, Emanuelis, Lithuania
KULAK, Zbigniew, Lithuania
ZAREMBA, Krzysztof, Poland
ILASCU, Ilie, Romania
GREBENIKOV, Valery, Russian Federation
KOZLOVSKY, Alexander, Russian Federation
LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus, Spain
BENGTSSON, Anders, Sweden
LENNMARKER, Göran, Sweden
VON DER ESCH, Björn, Sweden
MIESCH, Christian, Switzerland
DIREN, Orhen Ziya, Turkey
TUNA, Mustafa, Turkey

Accompanied by:
RASMUSSEN, Henrik, Denmark
OLSEN, Anne, Denmark

KRUMINS, Alberts, Latvia
GEORGE, Lisa, United Kingdom
WHATFORD, Nathalie, United Kingdom
IONEL, Ivan, Romania
DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest, USA
GRIDDINE, Vanessa, USA

International Secretariat
OLIVER, R. Spencer, Secretary General
JOOREN, Jan, Press Counselor
LEGENDRE, Paul, Programme Officer
SCHÖN, Tina, Programme Officer

OLIVER, R. Spencer, Secretary General
JOOREN, Jan, Press Counselor
LEGENDRE, Paul, Programme Officer
SCHÖN, Tina, Programme Officer
KYRGYZSTAN
Parliamentary Elections
27 February 2005

A delegation of seven OSCE parliamentarians from five participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 27 February 2005. On 28 February in Bishkek, Kimmo Kiljunen announced the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), concluding that “These elections were more competitive than previous ones, but sadly this was undermined by vote buying, de-registration of candidates, interference with media and a worryingly low confidence in judicial and electoral institutions on the part of voters and candidates”. On the request of OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel had appointed Mr. Kiljunen as Special Co-ordinator for the observation of the elections.

In presenting the preliminary conclusions of the Observation Mission – a joint undertaking of the OSCE PA, the European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR – Mr. Kiljunen highlighted a number of negative aspects. In particular, repeated warnings in advance of the elections by high officials of the potential of civil war undermined the pre-election environment, as did the restrictive application of the Election Code, which cancelled the right to candidacy of a number of prominent individuals on the grounds that, as former diplomats, they had recently lived outside of the country. These, as well as other shortcomings, contributed to a lack of confidence in the electoral process.

Nonetheless, the IEOM noted positive trends in some areas, including an improved legal framework, greater competition offering voters a genuine choice in candidates, and improved transparency at polling stations. The IEOM preliminary conclusions also noted that election day was peaceful and orderly, and welcomed that domestic observers were present in a very high percentage of polling stations.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:
KILJUNEN, Kimmo
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chair-in-Office
GROSSBRUCK, Wolfgang
OLLINGER, Karl
DIMARAS, Giannis
ZOIS, Christos
CIANI, Fabio
KULAK, Zbigniew

Accompanied by:
CHAMPOURIS, Georgios
THAMES, Knox
International Secretariat:
LEGENDRE, Paul

Finland
Austria
Austria
Greece
Greece
Italy
Poland

Greece
USA
Programme Officer
MOLDOVA

Parliamentary Elections

6 March 2005

A n OSCE PA delegation of 53 parliamentarians from 16 participating States observed the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 6 March 2005. The delegation was led by Kimmo Kiljunen, who was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel as the Special Co-ordinator for the election observation mission. The preliminary conclusions, as delivered by Mr. Kiljunen, noted that the elections generally complied with most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments, yet fell short of meeting some that are central to a genuinely competitive election process.

Delivering the preliminary conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) at a press conference in Chisinau on March 7 along with colleagues from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR, Mr. Kiljunen highlighted a number of positive elements of the election process. The pluralistic party system in Moldova, an active civil society, and the increased number of woman candidates all contributed to the conclusion that the elections generally complied with most OSCE and Council of Europe election commitments. However, the statement noted that biased television coverage, abuse of public resources, and attempts to prevent the election from unfolding in a free and competitive manner undermined the process.

“The fact that the 2005 parliamentary elections generally complied with OSCE standards was undercut by negative aspects of unequal campaign conditions and constrained media coverage that were already noted in the 2003 election and have no place in a democracy”, said Mr. Kiljunen.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:

KILJUNEN, Kimmo

Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chair-in-Office

KAMPL, Siegfried Hubert

HAGENHOFL, Marianne

DE DONNEA, Francois-Xavier

d’HAESSELER, Guy

OUTRATA, Evard

KARAS, Jiri

LISKA, Jiri

SULAK, Peter

BRATSKY, Petr

RUSOVA, Marie

MAE, Tiit

ALATALU, Toomas

REINSALU, Urmas

NOLTE, Claudia

KESSLER, Giovanni

PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas

LYDEKA, Arminas

NISTAD, Thore

GUDZOWSKI, Stanislaw

KULAK, Zbignew

VASILESCU, Gavrila

PRODAN, Tiberiu Laurian

SCUTARU, Adrian George

MERKA, Adrian Miroslav

KOVAČS, Attila

GAUCAN, Constantin

AYRAM, Dumitru

BENTU, Dumitru

FUNAR, Gheorghe

ILASCU, Ilie

PETRESCU, Ilie

MOCIOALCA, Ion

BIRSAN, Iulian-Gabriel

HOINARU, Marian

ROGIN, Marius

TABULEAC, Mihai

DINESCU, Valentin

SILISTRU, Doina

CRETU, Corina

POPESCU, Ionica Constanta

LARI-JORGA, Leonida

VEDINAS, Verginia

MOISIUC, Viorica Georgeta

KOZLOVSKYI, Alexander

SHEVELEV, Andrey

KUZMINA, Irina

LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus

AHLIN, Urban

MIESCH, Christian

BÜYÜKKAYA, Alaattin

DIEN, Orhan Ziya

CREMU, Aurelia

LARI-IORGA, Leonida

NISTAD, Thore

MIESCH, Christian

International Secretariat:

International Secretariat:

JOOREN, Jan

Press Counselor

Programme Officer

Programme Officer

Romania

Press Counselor

Programme Officer
While most members of the OSCE PA were participating in the Assembly’s Annual Session in Washington DC, the OSCE PA nevertheless sent a group of 21 parliamentarians from 10 countries to observe the parliamentary elections in Albania, July 3 2005. In a press conference held the following day, the international observation mission delivered the preliminary conclusions that the elections “were competitive and the people were provided with a diversity of information. The voters were obviously dedicated to making use of their rights, and the local voting commissions were determined to have free and fair elections.” While the Central Election Commission administered the elections professionally, state and local authorities and major political parties had not demonstrated the political will that corresponds with their responsibilities for the electoral process. Overcrowding, delays and uncertainty regarding identification of voters were among the observations that recurred frequently. The delay in launching the electoral reforms to address the shortcomings from previous elections had also negatively affected the preparation and the conduct of the elections.

After extensive briefings, which included meetings with leading candidates of the main parties, the OSCE Parliamentarians observed the voting and vote counting in over 120 polling stations throughout the country. The Mission was a joint undertaking with the ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, and despite the OSCE PA’s Annual Session taking place at the same time, the OSCE PA fielded the largest parliamentary delegation to the elections, which together with 20 participants from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and eight from the European Parliament, contributed their expertise as parliamentary and political practitioners to the overall election observation mission of the OSCE, which included a total of 408 short-term observers from 36 OSCE participating States, deployed in over 1,200 voting and 82 counting centres.

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Special Representative of the OSCE PA in Vienna, co-ordinated the activities of the PA team. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

- HEINZL, Anton, Austria
- BUCHER, Josef, Austria
- LALOY, Marie-Jose, Belgium
- NEEL, Gustave, Belgium
- BOUKOURNA, Mohammed, Belgium
- KRYEMADHI, Safet, Belgium
- CADA, Vladimir, Czech Republic
- LUND, Jens Christian, Denmark
- VOLETSIS, Sofia, Greece
- TSIOGAS, Dimitrios, Greece
- LEVENTIS, Athanasios, Greece
- FARAGO, Peter, Hungary
- GRUBER, Attila, Hungary
- EKES, Jozsef, Hungary
- GEORGIAN, Daniela, Romania
- DAVID, Gheorghe, Romania
- VARGA, Attila, Romania
- BLIZHINA, Liubov, Russian Federation
- SENTYURIN, Yury, Russian Federation
- CHISTYAKOVA, Elena, Russian Federation

**Accompanied by:**

- CHAMPOURIS, Georgios, Greece
- HAND, Robert, USA

**International Secretariat:**

- NOTHELLE, Andreas, Special Representative
During the press conference following the 10 July Presidential election in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) related the findings of the observers that “tangible progress” had been made by the Kyrgyz Republic towards meeting its OSCE commitments, as well as other international standards for democratic elections. Fundamental civil and political rights were generally respected and there was an improved media environment. Appointed as Special Co-ordinator for the short-term observation mission by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Kiljunen continued by stating that he was “pleased to note the increased political will to hold democratic elections this time around. The election marked a clear progress, although the quality of the process deteriorated during the vote count.”

The Election Observation Mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE PA, the ODIHR, and the European Parliament. It consisted of 340 observers from 45 countries. Mr. Kiljunen headed the OSCE PA delegation which consisted of 18 Members of Parliament from 10 countries.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- KILJUNEN, Kimmo, Finland
- GROSSBRUCK, Wolfgang, Austria
- LUNACEK, Ulrike, Austria
- VAN PEEL, Marc, Belgium
- BICIK, Milan, Czech Republic
- BRATSKY, Petr, Czech Republic
- KARAS, Jiri, Czech Republic
- BRATSKY, Ludmila, Czech Republic
- RUSOVA, Marie, Czech Republic
- CHRISTMAS-MOELLER, Pia, Denmark
- HOLMSGAARD, Anne Grete, Denmark
- EKES, Jozsef, Hungary

**Accompanied by:**
- LYDEKA, Arminas, Lithuania
- PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas, Lithuania
- ILASCU, Ilie, Romania
- BENEDIKTOV, Nikolai, Russian Federation
- CHUROV, Vladimir, Russian Federation
- GERASIMOV, Valery, Russian Federation
- LOPEZ MEDEL, Jesus, Spain

**International Secretariat:**
- LEGENDRE, Paul, Programme Officer
Delivering the conclusions of the joint International Election Observation Mission to the November 6 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings reported that the “elections did not meet a number of OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards for democratic elections.” President Hastings delivered the conclusions in a press conference on 7 November on behalf of the 52 OSCE parliamentarians and the joint Mission, which included over 600 observers from 42 countries. Hastings was appointed by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, to lead the observation effort on behalf of the OSCE.

“It pains me to report that progress noted in the pre-election period was undermined by significant deficiencies in the count,” said Congressman Hastings. The PA President in particular pointed to serious deficiencies in the counting and tabulation of the votes. President Hastings also expressed concern over restrictions placed on the freedom of assembly prior to the elections, which he noted had marred the campaign.

The IEOM was a joint undertaking of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

President Hastings appointed the following delegation to observe the elections:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HASTINGS, Alcee L.</td>
<td>USA</td>
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Alcee L. Hastings delivers the IEOM preliminary statement in Baku, 7 November 2005.
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

DIMARAS, Diannis
Greece
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Although the International Election Observation Mission noted some improvements over past elections in the administration of the December 4 Presidential election in Kazakhstan, the election did not meet a number of OSCE commitments for democratic elections, reported Bruce George on December 5. Mr. George was appointed by OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings and the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, to lead the short-term observation effort and to deliver the preliminary post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE. In delivering the main conclusions of the Mission, Mr. George highlighted a number of positive elements such as inclusive candidate registration and an extensive voter education campaign. However, media bias in favor of the incumbent, as well as restrictions on freedom of expression and intimidation of members of the opposition indicated insufficient political will by the authorities to hold a genuinely good election, reported Mr. George.

Mr. George, a former PA President, was speaking at a press conference on behalf of over 460 short-term observers, including 33 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA, that had been deployed around the country to observe the election.

The IEOM was a joint undertaking of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

- **GEORGE, Bruce** United Kingdom
- **SOARES, Joao** Portugal
- **OLLINGER, Karl** Austria
- **KONINCKX, Florimond** Belgium
- **PETERS, Krisjannis** Latvia
- **BRATSKY, Petr** Czech Republic
- **RUSOVA, Marie** Czech Republic
- **MARIANI, Thierry** France
- **DIMARAS, Christos** Greece
- **ZOIS, Christos** Greece
- **KLEMENTJEVS, Andrejs** Latvia

**President Emeritus of the OSCE PA,**

- **GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang** Austria
- **OLLINGER, Karl** Austria
- **KONINCKX, Florimond** Belgium
- **PETERS, Krisjannis** Latvia

**Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chair-in-Office,**

- **SOARES, Joao** Portugal
- **GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang** Austria
- **KONINCKX, Florimond** Belgium
- **PETERS, Krisjannis** Latvia

**Deputy-Head of Delegation,**

- **KUZOV, Vladimir** Bulgaria
- **BRATSKY, Petr** Czech Republic
- **MARIANI, Thierry** France
- **DIMARAS, Christos** Greece

**Accompanied by:**

- **DOSTALOVA, Eva** Czech Republic
- **CHAMPOURIS, Georgios** Greece
- **PAIXAO, Nuno** Portugal
- **IONEL, Ivan** Romania
- **RUSE, Mario** Romania
- **GUSKOVA, Yulia** Russian Federation

**International Secretariat:**

- **LEGENDRE, Paul** Programme Officer
- **BAKER, Andreas** Programme / Press Officer
- **PAGOAGA, Aran** Research Assistant
Delivering the conclusions of the OSCE’s election observation mission to the March 19 Belarus Presidential election, PA President Alcee L. Hastings reported that the election did not meet OSCE commitments. “The Belarusian people deserve better,” he stressed.

In a press conference in Minsk on Monday March 20, Hastings highlighted that the four candidates standing for election had presented a genuine choice to voters, however, it was not a level playing field. Actions by state authorities amounted to a “pattern of intimidation,” reported the President. Hastings applauded the courageous efforts of opposition candidates to continue campaigning against the incumbent administration in face of arbitrary restrictions, limitations and obstructions placed in their path. The State controlled media granted the incumbent President extensive and favourable coverage, while virtually ignoring the other three candidates, the International Election Observation Mission reported.

Belarus also failed to live up to its international commitments by arbitrarily preventing 19 members of the OSCE PA delegation from participating in the observation effort, Hastings reported.

President Hastings led the OSCE PA delegation of 123 participants (of which 19 were denied entry to Belarus), and led the overall OSCE election observation effort as the Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht. The OSCE observation mission was a joint effort of the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, and included over 500 observers on election day.

The President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

HASTINGS, Alcee  
President of the OSCE PA,  
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chair-in-Office

WATTAUL, Anton  
Austria

HEINZL, Anton  
Austria

DEDONNEA, Francois-Xavier  
Belgium

HENRY, Jean-Pol  
Belgium

AGOV, Assem  
Bulgaria

PAUNOV, Alexander  
Bulgaria

TYURKHEZDIEV, Angel  
Bulgaria

RUSOVA, Marie  
Czech Republic

PLACHY, Jaroslav  
Czech Republic

SEDIVA, Hana  
Czech Republic

BICIK, Milan  
Czech Republic

KOFO, Jeppe  
Denmark

LUND, Jens-Christian  
Denmark

MIKHELSON, Marko  
Estonia

PARTS, Johan  
Estonia

ARJAKAS, Kullo  
Estonia

JOGL, Helmer  
Estonia

SESTER, Sven  
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LUR, Jarno  
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KIMBER, Arnold  
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PÜRIG, Kaarel  
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TULVISTE, Peeter  
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LINDE, Vaino  
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HERKEL, Andres  
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AARMA, Olev  
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<td>Deputy Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<td>Research Fellow</td>
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Delivering the preliminary statement of the International Election Observation Mission to the March 26 Ukrainian parliamentary elections, Alcee L. Hastings reported that the elections consolidated the democratic breakthrough that had began less than one and a half years ago in Ukraine. President Hastings, appointed to lead the observation mission by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, announced the assessment in a press conference in Kyiv on March 27.

“These elections can only be described as free and fair, and so it is the Ukrainian people who are the real winners,” reported Hastings. He applauded the hard work of election officials in overcoming technical difficulties caused by the simultaneous holding of parliamentary and local elections, which had slowed the voting and counting process. The mission reported that voters were able to make informed choices between distinct alternatives and to freely and fairly express their will. Comprehensive media coverage allowed a competitive and dynamic campaign.

In delivering the preliminary statement, President Hastings was joined by parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament, as well as the On-site Co-ordinator of the OSCE/ODIHR observation mission in Ukraine. President Hastings appointed Joao Soares, Head of the Portuguese delegation to the OSCE PA as his deputy to lead the delegation of 98 OSCE PA parliamentarians and staff in Ukraine.

The President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

HASTINGS, Alcee  
President of the OSCE PA, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chair-in-Office

SOARES, Joao  
Deputy Head of Delegation

NIKOYAN, Samvel  
Armenia

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang  
Austria

SCHENNACH, Stefan  
Austria

IBRAHIMOV, Eldar  
Azerbaijan

BEKE, Wouter  
Belgium

DE DONNEA, Francois-Xavier  
Belgium

VAN DEN EYNDE, Francis  
Belgium

DIMITROV, Apostol  
Bulgaria

GOROLOMOV, Ivan  
Bulgaria

KARAKACHANOV, Krasimir  
Bulgaria

KOUMINEV, Mintcho  
Bulgaria

DI NINO, Consiglio  
Canada

GOLDRING, Peter  
Canada

SMITH, Joy  
Canada

BRATSKY, Petr  
Czech Republic

KARAS, Jiri  
Czech Republic

LISKA, Jiri  
Czech Republic

OUTRATA, Edvard  
Czech Republic

PACALTOVA, Jana  
Czech Republic

PLACHY, Jaroslav  
Czech Republic

RUSOVA, Marie  
Czech Republic

SULAK, Petr  
Czech Republic

LORENTZEN, Kristian Pihl  
Denmark

LUND, Jens Christian  
Denmark

AARMA, Olev  
Estonia

KALDA, Helle  
Estonia
KIMBER, Arnold
LAUR, Jarno
SESTER, Sven
TULVISTE, Peeter
COVA, Charles
LEFORT, Jean-Claude
MARIANI, Thierry
VOISIN, Michel
BARTH, Uwe
GRUND, Manfred
KRAMER, Rolf
WELLMANN, Karl-Georg
MAKRI, Zoi
ZOIS, Christos
KESSLER, Giovanni
DOMARKAS, Virginius
GIRDAUSKAS, Saulius
LYDEKA, Arminas
PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas
SUBACIUS, Mindaugas
SYRAS, Algirdas
CUSNIR, Valentina
OLEINIC, Nicolae
TULEA, Oleg
SANDE, Erling
BORYSIUK, Boleslaw
KLEINA, Kazimierz
ZBRZYZNY, Ryszard
MORGADO, Jorge
BUICIUTA, Stefan
DOBRE, Traian
GAUCAN, Constantin
IGNAT, Miron
ILASCU, Ilie
IORGA, Nicolae
MOVILA, Petru
RADAN, Mihai

Estonia
Estonia
Estonia
Estonia
France
France
France
France
Germany
Germany
Germany
Germany
Greece
Greece
Lithuania
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Lithuania
Lithuania
Moldova
Moldova
Moldova
Moldova
Poland
Poland
Poland
Portugal

SILISTRU, Doina
VLASE, Petru Gabriel
GUSKOVA, Yulia
OSTROVSKIY, Alexey
RODIONOV, Yuriy
SENTYURIN, Yuri
HOPTA, Ivan
NOVOTNY, Viliam
GUILLOT, Jordi
LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesus
HASSAN, Maria
LINDESTAM, Asa Margaretha
MIESCH, Christian
SUELYMAN, Gunduz
HEATH, David

Romania
Romania
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Slovak Republic
Slovak Republic
Spain
Spain
Sweden
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
UK

Accompanied by:
MUSSI, Lukas
CHAMPOURIS, Georgios
MIKLISZANSKI, Kamil
RUSE, Mario
IVAN, Ionel
DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest
GRIDDINE, Vanessa
McNAMARA, Ronald
WOO, Sean

Romania
Greece
Poland
Romania
USA
USA
USA

International Secretariat:
OLIVER, Spencer
EVSEYEV, Vitaly
SCHON, Tina
NOTHELLE, Andreas
PALLARES, Gustavo
BAKER, Andreas
CHERNOVA, Anna

Secretary General
Deputy Secretary General
Deputy Secretary General
Special Representative
Advisor
Programme/Press Officer
Programme Officer
Delivering the conclusions of the International Referendum Observation Mission for the referendum on the future state-status of Montenegro, Vice-President Nevzat Yalcintas announced, “In a demonstration of direct democracy, the people of Montenegro conducted a genuine and transparent referendum, and should be congratulated for their constructive approach in making this historic decision.” Professor Yalcintas, appointed as the Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE short-term observers, was speaking at a press conference on 22 May, in Podgorica.

In addition to leading the overall OSCE mission of 365 observers, Professor Yalcintas, along with Deputy-Head Jerry Grafstein, led the OSCE PA delegation of 55 members.

Vice-President Yalcintas stressed that “This referendum was a unique event in a unique historical situation. Montenegrins undertook this process in a consensual manner, demonstrating to the world how such differences of opinion can be resolved peacefully.”

The observation mission noted the high interest, reflected in voter turnout of over 86% of the population, and the active and competitive campaign. The media provided voters with diverse views, enabling them to make informed choices between the alternatives. Political parties had been offered the opportunity to inspect the voter register and to cross-check it with other data in advance, significantly contributing to the transparency of the voter list. Similarly, equal participation by both sides in the referendum administration at all levels contributed to confidence in the process.

The observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE PA, the Council of Europe PA, the European Parliament, and the OSCE/ODIHR.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

OSCE PA Delegation:

YALCINTAS, Nevzat
Vice-President of the OSCE PA,
Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO

GRAFSTEIN, Jerry
OSCE PA Treasurer, Deputy Head of Delegation

YALCINTAS, Nevzat
Turkey

JUKIC, Velimir
SILJEGOVIC, Bosko
BELKIC, Beriz

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang

Austria

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina

TAHIROVIC, Dzemal

Bosnia and Herzegovina
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

Deputy Head of Delegation Jerry Grafstein observes vote-counting procedures in Podgorica
Speaking at a press conference on 11 September in Podgorica, OSCE PA Vice-President João Soares announced that the 10 September 2006 parliamentary elections in Montenegro, were largely in line with OSCE commitments. A number of challenges remain to be addressed, he said, but stressed that “the people of the world’s newest country can be proud that their first elections since gaining independence meet international electoral standards”. Vice-President Soares was appointed by the Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers.

The observation mission noted that the campaign had been calm and orderly, but that the campaign environment had deteriorated in the last days before the elections. Also, the legal framework was found to have provided an adequate basis for the elections, however contrary to good practice the Election Law was amended after the elections were called. Vice-President Soares, who also headed the OSCE PA observation mission of 29 Members and staff, encouraged working together with parliamentary colleagues in Montenegro to overcome the noted challenges.

The IEOM was a joint undertaking of the OSCE PA, Council of Europe PA, and the OSCE/ODIHR. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
- **SOARES, João**
  - Portugal
  - Vice-President of the OSCE PA
  - Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO
- **BATTLELLI, Roberto**
  - Slovenia
  - Deputy Head of Delegation
- **WATTAUL, Anton**
  - Austria
  - Deputy Head of Delegation
- **NEUWIRTH, Susanne**
  - Austria
- **DUCARME, Daniel**
  - Belgium
- **PACALTOVA, Jana**
  - Czech Republic
- **VOLNY, Jaromir**
  - Czech Republic
- **RAIDEL, Hans**
  - Germany
- **ZOIS, Christos**
  - Greece
- **DIMARAS, Giannis**
  - Greece
- **BALSAI, Iñaki**
  - Greece
- **DELFINO, Teresio**
  - Italy
- **FARINA, Gianni**
  - Italy
- **LYDEKA, Arminas**
  - Lithuania
- **SKIRMANTAS, Pabedinskas**
  - Lithuania

**International Secretariat:**
- **NOTHELLE, Andreas**
  - Special Representative
- **PALLARES, Gustavo**
  - Presidential Advisor
- **BAKER, Andreas**
  - Programme / Press Officer

**Staff of Delegation:**
- **RAJAKOVIC, Jelena**
  - Bosnia & Herzegovina
- **KARAPAPAS, Nikolaos**
  - Greece
- **PAIXAO, Nuno**
  - Portugal
- **AIZSTRAUTS, Igors**
  - Latvia
Delivering the conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission to the 1 October general elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, David Heath (UK) announced that the elections were generally administered in line with international standards and represented further progress in the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. Appointed Special-Co-ordinator for the short-term observation mission, Heath said that “Real progress toward democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina was made” and he congratulated “the country and its people for conducting a fair electoral process in which representatives could be freely chosen”. These were the first elections since the Dayton Peace Agreement to be fully administered by BiH authorities.

The IEOM noted that, in a transparent process, the Central Election Commission registered almost all candidate lists that had been submitted. A wide range of views was available to voters, especially through televised debates, the allocation of free airtime, and in the print media. The media met their legal obligations with regard to allocation of free airtime to election contestants.

In addition to leading the OSCE short-term observation mission, Heath led the delegation of some 40 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA, which worked in close co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and the delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

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<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heath, David</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Outrata, Edvard</td>
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**Delegation:**

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<td>Kansu, Huseyin</td>
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<td>Schoen, Tina</td>
<td>Deputy Secretaty General</td>
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<td>Notelle, Andreas</td>
<td>Special Representaive</td>
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<td>Chernova, Anna</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<td>Baker, Andreas</td>
<td>Programme / Press Officer</td>
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Vice-President Barbara Haering led a limited OSCE PA observation mission to the parliamentary elections held in Latvia on 7 October. On 8 October, Vice-President Haering announced that the elections met most OSCE election-related commitments. However, the observers noted that little action had been taken with respect to previous recommendations regarding important issues affecting the election process, in particular the presence of a significant number of ‘non-citizens’ who do not have voting rights.

“I hope that cultural diversity will be increasingly valued as an asset to which the entire population can contribute,” said Haering. Vice-President Haering headed the limited election observation mission deployed by the OSCE PA, which worked in close co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR limited election observation mission.

The joint conclusions of the observation missions noted that the electoral process enjoyed broad public confidence in Latvia, and that the political campaign was pluralistic and allowed all parties to communicate their messages to voters. No major problems were evident on election day. However, it was noted that the fact that a significant percentage of the adult population does not enjoy voting rights represents a continuing democratic deficit. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has previously recommended that consideration be given to permitting ‘non-citizens’ to vote in municipal elections.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**
HAERING, Barbara  
Switzerland  
Head of Delegation
VOLNY, Jaromir  
Czech Republic
DELFINO, Teresio  
Italy
PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas  
Lithuania
LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesús  
Spain

**International Secretariat:**
SCHØN, Tina  
Deputy Secretary General
BAKER, Andreas  
Programme/Press Officer
Delivering the OSCE statement on the November 6 Presidential election in Tajikistan, Kimmo Kiljunen, a Member of the Finnish Delegation to the PA, stated that “The lack of any serious campaign and credible alternatives undermined this election to a degree that it did not provide an adequate test of Tajikistan’s commitments to democratic elections.” Appointed as the Special Co-ordinator for the OSCE election observation mission, Kiljunen noted that a number of other substantial shortcomings also undermined the electoral process.

While there was a field of five candidates, voters did not have the opportunity to choose between genuinely different political forces, and there was almost no political debate among the candidates, the OSCE observation mission noted. Kiljunen also raised concern about the significant obstacle posed by the requirement for candidates to collect supporting signatures from five percent of the entire electorate. He also noted positive aspects, including a voter education campaign to discourage family and proxy voting and efforts by the electoral authorities to enable voting by citizens of Tajikistan outside of the country.

In addition to leading the overall OSCE short term observation mission, Kiljunen headed the mission of 22 participants from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, supported by Vice-President João Soares from Portugal.

The OSCE observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation:**

KILJUNEN, Kimmo Finland Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO

SOARES, Joao Portugal Deputy Head of Delegation

PLACHY, Jaroslav Czech Republic

OUTRATA, Edvard Czech Republic

MESSERSCHMIDT, Morten Denmark

LINDE, Vaino Estonia

ALLIK, Jaak Estonia

TULVISTE, Peeter Estonia

LAUR, Jarno Estonia

VOISIN, Michel France

PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas Lithuania

MORGADO, Jorge Portugal

SHEVELEV, Andrey Russian Federation

EMELIYANOV, Mikhail Russian Federation

VORONIN, Pavel Russian Federation

BURNS, Simon UK

**Staff of Delegation:**

TAILLET, Frederic France

PARKER, Kyle Andrew USA

THAMES, Knox USA

GUSKOVA, Yulia Russian Federation
On behalf of the OSCE, PA President Göran Lennmarker announced that the 21 January parliamentary elections in Serbia were free and fair, and met OSCE commitments. “The elections in Serbia were free and fair. I was personally impressed and proud on behalf of the Serb people for the professional, orderly and well-organized way they carried out this election. It bodes well for Serbia’s future,” said Mr. Lennmarker. Having led the OSCE observation mission to the elections, President Lennmarker was speaking at a press conference on 22 January 2007 in Belgrade. Mr. Lennmarker was appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, to lead the short-term observers and to deliver the OSCE statement.

The International Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections provided a genuine opportunity for the citizens of Serbia to freely choose from a range of political platforms. Political parties and coalitions competed vigorously in an open campaign environment. The election campaign was calm, and checks and balances ensured that the elections reflected the will of the people, in line with OSCE commitments.

President Lennmarker applauded the professionalism with which polling board officials undertook their work, noting that this contributed to a high level of confidence among voters.

The International Election Observation Mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE/ODIHR, as well as the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary of the Council of Europe. Lennmarker also led the OSCE PA delegation of 52 Members of Parliament and 14 staff. President Lennmarker appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

**LENNMARKER, Göran**

**President of the OSCE PA**

**Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO**

**GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang**

**MORIAU, Patrick**

**VANDENBERGHE, Lionel**

**BELKIC, Beriz**

**MALINOV, Svetoslav**

**CHRISTOPHERSON, David**

**DEBERS, Nicole**

**DI NINO, Consiglio**

**TEMELKOVSKI, Lui**

**SILJEGOVIC, Bosko**

**JUKIC, Velimir**

**MALINOV, Svetoslav**

**BOŠKO JUKIC**

**SILJEGOVIC Bosko**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Bulgaria**

**Canada**

**Canada**

**Canada**

**Czech Republic**
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

VOLNY, Jaromír  
LUND, Jens Christian  
GRUND, Manfred  
MEIERHOFER, Horst Georg  
WIMMER, Johann Wilhelm Karl  
MAKRI, Zoi  
VOULTEPSI, Sofia  
BALSAI, Istvan  
DELFINO, Teresio  
FARINA, Giovanni  
MIGLIORI, Riccardo  
KRASTINS, Maris  
LAICANS, Gunars  
LYDEKA, Arminas  
PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas  
HANSEN, Sigvald Oppeboen  
ALMEIDA HENRIQUES, Antonio  
SOARES, João  
DINESCU, Valentin  
GAUCAN, Constantin  
GHEORGHE, Valeriu  
GVOZDENOVICI, Slavomir  
IGNAT, Miron  
PASCU, Bogdan  
SILISTRU, Doina  
STIUCA, Alexandru  
BABURIN, Sergey  
BEZBORODOV, Nikolay  
EMELIYANOV, Mikhail  
RODIONOV, Yuriy  
SENTYURIN, Yury  
TETERIN, Vasily  
BATTELLI, Roberto  
LOPEZ MEDEL, Jesús  
POZUELO, Isabel  
HABSBURG DOUGLAS, Walburga  
LINDESTAM, Åsa  
MIESCH, Christian  
ROWEN, Paul  
RAJAKOVIC, Jelena  
ROBERT, Denis  
KARAPAPAS, Nick  
AIZSTRAUTS, Igors  
IONEL, Ivan  
RUSE, Mario  
GUSKOVA, Yulia  
HAND, Robert  
OLIVER, Spencer  
SCHOEN, Tina  
NOTHELLE, Andreas  
BERGMAN, Klas  
CHERNOVA, Anna  
BAKER, Andreas

Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Germany  
Germany  
Germany  
Germany  
Greece  
Greece  
Hungary  
Italy  
Italy  
Latvia  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Lithuania  
Norway  
Portugal  
Portugal  
Romania  
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Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
USA

Russian Federation  
Russian Federation  
Russia Federation  
Spain  
Spain  
Sweden  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Canada  
Greece  
Latvia  
Romania  
Romania  
Romania  
USA

Accompanied by

International Secretariat

Secretary General  
Deputy Secretary General  
OSCE PA Special Representative  
Director of Communications  
Programme Officer  
Programme Officer
In a press conference in Yerevan on 13 May 2007, PA Vice-President Tone Tingsgård announced on behalf of the OSCE that the 12 May parliamentary elections in Armenia were conducted largely in accordance with OSCE commitments, although some issues remain to be addressed. “These elections were a clear improvement and that is good for Armenian democracy”, said Tingsgård, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term election observers deployed for the elections.

“Now, more work is needed to further consolidate this young democracy. That will require joint effort and will by all political forces. I hope we will see that happen in the years ahead”, said Mrs. Tingsgård.

The observation mission noted that the election authorities generally worked efficiently in the pre-election period, and were technically well equipped and prepared for election day. Election authorities had also made efforts to enhance transparency of election procedures. There was visible and dynamic campaigning by many contestants, which took place in a permissive environment. Media coverage of the election was extensive, and efforts were made to enable most parties and candidates to convey their messages to the public.

However, some minor issues of concern were noted, including the intertwining at all levels of political and business interests, especially in view of relatively weak provisions and enforcement regarding transparency and disclosure of campaign finances.

The observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the European Parliament. In addition to leading the 300 short-term observers deployed on election day, Mrs. Tingsgård led the delegation of 49 OSCE parliamentarians. OSCE PA President Lennmarker appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

TIONSGAARD, Tone  
Vice-President of the OSCE PA  
Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO  
Switzerland  

ÖLLINGER, Karl  
ODIHR, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE  
Austria  

DEMERS, Nicole  
AMM, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE  
Canada  

GOLDSTEIN, Yoine  
OSCE/ODIHR, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE  
Canada  

BRATSKY, Petr  
OSCE/ODIHR, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE  
Czech Republic  

Vice-President Tingsgaard announces the observation mission’s findings, along with Leo Platvoet (PACE), and Anne-Marie Isler Beguin (European Parliament)
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<td>Programme Officer</td>
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Presenting the conclusions on behalf of the OSCE election observation mission, Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino announced that the 18 August elections “continue to move Kazakhstan forward in its evolution towards a democratic country”. Speaking in Astana on 19 August, Di Nino noted that there had been problems, but stressed that progress had been made.

In the pre-election period, candidates enjoyed increased ability to convey their messages to voters. Registration of candidate lists was conducted in an inclusive manner. In general, the Central Election Commission worked transparently and adopted numerous decisions to regulate the election process and conducted extensive voter education activities. Observers enjoyed good co-operation with the authorities. However, the observers reported that certain legal provisions stand in the way of developing a pluralistic political party system.

Appointed as Special Co-ordinator by the Spanish Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Di Nino also led the delegation of 57 parliamentarians and staff.

The observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Position</th>
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<td>Di NINO, Consiglio</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA First General Committee</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO</td>
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Senator Di Nino is seen here with election officials in Almaty.
NUTT, Mart  
PIKHOF, Heljo  
RUMMO, Paul-Eerik  
SEPP, Evelyn  
TOOTSEN, Toivo  
KARHU, Saara  
MARIANI, Thierry  
VOISIN, Michel  
IMNADZE, George  
KAVTARADZE, Irakli  
GRUND, Manfred  
LINK, Michael Georg  
RAIDEL, Johann  
ZOIS, Christos  
BLÖNDAL, Petur H.  
ALLEGRINI, Laura  
DATO, Cinzia  
MALAN, Lucio  
KRASTINS, Maris  
HOEGLUND, Morten  
GARBOWSKI, Tomasz  
GAWLOWSKI, Stanislaw  
KLEINA, Kazimierz  
KOSIERADZKA, Anetta  
OZGA, Krystyna  

Estonia  ZLOTOWSKI, Kosma  
Estonia  AMET, Aledin  
Estonia  ANDEA, Petru  
Estonia  ILASCU, Ilie  
Estonia  MAZARE, Alexandru  
Finland  MIESCH, Christian  
France  GILROY, Linda  
France  Accompagnée par  
Georgia  PARE, Jean Rodrigue  
Georgia  CHAMPOURIS, Georgios  
Germany  FILLIPPONE THAULERO, Stefano  
Germany  IVAN, Ionel  
Greece  HAN, Shelly  
Iceland  PARKER, Kyle  
Italy  NOTHELLE, Andreas  
Italy  NOUVELLE, Jeanne  
Latvia  BERGMAN, Klas  
Norway  CHERNOSOVA, Anna  
Poland  CARILLET, Marc  
Poland  LERRAS, Kurt  
Poland  AGER, Patrick  
Poland  KAZANKOVA, Tatiana  
Poland  REES, Danny  

International Secretariat  
NOTHELLE, Andreas  
BERGMAN, Klas  
CHERNOSOVA, Anna  
LERRAS, Kurt  
AGER, Patrick  
REES, Danny  

Special Representative  
Director of Communications  
Programme Officer  
Liaison Officer  
General Services Officer  
Research Assistant  
Research Assistant  
Research Assistant
Delivering the OSCE statement on the September 30 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, OSCE PA Vice-President Tone Tingsgard announced: “Despite difficult circumstances, these elections were conducted in a positive and professional manner. The high turnout on election day was the Ukrainian people’s contribution to overcoming the political crisis. It is now the turn of the political forces to deliver.”

Ms. Tingsgard, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, to deliver the OSCE statement was speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, 1 October.

The parliamentary elections in Ukraine were conducted mostly in line with international commitments and standards for democratic elections and confirm an open and competitive environment for the conduct of election processes, concluded the mission. Voters had a diverse choice of candidates and parties and the fundamental freedoms of assembly and expression were respected. However, recent amendments to the law adopted as a part of a compromise to end the political crisis, impacted negatively on the election process.

The International Election Observation Mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

In addition to Kyiv and the surrounding regions, OSCE PA participants observed in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Odessa, Crimea, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions.

The President of the OSCE PA appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

TINGSGAARD, Tone
Vice-President of the OSCE PA

DI NINO, Consiglio
Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO

KURZMANN, Gerhard
Austria

SCHIMBOCK, Wolfgang
Austria

IBRAHIMOV, Eldar
Azerbaijan

SOLOMUKHA, Petr
Belarus

DE TEXHE, Alain
Belgium

VAN DEN EYNDE, Francis
Belgium

Tone Tingsgaard speaks to the press in Kyiv
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An election official in Kyiv seals ballot boxes prior to the opening of the polling station.
The Russian elections to the Duma on 2 December were “not fair” and failed to meet many OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards, concluded the OSCE PA and PACE election observer delegations in a joint statement on 3 December at a press conference in Moscow. The Nordic Council joined in the statement.

The OSCE PA observation mission was led by President Göran Lennmarker, and worked closely with the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, headed by Luc van den Brande. The observers were deployed to eight regions across Russia, from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok.

According to the statement, the following major areas raised concern:

- The merging of the state and a political party is an abuse of power and a clear violation of international commitments and standards.
- The media showed strong bias in favour of the sitting President and the ruling United Russia Party.
- The newly amended election code made it extremely difficult for new and smaller parties to develop and compete effectively.
- There were widespread reports of harassment of opposition parties.

The Copenhagen Commitments (5.4), agreed by all OSCE participating States, specifically state that there should be “a clear separation between the State and political parties; in particular, political parties will not be merged with the State”.

Although election day was well-organized and mostly calm and friendly, the voters went to the polls in an atmosphere that “seriously limited political competition and frequent abuse of administrative resources, media coverage strongly in favour of the ruling party, and an election code whose cumulative effect hindered political pluralism,” the statement said. It added that the political playing field was not “level.”

The OSCE PA mission received excellent co-operation from the electoral authorities, and no restrictions were placed on Members’ movements throughout the country. Parliamentarians also received extensive briefings from electoral authorities, political parties, and opposition leaders both in Moscow and in the various regions of observation.

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSCE PA Delegation</th>
<th>Accompanied by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LENNMARKER, Göran Sweden</td>
<td>RAJAKOVIC, Jelena Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</td>
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<td>Presidential Advisor</td>
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<td>Director of Communications Press Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Office Conference Co-ordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Services Officer Research Assistant</td>
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Anncouncing the conclusions of the OSCE election observation mission to the parliamentary elections held in Kyrgyzstan on 16 December, Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen expressed his personal disappointment at the “backsliding” noted in the elections process. Speaking at a press conference in Bishkek on 17 December, Mr. Kiljunen said that the elections failed to meet a number of OSCE commitments.

Noting that he had led the past two OSCE election observation missions to Kyrgyzstan, he stressed that “political pluralism which I have seen develop is undermined by this missed opportunity.” Mr. Kiljunen was appointed as the Special Co-ordinator for the OSCE short-term election observation mission of some 250 observers, and also led the 24 parliamentarians and 6 staff from the OSCE PA delegation.

In particular, the OSCE observation mission expressed concern at imbalance in media coverage of the election campaign. Also, a complicated new system for translating votes into parliamentary seats, which includes both national and regional thresholds, created the real possibility of a situation in which no parties would be represented in parliament. The mission particularly expressed concern that no final decision had been made by the courts prior to election day regarding the precise interpretation of this provision.

The mission positively noted the extensive presence of domestic observers in polling stations on election day, which helped to enhance the transparency of the process. However, OSCE observers reported some election day violations including a lack of uniform application of procedures and ballot-box stuffing.

The OSCE observation mission comprised delegations of the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

- KILJUNEN, Kimmo
  - Finland
  - Vice-President of the OSCE PA
  - Head of Delegation, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO

- OELLINGER, Karl
  - Austria
  - Van Den Eynde, Seraphin F.
  - Belgium

- VAN OVERMEIRE, Karim
  - Belgium

- BRATSKÝ, Petr
  - Czech Republic

- EXNER, Vačlav
  - Czech Republic

- PLACHÝ, Jaroslav
  - Czech Republic

- VOLNÝ, Jaromír
  - Czech Republic

- GRUND, Manfred
  - Germany

- KRAMER, Rolf
  - Germany

- PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas
  - Lithuania

- SEREIKO, Albertas
  - Lithuania

- CAMPOS FERREIRA, Luís
  - Portugal

- SOARES, João
  - Portugal

- AMET, Aledin
  - Romania

- ILASCU, Ilie
  - Romania

- MOVILA, Petru
  - Romania

- SILISTRU, Doina
  - Romania

- LOPEZ-MEDEL, Jesús
  - Spain

- MIESCH, Christian
  - Switzerland

- DIREN, Orhan Zya
  - Turkey

- ÖNEN, Abdulkadir Emin
  - Turkey

- BURNS, Simon Hugh
  - United Kingdom

**International Secretariat**

- IVAN, Ionel
  - Romania

- NERNY, Céline
  - Switzerland

- HAN, Shelly
  - United States

- NOTHELLE, Andreas
  - Special Representative

- BAKER, Andreas
  - Press Officer

- CHERNOVA, Anna
  - Programme Officer
Delivering the conclusions of the OSCE election observation mission to the Georgian presidential election, President Emeritus Alcee L. Hastings announced that “the January 5th election was in essence consistent with most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections,” but noted that significant challenges needed to be addressed urgently. Speaking at a press conference in Tbilisi on 6 January, Hastings specified that “because of the demonstrative competitiveness of this campaign, I perceive this election as a viable expression of free choice of the Georgian people, but the future holds immense challenges.”

While recognizing that this was the first competitive presidential election in the country, the observers noted that the distinction between state activities and the former President’s campaign was sometimes blurred, and contributed to an inequitable campaign environment. Despite the short timeframe, the electoral administration prepared the election in an overall professional manner, operating transparently and carrying out an extensive voter education campaign.

Congressman Hastings led the delegation of 52 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA. The OSCE mission, comprising the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR, worked in co-operation with delegations deployed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

OSCE PA President Lennmarker appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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**International Secretariat**

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</table>
In a press conference in Yerevan on 20 February, VP Anne-Marie Lizin announced that the 19 February presidential election in Armenia mostly met OSCE commitments. “In an active and competitive election, Armenians turned out in strength to choose between genuine political alternatives. The problems we observed, particularly during the counting, must be addressed to increase overall confidence in the electoral process.” Ms. Lizin was appointed as the Special Co-ordinator for the OSCE short-term observers and led the OSCE PA delegation of 39 MPs.

The OSCE observers found that the Armenian authorities made genuine efforts to address shortcomings noted in previous elections. But they stressed the need for further improvements and political will to tackle concerns such as the lack of public confidence in the electoral process and the absence of a clear separation between State and party functions. The conduct of the count did not contribute to reduce suspicions among stakeholders.

The CEC ensured a high level of transparency, except in the consideration of complaints that were for the most part dealt with in informal sessions. The field of nine candidates offered voters a genuine choice. Many candidates campaigned actively and were able to discuss their programmes with voters. The authorities made efforts to provide a permissive campaign environment.

The observation mission was a joint undertaking with the OSCE/ODIHR, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. The OSCE PA President appointed the following delegation:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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**Accompanied by**

**International Secretariat**

Deputy Secretary General

Programme / Press Officer

Logistics Officer
Roberto Battelli, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short term observers and head of the OSCE PA delegation, announced that the 11 May Serbian elections “were a display of a mature democracy in action.” Although there were some minor technical faults and some aspects of the campaign that were worrisome, “the elections were carried out in a most impressive fashion with substantial voter turnout and efficiency and calmness of the voting. I would like to congratulate Serbia for this.”

In its joint post-election preliminary statement, the International Election Observation Mission, comprising the OSCE PA, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and the OSCE/ODIHR’s Limited Election Observation Mission, said that the elections were “vigorously contested” and “conducted in an overall professional manner, allowing the country’s voters to choose freely among a wide range of political options.”

In response to a question at the 12 May joint press conference in Belgrade whether the elections could be considered “free and fair,” Mr. Battelli responded, “yes, in my view they were free and fair.”

Close to 90 international observers monitored the election, including 30 short-term observers from PACE, 24 from the OSCE PA, and 35 long-term observers from OSCE/ODIHR. The OSCE PA delegation included:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BATTELLI, Roberto</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Vice-President of the OSCE PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MORIAU, Patrick</td>
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<td>VAN DEN EYNDE, Seraphin F.</td>
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**International Secretariat**

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<td>BERGMAN, Klas</td>
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<td>JEZKOVA, Petra</td>
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<td>NOTHELLE, Andreas</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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**Accompanied by**

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<tr>
<td>RAJAKOVIC, Jelena</td>
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**OSA Members**

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<td>SOARES, Joao</td>
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<td>KULAKOV, Vladimir</td>
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<td>POZUELO, Isabel</td>
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**Director of Communications**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director of Communications</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Representative</td>
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</table>
Delivering the OSCE preliminary statement for the 21 May parliamentary elections in Georgia, OSCE PA Vice-President Joao Soares declared that “These elections were not perfect, but since I was here in January for the presidential election, concrete and substantial progress has been made.” Mr. Soares, who served as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and headed the OSCE PA delegation, expressed his hope that “all political forces in this country will come together.”

The observation mission – composed of the OSCE PA, PACE, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and OSCE/ODIHR – noted that voters were offered a wide array of choices to select their representatives and that parties were able to campaign actively. However, inconsistencies in the legal framework negatively affected its implementation, and unilateral changes to the electoral system shortly before the elections were seen by the opposition as favoring the ruling party.

Sixty-five parliamentarians participated in the observation mission, and were supported by four staff members from the PA’s Secretariat. The full list of participants follows:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

SOARES, Joao

Portugal

Vice-President of the OSCE PA

Head of Delegation

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang

Austria

OLLINGER, Karl

Austria

LIZIN, Anne-Marie

Belgium

LOFFE, Peter

Belgium

ANGUELEVA-KOLEVA, Maria

Bulgaria

GROZDILIOVA, Snejana

Bulgaria

MRATSOKOV, Petar

Bulgaria

SHOPOV, Pavel

Bulgaria

DI NINO, Consiglio

Canada

GOLDRING, Peter

Canada

PLACHY, Jaroslav

Czech Republic

SEHOR, Karel

Czech Republic

VOLNY, Jaromir

Czech Republic

MARRANDI, Jaanus

Estonia

NUTT, Mart

Estonia

MEINHARDT, Patrick

Germany

CHARAKOPOULOS, Maximos

Greece

DIMARASS, Ioannis

Greece

EFTHYMIOU, Petros

Greece

BERDONGAROV, Tanibergen

Kazakhstan

MUKHAMEJANOVA, Tolegen

Kazakhstan

BAIBARUAEV, Aigul

Kyrgyzstan

OTUNBAYEVA, Roza

Kyrgyzstan

EGLITIS, Janis

Latvia

LAICANS, Gunars

Latvia

ORLOVS, Vitalijs

Latvia

PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas

Lithuania

SUKYS, Raimondas

Lithuania

HANSEN, Sigvald Oppebøen

Norway

SAND, Erling

Norway

FABISIAK, Joanna

Poland

GARBOWSKI, Tomasz

Poland

GLOWSKI, Piotr

Poland

KOWAL, Pawel

Poland

NITRAS, Slawomir

Poland

POMADJA, Wojciech

Poland

CAJMIQU, Luis

Portugal

MOISUC, Viorica

Romania

TANASE, Razvan

Romania

VASILESCU, Gavriela

Romania

KLEAREVA, Vera

Russian Federation

NEFEDOV, Viktor

Russian Federation

RASHKIN, Valery

Russian Federation

CEDERFELDT, Margareta

Sweden

HABBURD-MOZUR, Peter

Sweden

MECHER, Johann

Sweden

KALSIN, Canan

Turkey

OYAN, Oguz

Turkey

TANRİKULU, Ahmet Kenan

Turkey

GARBAKOSPOULOS, Maximos

Greece

KOSIERADZKA, Anetta

Poland

PAIXAO, Nuno

Portugal

PANKOV, Dmitry

Russian Federation

PREMIYAK, Petr

Russian Federation

AZISRAUTS, Igo

Latvia

STAVITSKIY, Valery

Russian Federation

DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest

United States

MCNAMARA, Ronald

United States

SHERRY, John

United States

International Secretariat

BERGMAN, Klas

Director of Communications

CHERNOV, ANNA

Programme Officer

JEZKOVA, Petra

Logistics Officer

SCHOEN, Tina

Deputy Secretary General
In Skopje on 2 June, OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Møller reported on behalf of the OSCE that the 1 June parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were well administered procedurally, but that key OSCE commitments were not met. Although voters were offered a variety of choices during a vigorously fought election campaign, the law was only enforced selectively and the authorities failed to prevent violence and intimidation in ethnic Albanian areas. Ms. Christmas-Møller, who served as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers, regretted that organized attempts to violently disrupt the electoral process in parts of the ethnic Albanian areas made it impossible for voters in many places to freely express their will.

“Violence and attempts to manipulate the campaign sadly cast a shadow over otherwise well-run elections that gave most voters a real choice between an array of political forces. The violence we noted in ethnic Albanian areas is an unacceptable breach of peace and peoples’ democratic rights,” she said.

On election day, one person was killed and several injured. Voting and counting was marred by numerous serious irregularities, in particular in parts of the ethnic Albanian areas, including cases of intimidation, unrest, ballot box stuffing, and tampering with results. Furthermore, the State Election Commission annulled results in 22 polling stations in the north and west of the country. In the rest of the country there were far fewer irregularities, but the largest opposition party suffered from confusion resulting from an apparently deliberate attempt to manipulate voters by the activities of a party with similarly named candidates. The media generally enabled voters to make an informed choice, although public broadcasters showed bias in favour of the governing parties.

The international election observation mission was a joint undertaking of the OSCE, comprising the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Thirteen OSCE parliamentarians participated in the observation mission, and were supported by three staff members from the PA’s Secretariat: Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker, and Research/Publications Officer Nat Parry. A full list of participants follows:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

CHRISTMAS-MØLLER, Pia  
Vice-President of the OSCE PA  
Head of Delegation

CRUCKE, Jean-Luc  
BELGIUM

DUBIE, Josy  
BELGIUM

LJUBICIC, Drago  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

EXNER, Vaclav  
CZECH REPUBLIC

RUMMO, Paul-Eerik  
ESTONIA

MIGLORI, Riccardo  
ITALY

AITAKHANOV, Kuanysh  
KAZAKHSTAN

PABEDINSKAS, Skirmantas  
LITHUANIA

DUMITRESCU, Liana  
ROMANIA

BATTELLI, Roberto  
SLOVENIA

MIESCH, Christian  
SWITZERLAND

TANRIKULU, Ahmet Kenan  
TURKEY

**Accompanied by**

KRESTALICA, Predrag  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

RAJAKOVIC, Jelena  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

HAN, Shelly  
UNITED STATES

**International Secretariat**

BAKER, Michael Andreas  
Presidential Advisor

NOTHELLE, Andreas  
Special Representative

PARRY, Nathaniel  
Research/Publications Officer
Despite some minor improvements, the 28 September parliamentary elections in Belarus ultimately fell short of OSCE commitments for democratic elections, international observers from the OSCE concluded in a preliminary statement issued on Monday, 29 September.

The election took place in a strictly controlled environment with a barely visible campaign, said the observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Voting was generally well conducted, but the process deteriorated considerably during the vote count. Promises to ensure transparency of the vote count were not implemented. The count was assessed as bad or very bad in 48 per cent of polling stations visited. Where access was possible, several cases of deliberate falsification of results were observed.

OSCE monitors were prevented or hindered from observing the vote count in 35 per cent of cases. This compromised the transparency of this fundamental element of the election process.

“The clear signals to improve the election process were not implemented and substantial improvements are required if Belarus is to conduct genuinely democratic elections in line with our common OSCE commitments. Unfortunately the repeated signals of good will did not seem to have been correctly given or received. Consequently the significant progress we hoped for in the democratic development of Belarus did not materialize,” said Anne-Marie Lizin, Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers.

Positive developments included the slightly increased access of opposition representatives to election commissions, the decision to rebroadcast once the five-minute candidate spots during prime time, and the recommendation to seal ballot box slots overnight during the five-day early voting period. Some opposition candidates noted progress in their ability to conduct meetings in authorized locations without interference.

The observation mission was led by 62 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA, who were accompanied by OSCE PA Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova. The OSCE PA delegation consisted of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSCE PA Delegation</th>
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<td>LIZIN, Anne-Marie</td>
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<td>PLACHY, Jaroslav</td>
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<td>Vice-President of the OSCE PA</td>
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<td>LUND, Jens Christian</td>
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<td>MARRANDI, Jaanus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE CiO</td>
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<td>MEIKAR, Silver</td>
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<td>VOISON, Michel</td>
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<td>SCHIRMBECK, Georg</td>
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<td>EXNER, Václav</td>
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<td>WELLMANN, Karl-Georg</td>
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<td>DE BURCA, Deirdre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>BARBIERI, Emerenzo</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>AHLIN, Urban</td>
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<td>D’AMICO, Claudio</td>
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<td>SEMENOVA, Ekaterina</td>
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**Accompanied by**

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<tr>
<td>AKHMETZHANOV, Alexander</td>
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**International Secretariat**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BERGMAN, Klas</td>
<td>Director of Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHERNOVA, Anna</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>JEZKOVÁ, Petra</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTHELLE, Andreas</td>
<td>Special Representative</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The 4 November 2008 elections in the United States clearly reflected the will of the people and demonstrated convincingly the country’s commitment to democracy, reported the OSCE PA Election Observation Mission. At a press conference in Washington, D.C., on 6 November, OSCE PA President Joao Soares, who led the Election Observation Mission, noted that “there has been a lack of trust in many parts of the world towards the U.S. election system, but Tuesday’s elections were a display in democracy and they regained trust in the American electoral system.”

In its Post-Election Statement, the OSCE PA noted that despite concerns expressed by some interlocutors over the capacity to deal with record-high voter turnout, observers noted only minor problems, including long lines in some voting precincts and isolated cases of voting machines malfunctioning. In this regard, the observers particularly stressed the positive effects of early voting, which was offered in over 30 states. It also emphasized that further reforms would be beneficial in ensuring the smooth functioning of future U.S. elections. “The decentralized and highly diverse electoral system lacks uniform standards,” the OSCE PA noted. This creates “vulnerabilities in the system, particularly with regard to the integrity and complexity of voter registration, voter identification, and electronic voting machines.” The statement also recommends looking into the lack of secrecy of the vote, particularly with regard to the use of optical scanners.

OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller, who served as Deputy Head of the Mission, spoke about her experiences from her pre-visit to five different states as well as from her election observations in Cleveland, Ohio. She noted the progress that has been made in the U.S. electoral system since 2004 but stressed that the decentralized election system can be a challenge for voters and officials.

The OSCE PA’s election observation mission fielded 95 observers, including 77 Members of Parliament from 28 countries. From the International Secretariat, the Mission was headed by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen and included seven other staff members. The OSCE PA established its full-time Mission on 12 October when Vice-President Christmas-Moeller began her pre-election observation tour. Prior to this, on 22-23 September, the OSCE PA held a two-day election seminar for almost 50 parliamentarians representing 17 countries in Washington D.C. with the assistance of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA and the Helsinki Commission. The PA observers deployed four days prior to Election Day to: Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., New Hampshire, Ohio, Missouri, New Mexico and Colorado.

PA Members observed early-voting in several states and met with key election officials as well as with representatives of the main political parties in the states where they were deployed.
A full list of participants follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSCE PA Delegation</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>BALLO, Olav Gunnar</th>
<th>Norway</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President of the OSCE PA</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>HANSSEN, Sigvald Oppebøen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Delegation</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>HØGLUND, Morten</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>NITRAS, Slawomir</td>
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<td>POMAJDA, Wojciech</td>
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<td>GJONI, Ilir</td>
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<td>ALMEIDA, Henriques Antonio</td>
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<td>SOARES, João</td>
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<td>MAGHERU, Paul</td>
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<td>CHERGINETS, Nikolai</td>
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<td>SOARES, João</td>
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<td>COÈME, Guy</td>
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<td>LAMBERT, Geert</td>
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<td>CHERRYAVSKIY, Valentin</td>
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<td>KOZLOVSKIY, Alexander</td>
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<td>PICULA, Tonino</td>
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The elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia met most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections, although some challenges remain, announced Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark) at a press conference in Skopje on 23 March.

Ms. Christmas-Moeller had been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short term OSCE observer mission of the 22 March elections.

“It is a pleasure for me to see that this country has made a number of steps along the democratic road that it returned to during the rerun of the elections last summer. Irregularities and a lack of trust remain – and these must be dealt with – but there is no doubt that you have made further progress in holding elections according to international commitments,” she said. Ms. Christmas-Moeller was also OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the observer mission to the parliamentary elections in the country in June 2008.

The observer mission noted that parties and civil society had made a concerted effort to ensure a calm and peaceful campaign, and that the election administration made a genuine effort to run transparent elections, despite an insufficient number of staff. Voting Day was altogether assessed quite positively.

However, the observers reported that an atmosphere of distrust persisted to some extent, as demonstrated by numerous troubling allegations of election-related pressure or intimidation. Ms. Christmas-Moeller also noted that the accuracy of the voter lists continues to be another serious problem.

OSCE PA President Soares had appointed an 18-member OSCE parliamentary delegation. Ms. Christmas-Moeller led the some 300 short-term OSCE observers who worked together with a delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as well as with long term observers deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR. The Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, which observed the municipal elections, also subscribed to the statement.

From the International Secretariat the delegation was supported by Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker and Research Fellows Cecilia Lagomarsino and Nadja Douglas. A full list of participants is below.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

CHRISTMAS-MØLLER, Pia

Vice-President of the OSCE PA

Head of Delegation

BRANKO, Zrno

PEDERSEN, Marion

KOSKINEN, Johannes

PLAGNOL, Henri

D’AMICO, Claudio

PONCYLJSZ, Pawel

BATTELLI, Roberto

POZUELO, Isabel

HABSBURG-DOUGLAS, Walburga

Denmark

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Finland

France

Italy

Poland

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

MIESCH, Christian

OYAN, Oğuz

Accompanied by

HAND, Robert A.

International Secretariat

BAKER, Andreas

DOUGLAS, Nadja

LAGOMARSINO, Cecilia Vera

NOTHELLE, Andreas

Presidential Advisor

Research Fellow

Research Fellow

Special Representative

Turkey

United States

Spain

Sweden
The 29 March 2009 parliamentary elections in Montenegro met almost all international commitments and standards, but the process again underscored the need for further democratic development, the international election observation mission concluded in its preliminary post-election statement on 30 March at a press conference in Podgorica.

“I have long watched Montenegro’s political and economic development, both before and after its independence. In those years, the country has made steady democratic progress and Election Day was truly impressive. There is no doubt in my mind that these elections further strengthened Montenegro’s democracy,” said Roberto Battelli, Head of the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observer mission.

The international observation mission was comprised of close to 190 observers from 40 countries, including 22 representatives from OSCE PA, 14 from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and 30 long-term observers from OSCE/ODIHR.

Overall, the elections were organized professionally, and political parties were able to present their programmes to voters freely, the mission stated. The voting and counting process was evaluated highly positively – or in 98 percent of the almost 700 polling stations visited – by the observers, with very few incidents reported. The vote count was evaluated positively in all but one case.

The observers noted, however, that lack of public confidence remained a key challenge, as frequent allegations of electoral fraud and a blurring of state and party structures created a negative atmosphere among many voters. Other remaining challenges include a lack of adequate legal redress and insufficient critical reporting by most broadcast media.

The OSCE PA’s observation mission was supported by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the Vienna Liaison Office, Klas Bergman, Director of Communications at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, and Research Fellow Paul Pryce from the Vienna office. Below is a full list of participants.

OSCE PA Delegation

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International Secretariat

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Director of Communications
Special Representative
Research Fellow
The 5 April 2009 parliamentary elections took place in an overall pluralistic environment, offering voters distinct political alternatives and meeting many OSCE and Council of Europe commitments. Further improvements are required to ensure an electoral process free from undue administrative interference and to increase public confidence.

That was the conclusion of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) to Moldova in its preliminary post-election statement delivered by Petros Efthymiou at a press conference in Chisinau on 6 April 2009. Mr. Efthymiou headed the delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and served as the Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short term observers. The IEOM also included the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR.

Voting on Election Day was well-organized and took place in a calm and peaceful atmosphere, without any major incidents reported, the statement said. Observers noted good knowledge of electoral procedures both by election commission members and most voters. Counting was also assessed positively, but a number of significant procedural shortcomings were noted. Processing of results by District Electoral Councils requires further improvement.

“I am delighted with the progress of democracy in Moldova. These elections were very good and they gave me great confidence in the future of this country,” Mr. Efthymiou said at the press conference.

The media provided contestants with opportunities to convey messages to the electorate, in particular through debates and paid airtime, and therefore allowed voters to make an informed choice, the statement noted. However, the public broadcaster Moldova 1 in its news offered preferential treatment of the authorities, blurring the distinction between the coverage of duties of top State officials and their campaign activities.

The observers also noted that party lists and candidates were registered in an inclusive process, and the Central Election Commission operated in an overall professional and transparent manner. Also, the process of adjudication of complaints and appeals by electoral bodies and courts ensured that electoral challenges were generally considered in a timely manner and with respect for principles of due process.

However, observers stated that there were several shortcomings that needed to be addressed. The campaign environment was affected by frequent allegations of intimidation, including by the police, of voters and candidates, and allegations of misuse of administrative resources. Also, voter registration lacked uniformity and an adequate legal framework, the observers noted.

The Election Code generally provided an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections. Nonetheless, the combination of the electoral threshold, prohibition of pre-electoral alliances and the restriction of electoral rights of persons with multiple citizenship created obstacles for many political parties and candidates. In addition, the voter turnout requirement for an election to be valid allows for cycles of failed elections.

As in previous elections, voting did not take place on the territory that is, since 1992, under the de facto control of the Transnistrian authorities. Voters residing in Transnistria could vote at ten special polling stations. In Corjova, a disputed commune on the eastern bank, voting was aggressively prevented during the day by a seemingly organized crowd. A full list of election observers follows.
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The International Election Observation Mission concluded that Albania’s election process demonstrated improvements, but also noted that violations persist. The observers said the elections marked tangible progress with regard to the introduction of new voter registration and identification procedures, and the adoption of an improved legal framework. But the observers also noted that these improvements were overshadowed by the politicization of technical aspects of the process and violations observed during the campaign which undermined public confidence in the electoral process.

Election day was overall calm and peaceful and the atmosphere was improved. Observers assessed the voting process slightly more positively than in previous elections, but noted procedural violations related in particular to inking procedures and widespread family voting.

The mission said it was too early to make a definite assessment, as the vote count and tabulation of results have yet to be completed.

“The country has matured, it has made progress, and many of the fears we had only some months ago have not materialized. I’m certainly happy about the progress we saw, but there is also a considerable number of issues that need to be tackled, in particular the polarized political climate,” said Wolfgang Grossruck, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observer mission.
Kyrgyzstan’s presidential election failed to meet key OSCE commitments, despite some positive elements, the OSCE election observation mission concluded in a preliminary statement released today.

“We are pleased to see some political pluralism and an active civil society, but this was undermined by an overall uneven playing field in which the distinction between the ruling party and the State was blurred,” said Senator Consiglio Di Nino, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and Head of the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Voters could choose from a number of presidential candidates and civil society played an important role in the election process. But observers also stressed that the incumbent gained an unfair advantage over his opponents through the misuse of administrative resources and bias in the media coverage of the campaign, which did not allow voters to make an informed choice.

The observers noted instances of obstruction of opposition campaign events as well as pressure and intimidation of opposition supporters. The shortcomings observed contributed to an atmosphere of distrust and undermined public confidence in holding genuinely democratic elections.

Election day was marred by many problems and irregularities, including ballot box stuffing, inaccuracies in the voter lists, and multiple voting. The process further deteriorated during the vote count and the tabulation of results, with observers evaluating this part of the process negatively in more than half of observations. Twenty-two parliamentarians participated in the election observation mission:
MOLDOVA
Parliamentary Elections
29 July 2009

The 29 July parliamentary elections in Moldova met many international standards, but the process underscored the need for continued democratic reforms to restore public trust, the international election observation mission concluded.

The election was overall well-administered, allowing for competition of political parties representing a plurality of views. The observers stressed that the campaign was negatively affected by subtle intimidation and media bias.

“I am encouraged by the conduct of these elections. Many OSCE commitments were met, but important challenges remain if the lack of trust among the country’s political parties and voters is to be overcome so that Moldova’s democracy can continue to improve,” said Petros Efthymiou, head of the OSCE PA delegation and special co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers.

The observers noted that while election day was well-organized and calm, the misuse of administrative resources had a negative effect on the equality of campaign opportunities.

In all, 300 short-term observers from 40 countries were deployed on election day, including 38 from the OSCE PA, 16 from PACE, and 11 from the European Parliament. Voting was observed in some 1,000 polling stations out of a total of 1,986. The OSCE PA’s mission was supported by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, Programme Officer Anna Chernova, and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova from the International Secretariat.

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The first round of Ukraine’s presidential election was of high quality, showing significant progress over previous elections and meeting most OSCE commitments, the OSCE PA President and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers, Joao Soares, announced on 18 January.

“This election offered the voters a genuine choice between candidates and it showed significant progress over previous elections,” said Mr. Soares at a press conference in Kyiv on behalf of the international election observation mission.

The observers noted that the election demonstrated respect for civil and political rights. Candidates were able to campaign freely, and the campaign period was generally calm and orderly.

Although the legal framework remained unclear and incomplete in some respects, the election was generally administered efficiently, and commissions worked in a collegial and non-partisan manner. A pluralistic media offered voters a variety of information about candidates.

Voting and counting on election day was assessed overwhelmingly positively by observers. President Soares noted that “election day went well and observers judged the voting process as good or very good in 97 percent of the polling stations visited. The vote count was assessed as good or very good in 95 percent of our reports.”

Mr. Soares observed the voting on election day in Kyiv and appointed deputies to lead OSCE PA observer teams in regions throughout the country.

Teams were deployed in Kyiv, led by Alcee Hastings; Donetsk, led by Tone Tingsgaard; Kharkiv, led by Canan Kalsin; Lviv, led by Wolfgang Grossruck; Odesa, led by Francois-Xavier De Donnea; and Simferopol, led by Roberto Battelli. The OSCE observation mission, comprising both the OSCE PA and OSCE ODIHR, worked in close co-operation with parliamentarians from the Council of Europe, NATO, and the European Parliament. The Assembly’s delegation consisted of 117 observers from 31 countries:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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**International Secretariat**

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<td>CHERNOVA, Anna</td>
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<td>JEZKOVA, Petra</td>
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<td>MONTELLA, Roberto</td>
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Ukraine’s run-off presidential election on 7 February confirmed the international election observation mission’s earlier assessment that the electoral process met most international commitments.

OSCE PA President and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short term observers Joao Soares said at a press conference on 8 February that “Yesterday’s vote was an impressive display of democratic elections. For everyone in Ukraine, this election was a victory.”

In its statement of preliminary findings, the observation mission noted that the lack of mutual trust between the candidates, as well as a deficient legal framework, were at the root of the problems observed and constitute a pressing challenge for the new leadership.

Nevertheless, the candidates were able to campaign freely in a competitive election environment and the existing legal framework provided a basis for holding democratic elections. The election “consolidated progress achieved since 2004,” the observers said.

The joint statement of the PA, the OSCE ODIHR, the European Parliament and the parliamentary assemblies of NATO and the Council of Europe, also noted that amending the election law between the two rounds of voting was “inappropriate” but pointed out that the last minute amendments adopted by the government did not impact the conduct of election day.

The PA’s observation mission consisted of 69 observers in the second round, including 51 Members of Parliament from 23 participating States:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

SOARES, Joao  Portugal  EXNER, Vaclav  Czech Republic

Head of Delegation

SAFARYAN, Aram Vilen  Armenia  LUND, Jens Christian  Denmark

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang  Austria  PLANCADÈ, Jean-Pierre  France

HEINZL, Anton  Austria  VOISIN, Michel  France

BEDRITSKY, Gleb  Belarus  WEISSKIRCHEN, Gert  Germany

LANJRI, Nahima  Belgium  EFTHYMIOU, Petros  Greece

CHRISTOPHERSON, David  Canada  ZOIS, Christos  Greece

DI NINO, Consiglio  Canada  BARBIERI, Emerenzio  Italy

GOLDRING, Peter  Canada  D’AMICO, Claudio  Italy

GUAY, Monique  Canada  RANDAZZO, Antonino  Italy

HALL FINDLAY, Martha  Canada  DOSMANBETOV, Bakbergen  Kazakhstan
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

KOSMAMBETOV, Tulebek
KLAUZS, Janis
RASNACS, Dzintars
FABISIAK, Joanna
CAMPOS FERREIRA, Luis
CRACIUN, Avram
DOBRE, Cristina Elena
MOVILA, Petru
SEVERIN, Georgica
KULAKOV, Vladimir
NARUSOVA, Liudmila
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HILTON, Jennifer

Accompanied by
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MAGGIO, Giuseppe
PAURA, Sandra
PAIXAO, Nuno
CONSTANTIN, Anca
LOPATINA, Anait
PISKAREV, Dmitry
STAVITSKIY, Valery
DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest
PARKER, Kyle

International Secretariat
OLIVER, Robert Spencer
SCHOEN, Tina
BAKER, Andreas
BERGMAN, Klas
CHERNOVA, Anna
DZAKHAEV, Semyon
JEZKOVA, Petra
MONTELLA, Roberto
NOTHELLE, Andreas

Kazakhstan
Latvia
Latvia
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Romania
Romania
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Slovenia
Slovenia
Spain
Spain
Spain
Sweden
Sweden
Switzerland
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Turkey
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Turkey
United Kingdom
Greece
Italy
Latvia
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
Russian Federation
United States
United States
Secretary General
Deputy Secretary General
Presidential Advisor
Director of Communications
Programme Officer
Senior Counsellor
Logistics Officer
Programme Officer
Special Representative
The parliamentary elections in Tajikistan on 28 February took place peacefully, but despite certain small positive steps the elections failed to meet many key OSCE commitments. Serious irregularities took place on election day, including high incidence of observed proxy and family voting, despite the stated aim of the authorities of Tajikistan to hold more democratic and transparent elections.

In a positive development, the higher-level election commissions were more inclusive than in previous elections, international observers concluded in the preliminary post-election statement issued at a press conference in Dushanbe on 1 March by PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller.

Over 250 short-term observers from 41 OSCE countries were deployed, with 49 members from the OSCE PA and 12 from the European Parliament, in addition to ODHR’s long-term mission. Ms. Christmas-Moeller appointed Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria), a veteran election observer, as Deputy Head of the PA’s observation mission as well as a consultancy group which included Claudio D’Amico (Italy), Morten Hoeglund (Norway), Pawel Poncyljusz (Poland), Johann Widmer (Switzerland), Alaattin Buyukkaya (Turkey), and Simon Burns (U.K.).
The 6 May general elections in the United Kingdom demonstrated that democracy is a vibrant force in the world’s oldest parliamentary system, concluded the OSCE PA’s observer delegation in a statement issued on 7 May. In particular, direct debates between the leaders of the three major parties sparked interest in the democratic process and in public policy in the United Kingdom.

Legislation governing elections is clearly understood by practitioners and stakeholders, the observers noted, and is underpinned by widespread trust in the electoral system. The delegation, however, expressed concern about reports that voters who were lining up to vote at the time of closing were not allowed to vote. Some interlocutors expressed concern about the possible vulnerability to fraud of postal voting, despite safeguards introduced in 2006. Unlike most other electoral systems in the OSCE, the pure first-past-the-post system in the United Kingdom allows for a distribution of seats in parliament which does not reflect the preference of the general electorate in the United Kingdom.

The OSCE PA delegation included Members of Parliament from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Russia and Tajikistan. In addition to leading the Assembly’s delegation, President Soares was also appointed to lead the OSCE observation mission by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Kazakhstan’s Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev. As part of the ongoing observation, the OSCE PA delegation was briefed for several days prior to election day in London by officials from the Electoral Commission and the Library of the House of Commons, representatives from the major political parties, the media and civil society.

The parliamentarians deployed in the London and Manchester areas to follow preparation at polling stations, actual voting processes, the handling of postal ballots, and the counting procedure.
The general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 October represented further progress and, except for legal restrictions of voting rights, were conducted generally in line with OSCE commitments, international observers concluded in a preliminary statement issued on 4 October.

“We have seen yet another demonstration that the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina has stabilized, which is a further promising step towards full integration into the European structures,” said Special Co-ordinator Roberto Battelli who led the short-term OSCE observer mission and headed the OSCE PA delegation. “I hope we will soon see the new parliament address the remaining issues.”

Voters could choose from a broad range of candidates representing a wide political spectrum. Election day was orderly and calm. Voting was assessed positively, but the unusually high percentage of invalid ballots was a matter of concern.

The election commissions at the central and municipal level enjoyed general confidence among electoral stakeholders. The appointment process of polling station committees, however, was tainted by the practice of contestants nominating committee members affiliated with another party or candidate, or contestants trading seats. The election campaign was occasionally marked by nationalist rhetoric and inflammatory statements. While contestants addressed economic, social and European integration topics, constitutional issues and underlying ethnic divisions remained omnipresent.

Mr. Battelli headed the OSCE PA delegation of 32 parliamentarians as well as more than 250 OSCE short-term observers.
Marked by political pluralism and a vibrant campaign, the 10 October parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan constituted a further consolidation of the democratic process and brought the country closer to meeting its international commitments on democratic elections, international observers concluded in a preliminary statement issued on 11 October. They stressed, however, that there remains an urgent need for a profound reform of the electoral legislation.

“I was impressed by the political pluralism, the civic responsibility and the spirit of the people of this country. I have observed many elections in Central Asia over the years but this is the first election where I could not predict the outcome. This election reflected the will of the people of the Kyrgyz Republic,” said Morten Høglund, appointed as Special Coordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission and Head of the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The observers noted that the inclusive registration process resulted in a pluralistic field of political parties which provided voters with a genuine choice. The campaign was highly competitive and took place in a peaceful atmosphere despite underlying tensions following the June violence. Political parties were generally able to campaign freely without major impediments or incidents. Overall, fundamental freedoms were respected. The central election commission operated independently and enjoyed the confidence of electoral stakeholders.

On election day, voting proceeded in a calm, orderly and transparent manner, although the presence of unauthorized persons in polling stations was a concern. In some cases these persons interfered in the process. The counting was assessed much less positively, with observers noting procedural violations and problems with completing protocols. In a positive move, the central election commission published results broken down by polling stations throughout election night.

Generally, the media covered the campaign only through the broadcasting of paid advertisements. This allowed voters to form opinions on political alternatives, but made it difficult for them to make a fully informed choice due to the lack of impartial and analytical information.

The observers noted that the legal framework for elections is not yet consistent with the constitution and is in urgent need of comprehensive reform.
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

The 2 November midterm elections demonstrated the United States’ commitment to democracy and the vote reflected the will of the people, international observers from the OSCE PA said in its post-election statement delivered by Joao Soares, OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the observation mission.

The ability of voters to vote early and the encouragement of such early voting clearly eased any capacity problems that might have occurred.

The campaign was at times intense and dirty. Money played a significant role, creating an uneven playing field between candidates. Political advertisements inundated the airwaves, turning many voters off, the statement said. The U.S. electoral system continues to be decentralized and highly diverse with a lack of uniform country-wide standards, creating vulnerabilities in the system. OSCE PA observers encouraged further debate to develop more uniform standards within the U.S. election system.

The OSCE PA’s election observation mission included 42 parliamentarians from 21 countries. The observers were deployed to six states: Virginia, Maryland, Colorado, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**OSCE PA Delegation**
- SOARES, Joao, Portugal
- MUTTONEN, Christine, Austria
- NEUBAUER, Werner, Austria
- VAN ESBROECK, Jan, Belgium
- CHRISTMAS-MOELLER, Pia, Denmark
- JENSEN, Michael Aastrup, Denmark
- KOFOD, Jeppe, Denmark
- MARIANI, Thierry, France
- VOISIN, Michel, France
- TSERETELI, George, Georgia
- DAUB, Helga, Germany
- WELLMANN, Karl-Georg, Germany
- KAMMENOS, Panagiota, Greece
- SZABO, Timea, Hungary
- O’SULLIVAN, Edward, Ireland
- ALLEGIRINI, Laura, Italy
- D’AMICO, Claudio, Italy
- MARCUCCI, Andrea, Italy
- MECACCI, Matteo, Italy
- MIGLIORI, Riccardo, Italy
- PICCHI, Guglielmo, Italy
- RANDAZZO, Antonino, Italy
- APSALYAMOV, Yerbolat, Kazakhstan
- KASSYMOV, Gani, Kazakhstan
- GITMARK, Peter, Norway
- MICHAELSEN, Aase Smith, Norway
- PONCYLIJUSZ, Pawel, Poland
- KARPOVICH, Natalia, Russian Federation
- KOZLOVSKIY, Alexander, Russian Federation
- NEFEDOV, Viktor, Russian Federation

**Head of Delegation**
- BATTELLI, Roberto, Slovenia
- JURI, Luka, Slovenia
- FEDELE, Fredrick, Sweden
- LINDESTAM, Ase, Sweden
- MIESCH, Christian, Switzerland
- SALIMZODA, Olin, Tajikistan
- FERRIER, Kathleen, The Netherlands
- BUYUKKAYA, Alattin, Turkey
- GULER, Hilmi, Turkey
- OYAN, Oguz, Turkey
- AKSELI, Saren, Turkey

**Accompanied by**
- CHAMPOURIS, Georgios, Greece
- MAGGIO, Giuseppe, Italy
- TREZZA, Giuseppe, Italy
- STAVITSKY, Valery, Russia
- WERSTERHOF, Arjen, The Netherlands
- AKSELI, Saren, Turkey
- AKSELI, Saren, Turkey

**International Secretariat**
- BAKER, Andreas, Presidential Advisor
- BERGMAN, Klas, Director of Communications
- Bjerregaard, Dana, Logistics Officer
- OLIVER, Spencer, Senior Counsellor
- PALLARES, Gustavo, Deputy Secretary General
- PARRY, Nathaniel, Research/Publications Officer
- SCHÖN, Tina, Deputy Secretary General
In a statement delivered on 8 November by Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and Head of the PA’s delegation Wolfgang Grossruck, international observers concluded that while the 7 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan were characterized by a peaceful atmosphere with all opposition parties participating in the political process, the conduct of the elections overall was not sufficient to constitute meaningful progress in the democratic development of the country.

Observers noted that the Central Election Commission administered the elections well, but limitations of media freedom and freedom of assembly further weakened the opposition and made vibrant political discourse almost impossible. On the positive side, voters had the opportunity to check the centralized voter register and request correction or inclusion, and the CEC conducted a voter education campaign, including in the media.

Mr. Grossruck participated in a pre-assessment mission to the country from 14 to 18 October. The OSCE PA’s observation mission consisted of 41 Members of Parliament from 20 countries and worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR, the PACE and the European Parliament.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

**Head of Delegation**

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang  
Austria  

OLLINGER, Karl  
Austria  

DE BRUYN, Piet  
Belgium  

DE DONNEA, François-Xavier  
Belgium  

DI NINO, Consiglio  
Canada  

GOLDRING, Peter  
Canada  

GUAY, Monique  
Canada  

PICULA, Tonino  
Croatia  

OLHIDLAL, Ivan  
Czech Republic  

SARAPATKA, Borivoj  
Czech Republic  

MARIANI, Thierry  
France  

VOISIN, Michel  
France  

GRUND, Manfred  
Germany  

BARBIERI, Emerenzio  
Italy  

D’AMICO, Claudio  
Italy  

DEL VECCHIO, Mauro  
Italy  

RANDAZZO, Antonino  
Italy  

YENGSEGENOV, Sarsenbay  
Kazakhstan  

CORUZ, Coskun  
Netherlands  

SMALING, Eric  
Netherlands  

HANSEN, Sigvald Oppeboen  
Norway  

HENRIKSEN, Kari  
Norway  

BARTUS, Barbara  
Poland  

GRAD, Mariusz  
Poland  

KLEINA, Kazimierz  
Poland  

POMAJDA, Wojciech  
Poland  

SKORUPA, Aleksander  
Poland  

COSTA, Jorge  
Portugal  

SILISTRU,Doina  
Romania  

TARASYUK, Vasily  
Russian Federation  

ESCUDERO SANCHEZ, Maria  
Spain  

LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ, Maria Pilar  
Spain  

PEREZ TAPIAS, Jose Antonio  
Spain  

POZUELO MENO, Isabel  
Spain  

ENOCHSON, Annelie  
Sweden  

FEDERLEY, Frederick  
Sweden  

NORDEN, Marie  
Sweden  

AKCAN, Abdulkadir  
Turkey  

AYALAN, Sukru  
Turkey  

KALSIN, Canan  
Turkey  

HILTON OF EGGARDON, Jennifer  
United Kingdom  

Accompanied by  

ACAEVA, Adelya  
Russian Federation  

DANILYUK, Alexandra  
Russian Federation  

JOHNSON, Alex  
United States of America  

TURNER, Fred  
United States of America  

International Secretariat  

CHERNOVA, Anna  
Programme Officer  

JEZKOVA, Petra  
Logistics Officer  

NOTHELLE, Andreas  
Special Representative
The 28 November early parliamentary elections in Moldova met most OSCE commitments, international observers concluded in a post-election statement delivered by Special Co-ordinator Tonino Picula at a press conference in Chisinau on 29 November.

The observers noted that the elections were administered in a transparent and impartial manner and a wide range of candidates provided voters with a genuine choice. Election day was assessed positively although some procedural errors were observed. Civil and political rights were respected during the election campaign, and a pluralistic media covered the campaign actively and provided voters with diverse information.

A number of amendments to the electoral code improved the electoral framework overall. However, the introduction of a new mandate allocation system – shortly before the elections and without public consultations – was problematic. The quality of voter lists remained a weak point and led to diminished public confidence. Further efforts are needed to remedy remaining deficiencies and strengthen public confidence, the observers stated.

Mr. Picula led more than 200 short-term observers including more than 30 OSCE parliamentarians. The OSCE PA’s delegation was supported by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova.
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

BELARUS

Presidential Election

19 December 2010

Speaking in Minsk on 20 December, Tony Lloyd reported that the 19 December presidential election showed that Belarus still has a considerable way to go in meeting its OSCE commitments, although some specific improvements were made.

Election night was marred by the detention of most presidential candidates and hundreds of activists, journalists and civil society representatives.

Mr. Lloyd, who headed the OSCE PA observation mission and was appointed as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission, said that “This election failed to give Belarus the new start it needed. The counting process lacked transparency. The people of Belarus deserved better.” He called upon the Belarusian government to account for the arrests of presidential candidates, journalists and human rights activists.

In leading the Parliamentary Assembly’s team, Mr. Lloyd was supported by Vice-President and Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who served as Deputy Head of the observation mission of more than 50 parliamentarians. The OSCE observation mission was a common endeavour of the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR.

The observers noted that during the campaign, all candidates were able to convey their messages to the electorate in an unhindered manner. They could address the electorate directly through two TV debates and free airtime provided to them in an uncensored but limited format.

Nevertheless, the mission concluded that the current President and the other contenders competed on unequal terms. There were cases of misuse of administrative resources to promote the incumbent. Nationwide broadcasters devoted some 90 per cent of political news to the current President. The lack of media diversity reduced the possibility for voters to make an informed choice.

The Central Election Commission administered the technical aspects of the election process well and in a transparent manner, but lacked impartiality. Although the election legislation allows for a pluralistic composition of election commissions, in practice less than one per cent of commission members represented the opposition.

Despite some improvements in the election legislation, the legal framework still does not adequately guarantee the conduct of elections in line with OSCE commitments.

A full list of participants is on the following page.
Belarus election participants:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLOYD, Tony</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOKAYEV, Kassym-Jomart</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>SAFARYAN, Aram</td>
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<td>HURSKAINEN, Ulla Sinikka</td>
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<td>ABDYKARIMOV, Oralbay</td>
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<td>CEDERFELT, Margareta</td>
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<td>HOLM, Christian</td>
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<td>RUNESSON, Carin Gunilla</td>
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<td>SZYBER, Caroline</td>
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<td>PERESTENKO, Maryna</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>STOIAN, Oleksandr</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>WESTON, Rachel</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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**Accompanied by**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>PETKOVIC, Milovan</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>BURSHAKOV, Satybuldy</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>STAVITSKY, Valery</td>
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<td>TOLLIN, Ingrid</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCNAMARA, Ronald</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>SHAPIRO, Josh</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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**International Secretariat**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHERNOVA, Anna</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<td>JEZKOVA, Petra</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>OLIVER, R. Spencer</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONTELLA, Roberto</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Second Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

KAZAKHSTAN
Presidential Election
3 April 2011

Tonino Picula, former Foreign Minister of Croatia, headed the OSCE PA’s delegation to observe Kazakhstan’s presidential election on 3 April and was appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE. Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) and Matteo Mecacci (Italy) served as deputy heads of the OSCE PA’s delegation.

Around 80 PA observers, including 57 MPs, were deployed throughout the country, particularly in the Astana and Almaty regions. The participants were extensively briefed by NGOs, representatives of political parties, presidential candidates, election officials and OSCE long-term observers. The observation mission noted progress in Kazakhstan since the country’s independence but said that reforms need to be implemented before the next parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan.

While the election was technically well administered, the absence of opposition candidates and of a vibrant political discourse resulted in a non-competitive environment. A limited field of candidates did not seek to challenge the incumbent.

“While Kazakhstan has achieved a lot since independence, this election has showed that the country still needs to make improvements to meet democratic commitments, particularly in the fields of freedom of assembly and media,” said Special Co-ordinator Tonino Picula. “Despite this election showing a lack of expected progress, we hope the country will use it as a learning experience to improve future elections and ensure genuine competition.”

Compared to the last presidential election, the media provided more equality in covering candidates in the news programmes, but outside the news there was little analytical election-related coverage, diminishing the ability of voters to make a fully informed choice. “On the positive side,” Mr. Picula said, “we were pleased to see a proactive government effort to transparently update the voter lists.”

Mr. Picula also noted that women were well represented at many levels of election administration.

The PA’s election observation mission was supported by Deputy Director of Field Operations Roberto Montella, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Programme Officer Anna Chernova, Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova, Communications Director Neil Simon and Secretary General Spencer Oliver from the Secretariat.
Kazakhstan election participants:

**OSCE PA Delegation**

PICULA, Tonino  
Croatia  
Head of Delegation

MECACCI, Matteo  
Italy  
Deputy Head of Delegation

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang  
Austria  
Deputy Head of Delegation

OLLINGER, Karl  
Austria  
Head of Delegation

ZIANKOU, Aliaksandr  
Belarus  
Deputy Head of Delegation

DEMOLO, Elza  
Belgium  
Deputy Head of Delegation

GATTSEMLIDZE, Zaal  
Georgia  
Deputy Head of Delegation

DEMOL, Elza  
Belgium  
Deputy Head of Delegation

PLACHY, Jaroslav  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

DEMONCOVA, Hana  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

HOJDA Pavel  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

OHLIDAL, Ivan  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

RAPA, Matteo  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

GAUTSCHI, Dominique  
Switzerland  
Deputy Head of Delegation

BRATSKY, Petr  
Czech Republic  
Deputy Head of Delegation

CHURCHILL, John  
Canada  
Deputy Head of Delegation

ROCHE CASTELNAU, Françoise  
France  
Deputy Head of Delegation

**International Secretariat**

OLIVER, Robert Spencer  
OSCE PA Secretary General

MONTELLA, Roberto  
Deputy Director for Field Operations

SIMON, Neil  
Director of Communications

CHERNOVA, Anna  
Programme Officer

JEZKOVA, Petra  
Logistics Officer

DZAKHAEV, Semyon  
Senior Counsellor
At a press conference in Skopje on 6 June, OSCE PA Treasurer and Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli said that the 5 June early parliamentary elections were competitive, transparent and well-administered, but certain aspects such as the blurring of the line between state and party require further attention.

“These elections have laid a cornerstone for a stable, democratic future,” said Roberto Battelli, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term observer mission and deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE. “The reality of election day has proven many of the pre-election allegations wrong and put the country on track to have a climate free of paranoia that undermines voters’ faith in the electoral process.”

Working with parliamentary colleagues from PACE, as well as with the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE PA delegation consisted of 55 observers including 34 Members of Parliament. A full list is below.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

BATTELLI, Roberto Slovenia

Head of Delegation

BATTEN, Anton Austria

BRATSKY, Petr Czech Republic

FAUSSET, Olivier France

GEERTS, David Belgium

GALBAY, Gabor Hungary

HANNAH, Hugo Malta

KAY, John Norway

KLAIBER, Eric Sweden

LINDE, Vaino Estonia

PLACHY, Jaroslav Czech Republic

SANNEN, Ludo Belgium

SARAPATKA, Borivoj Czech Republic

STETINA, Jaromir Czech Republic

DE LA RUE, Jean-Luc France

HANSEN, Morten Denmark

HOOD, Paul United Kingdom

HUKSTAD, Kjell Norway

KOTT, Michael Poland

MIGLIORI, Riccardo Italy

MUSCALU, Cristian Romania

OHLIDAL, Ivan Czech Republic

POMAJDA, Wojciech Poland

RAJN, Lukasz Romania

RUKSHDUR, Abram Uzbekistan

SFORZA SIRA, Cristina Italy

STETINA, Antonio Slovakia

THOMASSEN, Jette Denmark

**Accompanied by**

CALIFANO, Pia Italy

COBHAM, Geoffrey United Kingdom

CORNELIUS, Carina Denmark

DELAND, Pieter Belgium

DUNLOP, Carina United Kingdom

DRUJ, Iuliana Romania

ENGLE, Kerstin Sweden

GRECH, Paul Malta

HUKSTAD, Kjell Norway

KEITH, Andrew United Kingdom

KOOP, Michel Netherlands

KRAMER, Klaas Netherlands

KÜHN, Julia Germany

KURAMBAYEVA, Gulpur Uzbekistan

LAKATOS, Istvan Hungary

LINDELF, Tomas Sweden

MARQUES DA SILVA, Sandra Portugal

MUSCALU, Cristian Romania

MOYNIHAN, Neil United Kingdom

NAVARRA, Giuseppe Italy

NIEHUES, Nathalie Germany

NOY, generates Portugal

OHLIDAL, Nina Sweden

POMAJDA, Agata Poland

RASPAUD, Florian France

RIETEMA, Mark Netherlands

SABASHUK, Iryna Ukraine

SABASHUK, Iryna Ukraine

SIMON, Neil United Kingdom

**International Secretariat**

BAKER, Andreas Presidential Advisor

CARILLET, Marc Deputy Director of Administration

NOTHELLE, Andreas Special Representative

SABASHUK, Iryna Logistics Officer

SIMON, Neil Director of Communications
Turkey’s parliamentary elections demonstrated pluralism but also showed a need for improvements on fundamental freedoms, according to international election observers from the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and Council of Europe.

“To fully live up to its democratic commitments, Turkey must do more than run efficient professional elections on the day of the vote,” said Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark), head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation. “Free expression and a media environment in which reporters are free from political pressure and intimidation are critical for Turkey to strengthen its democracy and be a model in the wider region.”

Voters in the election had a genuine choice after a vigorous campaign period. For the first time, candidates were allowed to campaign in languages other than Turkish. Observers applauded the Supreme Election Board for its professional management of the election and the open access granted to observers.

President Efthymiou appointed OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller to lead the observation mission. The observation, bringing together more than 70 observers, including 61 Members of Parliament from 30 countries, was a joint effort of the OSCE PA and PACE.
International election observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly declared the first democratic elections in Tunisia as “free and fair” and praised the Tunisian people for their participation in the electoral process.

“The elections laid a first solid cornerstone for future democratic institution-building,” said Riccardo Migliori (Italy), who headed the observation mission. “In this early phase of democratic transition, only months after violent protests, we saw genuinely free elections. My colleagues and I could not witness any widespread or systematic irregularities.”

Observers said the campaign for the Constituent National Assembly was marked by fair media coverage, giving voters a chance to make a genuine choice from the large number of party lists that included more than 11,000 candidates. Election day voting was seen as calm and orderly and the counting of votes generally viewed as honest.

Observers did cite restrictive policies on public advertising, the exclusion of followers of the authoritarian regime from the elections, and an imperfect voter registration system as issues that need to be addressed to ensure Tunisia’s compliance with international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as national legislation.

More than 80 OSCE PA observers from 21 OSCE participating States and Algeria observed voting in Djerba, Gafsa, Hammamet, Kairouan, Nabeul, Sidi Bouzid, Sousse, Tozeur, and Tunis. Tunisia is a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE.

Vice-President Migliori conducted two pre-election visits to Tunisia as Head of the OSCE PA election observation mission. On a pre-election visit to Tunis from 6 to 9 September he met with national authorities, leaders of political parties, members of civil society and representatives of international organizations working in Tunis.

He paid a second visit to the country from 28 September to 1 October. Following a recommendation of the Tunisian electoral authorities, Migliori visited the southern part of the country to get a direct impression of the preparation for the elections and to assess the socio-political climate during the election campaign in rural areas of Tunisia. Vice-President Migliori visited Sousse, Sfax, Gabes, and Medenine, meeting with electoral authorities, leaders and candidates of the major political parties contesting the elections, and representatives of the international observers present in these municipalities.
Tunisia election participants:

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<th>Country</th>
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The 30 October presidential election in Kyrgyzstan was conducted in a calm atmosphere, but shortcomings underscored that the integrity of the electoral process should be improved to consolidate democratic practice in line with OSCE commitments, said international observers at a press conference on 31 October.

“Despite flaws with the voters lists and tabulation processes, we are cautiously optimistic about the future of democracy in Kyrgyzstan. Significant work is still needed at all levels for this country to live up to its commitments to hold democratic elections,” said OSCE PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), the Special Coordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission and Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation.

The observers noted that candidate registration was inclusive, giving voters a wide choice, and the campaign was open and respected fundamental freedoms. This was overshadowed by significant irregularities on election day, especially during the counting and tabulation of votes. Measures should be taken to improve voter lists, to amend electoral legislation and strengthen the polling process.

Election day proceeded in a peaceful manner and observers overall assessed the voting positively. A considerable number of voters were not on the voter lists and a number of cases of ballot box stuffing, multiple and family voting, vote buying, and bussing of voters were noted. The situation deteriorated during counting and tabulation, with a significant number of polling stations assessed negatively. In many cases, observers were restricted from observing the counting and tabulation.

Walburga Habsburg Douglas conducted a pre-election visit on 9-14 September, meeting with Kyrgyzstan’s President Roza Otunbayeva, the head of the Central Election Commission, the foreign ministry and the international community, including development agencies, in Bishkek. She participated in an OSCE parliamentary forum in the Kyrgyz Parliament and was briefed by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. In Osh, Habsburg Douglas met with the offices of the mayor and governor, and regional election officials, representatives of civil society and political parties.

The OSCE PA’s delegation consisted of observers from 14 countries.
Pointing to a merging of the Russian state with the ruling party and restrictions on freedom of assembly and interference with actions of civil society, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observers leveled their criticism at a press conference on 5 December.

The post-election statement delivered on behalf of the OSCE by OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou said that despite the lack of a level playing field, voters took advantage of their right to express their choice.

A biased media environment in favour of United Russia, pre-election decisions that denied opposition groups the right to form political parties, and a lack of prompt review of electoral complaints also limited political choice and contributed to a lack of fairness in the election, the observers said.

“Yesterday’s elections proved that the Russian people can form the future of this country by expressing their will despite many obstacles,” said Mr. Efthymiou, the Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE short-term observation mission. “However, changes are needed for the will of the people to be respected. I particularly noticed the interference of the state in all levels of political life, the lack of necessary conditions for a fair competition and no independence of the media.”

More than 70 OSCE parliamentarians, including bureau members Riccardo Migliori (Italy), Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom), Coskun Coruz (The Netherlands), and Matteo Mecacci (Italy) joined approximately 50 parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council observing in several areas of Russia. OSCE PA teams observed election day in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Rostov on Don, Vladivostok, and Irkutsk.

OSCE PA observers were briefed jointly with members from PACE and the Nordic Council for two days in the capital before receiving further briefings in the regions to which they deployed.

Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen organized the OSCE PA mission and was joined by Secretary General Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Programme Director Anna Chernova, Deputy Field Director Roberto Montella, Logistics Officer Iryna Sabashuk, and Communications Director Neil Simon. Also assisting were Research Fellows Maria Chepurina and Akbota Yermekova.
Russian election participants:

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**International Secretariat**

- Secretary General: OLIVER, Robert Spencer (Ireland)
- Deputy Secretary General: SCHOFEN, Tina (Italy)
- Deputy Director for Field Operations: MONTELLA, Roberto (Italy)
- Director of Communications: CHERNNOVA, Anna (Latvia)
- Logistics Officer: CHEPURINA, Maria (Norway)
- Research Fellow: YERMEKOVA, Akbota (Kazakhstan)
The 15 January parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan failed to meet fundamental principles of democratic elections, João Soares said in delivering the post-election statement of the OSCE election observation mission in Astana.

More than 30 OSCE parliamentarians from 14 countries participated in the mission, which included bilateral meetings and full briefings in Astana and Almaty with government officials and members of unrecognized opposition organizations.

The OSCE statement said the elections were well administered at the technical level and the observers noted legal changes aimed at ensuring representation of at least a second party in parliament, but the authorities did not provide the necessary conditions for the conduct of genuinely pluralistic elections. Several political parties were blocked from standing and a number of candidates were de-registered without due process.

Bureau members Riccardo Migliori (Italy), Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria), Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) and Matteo Mecacci (Italy) participated in the mission with support from the International Secretariat, including Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Communications Director Neil Simon, Programme Director Anna Chernova, and Logistics Officer Iryna Sabashuk.
Despite some innovations in the election process and unhindered possibilities for campaigning, conditions in the 4 March presidential election in the Russian Federation were clearly skewed in favour of one of the contestants, current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, said OSCE observers.

“The point of elections is that the outcome should be uncertain. This was not the case in Russia,” said OSCE PA Vice-President Tonino Picula, who led the short-term OSCE observer mission. “There was no real competition and abuse of government resources ensured that the ultimate winner of the election was never in doubt.”

The PA’s delegation consisted of First Committee Chair Karl-Georg Wellmann, Head of the OSCE PA’s Irish Delegation Eoghan Murphy, Third Committee Chair Matteo Mecacci, and Third Committee Rapporteur Coskun Coruz, Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Programme Director Anna Chernova, and Deputy Director for Field Operations Roberto Montella. The mission was supported by Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina from the International Secretariat.

The OSCE PA delegation worked closely with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE/ODIHR.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

PICULA, Tonino - Croatia  
Head of Delegation  
MECACCI, Matteo - Italy  
CORUZ, Coskun - Netherlands  
WELLMANN, Karl-Georg - Germany  
MURPHY, Eoghan - Ireland  

**Accompanied by**  
PETKOVIC, Milovan - Croatia

**International Secretariat**

CHERNOVA, Anna - Programme Director  
OLIVER, R. Spencer - Secretary General  
MONTELLA, Roberto - Deputy Director for Field Operations
At a Yerevan press conference on 7 May, François-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium) stated that Armenia’s 6 May parliamentary elections featured a vibrant and largely peaceful campaign, with overall balanced media coverage, but pressure on voters, violations of campaign provisions and a deficient complaints process created an unequal playing field.

“Armenia deserves recognition for its electoral reforms and its open and peaceful campaign environment but, in this race, several stakeholders too often failed to comply with the law and election commissions too often failed to enforce it,” stated de Donnea.

The OSCE PA observation mission to Armenia included more than 70 participants who were joined by colleagues from the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR. Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Communications Director Neil Simon and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk supported the mission.

OSCE PA Delegation
DE DONNEA, François-Xavier
Belgium
Head of Delegation

GIROUX, Jean-Marc
Belgium

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang
Austria

HEINZL, Anton
Austria

OELLINGER, Karl
Austria

VENIER, Mathias
Austria

KLEBAN, Tamara
Belarus

CONARD, Dominique
Belgium

SCHILTZ, Willem
Belgium

WATERSCHOOT, Kristof
Belgium

FURIO, Radin
Croatia

FITITIS, Sofoclis
Cyprus

BRATSKY, Petr
Czech Republic

DOUPOVCOVA, Hana
Czech Republic

HOJDA, Pavel
Czech Republic

OLHIDAL, Ivan
Czech Republic

SARAPATKA, Borivoj
Czech Republic

SKARKA, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

STETINA, Jaromir
Czech Republic

PAKOSTA, Liisa-Ly
Estonia

RAID, Juku-Kalle
Estonia

KIVELA, Kimmo
Finland

GRUND, Manfred
Germany

KIMKE, Jurgen
Germany

ALLEGRINI, Laura
Italy

BARBIERI, Emerenzio
Italy

D’AMICO, Claudio
Italy

MIGLIORI, Riccardo
Italy

PICCIOLO, Vincenzo
Italy

PICCHI, Guglielmo
Italy

AKHMETBEKOV, Zhambyl
Kazakhstan

AKHMETOV, Adil
Kazakhstan

LIEPINS, Valdis
Latvia

NIKIFOROV, Nikita
Latvia

HANSEN, Sigvald
Norway

HENRIKSEN, Kari
Norway

BARTUS, Barbara
Poland

DERA, Andrej
Poland

GRAD, Mariusz
Poland

KLUIZIK-ROSTKOWSKA, Joanna
Poland

PENKALSKI, Wojciech
Poland

RULEWSKI, Jan
Poland

SANTOS, Izabel
Portugal

SILVA, Adao
Portugal

ESTEBAN BRAVO, Aitor
Spain

POZUELO, Isabel
Spain

SANCHEZ AMOR, Jose Ignacio
Spain

DINGIZIAN, Esabelle
Sweden

GERDAU, Mats
Sweden

LUNDQVIST-BROMSTER, Maria
Sweden

RUNESSON, Carin Gunilla
Sweden

Accompanied by
MUSSI, Lukas
Austria

JANSOONE, Roeland
Belgium

PETKOVIC, Milovan
Croatia

PAPIRNIKOVA, Pavla
Czech Republic

CASELLI, Federico
Italy

PICCIOLO, Vincenzo
Italy

AIZSTRAUTS, Igs
Latvia

TOLLIN, Ingrid
Sweden

International Secretariat
SCHOEN, Tina
Deputy Secretary General

SIMON, Neil
Director of Communications

SABASHUK, Iryna
Operations Officer
Serbia’s parliamentary and early presidential elections on 6 May took place in an open and competitive environment but additional efforts are needed to improve the transparency of the election process and the functioning of the media, said Matteo Mecacci (Italy) in delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE on 7 May.

Observers noted that voters were provided with a wide degree of choices and contestants were able to campaign freely. Most electoral stakeholders expressed a high degree of confidence in the election administration, which carried out its duties professionally. Media ownership, however, lacks transparency.

“These were open and competitive elections, thanks to the legal reforms implemented over the last few years. I’m glad to say that the citizens of Serbia are moving forward on their path to building a fully fledged democracy,” said Mecacci on behalf of the OSCE and the OSCE PA. The results of the presidential election required a run-off between the top two candidates, Boris Tadic and Tomislav Nikolic.

With more than 30 participants, the OSCE PA delegation was supported by the OSCE/ODIHR and was joined by parliamentary colleagues from the Council of Europe, led by PA Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto. Mecacci made two pre-election visits to Serbia, on 19-23 March and 11-12 April.

The mission was supported by Deputy Director for Field Operations Roberto Montella and Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet from the OSCE PA’s Vienna Office.

OSCE PA Delegation

MECACCI, Matteo
Head of Delegation

MAIER, Johann
Austria

GULIYEV, Azay A.
Azerbaijan

IBRAHIMOVIĆ, Eldar
Azerbaijan

MAES, Lieve
Belgium

PRODANOVIC, Lazar
Bosnia and Herzegovina

PICULA, Tonino
Croatia

VUKŠIĆ, Branko
Croatia

FOLDYNA, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

PLACHÝ, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

NAUCLÉR, Charlotte
Finland

BATTAGLIA, Antonio
Italy

DEL VECCHIO, Mauro
Italy

SZCZERBA, Michal
Poland

SANTOS, Paulo Miguel
Portugal

SOARES, João
Portugal

IGNAT, Miron
Romania

DIMITROVSKI, Maja
Slovenia

GÓMEZ DE LA SERNA, Pedro Ramón
Spain

GONZÁLEZ VÁZQUEZ, Sebastian
Spain

KULKUOGLU, Sevki
Turkey

DUBS, Alfred
United Kingdom

RAJAKOVIĆ, Jelena
Bosnia and Herzegovina

ŠUTROVIĆ, Amir
Bosnia and Herzegovina

TOLIC, Olgica
Croatia

SOVAGAU, Mircea
Croatia

ÎLERI, Cenk
Romania

MONTELLA, Roberto
Turkey

Carillet from the OSCE PA’s Vienna Office.
Delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Belgrade on 21 May, Matteo Mecacci (Italy) said that the second round of Serbia’s presidential election on 20 May maintained the open, highly competitive character of the first round, but provided further indications that efforts are needed to enhance the integrity of the electoral process.

Mecacci, who served as head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s delegation and Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, noted Serbia’s substantial progress but said that challenges remain.

Observers noted that contestants enjoyed equal opportunities for campaigning, which offered voters a distinct political choice. The media provided voters with a diversity of views, although active scrutiny of the campaign was lacking.

While contestants expressed general confidence in the election process prior to voting in the first round, from 9 May the campaign centered on allegations of election fraud made by four contestants, which other parties maintained were politically motivated. The performance of institutions in addressing these claims underscored the need for a more responsive system to resolve electoral disputes, observers said.

The OSCE PA observer delegation to Serbia’s second round of voting consisted of nine participants including five parliamentarians, and worked in close co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR. The mission was supported by Deputy Director for Field Operations Roberto Montella from the OSCE PA’s Vienna Office.

OSCE PA Delegation
MECACCI, Matteo 
Head of Delegation 
ITALY
PICULA, Tonino
CROATIA
VUKSIC, Branko
CROATIA
DEL VECCHIO, Mauro
ITALY
KULKULOGLU, Sevki
TURKEY

Accompanied by
PETKOVIC, Milovan
CALIFANO, Pia
ILERI, Cenk
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
MONTELLA, Roberto

CROATIA
ITALY
TURKEY
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
Belarus
Parliamentary Elections
23 September 2012

The Belarusian 23 September parliamentary elections failed to meet OSCE commitments on citizens’ democratic rights to associate, to stand as candidates and to express themselves freely, concluded the international observers from the OSCE PA and ODIHR. The elections were not administered in an impartial manner and the complaints and appeals process did not guarantee effective remedy, the observers found.

“This election was not competitive from the start,” said Matteo Mecacci in delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Minsk on 24 September. “A free election depends on people being free to speak, organize and run for office, and we didn’t see that in this campaign.”

Mecacci, who was appointed Special Co-ordinator by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, led more than 60 observers from the OSCE PA, including 54 members of parliament. Two PA members, Marieluise Beck of Germany and Emanuelis Zingeris of Lithuania, were denied entry to Belarus by the authorities, who said their presence in Belarus was “unwelcome.”

From the International Secretariat, the OSCE PA’s election observation mission was supported by Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Programme Director Anna Chernova, Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, Programme Officer Maria Chepurina and Communications Director Neil Simon.
Delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE on 2 October, Special Co-ordinator Tonino Picula (Croatia) said that Georgia’s parliamentary elections marked an important step in consolidating the conduct of democratic elections, although certain key issues remain to be addressed.

“Despite a very polarizing campaign that included harsh rhetoric and shortcomings, the Georgian people have freely expressed their will at the ballot box,” said Picula. “The process has shown a healthy respect for fundamental freedoms at the heart of democratic elections, and we expect the final count will reflect the choice of the voters.”

The OSCE PA’s delegation consisted of more than 50 observers, including nearly 40 MPs, who deployed around the country. The election observation was a common endeavour involving the OSCE PA, the OSCE/ODIHR, the PACE, the European Parliament and the NATO PA.

The OSCE PA’s delegation was supported by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella, Communications Director Neil Simon, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, Senior Advisor to the Special Co-ordinator Andreas Baker, and Research Fellow Wesli Turner from the International Secretariat.

OSCE PA Delegation
PICULA, Tonino Croatia Head of Delegation
GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang Austria
ÖLLINGER, Karl Austria
DOBRIYAN, Vladimir Belarus
KLEBAN, Tamara Belarus
GYAUROV, Dimo Bulgaria
SKARKA, Jaroslav Czech Republic
PAKOSTA, Liisa-Ly Estonia
RAID, Juku-Kalle Estonia
KIVELA, Kimmo Finland
PLAKIOTAKIS, Ioannis Greece
RIGAS, Panagiotis Greece
VAREMENOS, Georgios Greece
D’AMICO, Claudio Italy
MECACCI, Matteo Italy
RAKHMANBERDIYEV, Orynbay Kazakhstan
LIEPINŠ, Valdis Latvia
PORINA, Vineta Latvia
ANDRIUS, Bubila Lithuania
BARTUS, Barbara Poland
DERA, Andrej Poland
GRAD, Mariusz Poland
KLEINA, Kazimierz Poland
SMOLARZ, Henryk Poland
SANTOS, Isabel Portugal
SILVA, Adao Portugal
GOMES DE LA SENA, Pedro Portugal
BJÖRNSDOTTER RAHM, Elisabeth Sweden
CEDERFELT, Margareta Sweden
ENGLE, Kerstin Sweden
HABSBURG DOUGLAS, Walburga Sweden
HAMEDNACA, Arbe Sweden
LÖFSTRAND, Johan Sweden
PETHRUS, Désirée Sweden
RUNESON, Carin Sweden
HILTON OF EGGARDON, Jennifer United Kingdom
COHEN, Steve United States of America
PETKOVIC, Milovan Croatia
CHAMPOURIS, Georgios Greece
AIZSTRAUTS, Igers Latvia
KOSIERADZKA, Anetta Poland
LUNDSTEDT, Helena Sweden
TOLLIN, Ingrid Sweden
CARTER, Paul United States of America
OLIVER, Spencer Secretary General
SCHOEN, Tina Deputy Secretary General
MONTELLA, Roberto Director of Presidential Administration
BAKER, Andreas Senior Advisor to the Special Co-ordinator
SABASHUK, Iryna Operations Officer
SIMON, Neil Director of Communications
TURNER, Wesli Research Fellow
Montenegro’s early parliamentary elections on 14 October took place in a peaceful and pluralistic environment with respect for fundamental rights, although continued lack of confidence needs to be addressed, Special Co-ordinator Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) reported on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Podgorica on 15 October.

“These elections further consolidated the democratic process. Voters and polling board members have demonstrated a good understanding of their responsibilities,” said Battelli. “However, during the election campaign, all participants in the process have a responsibility to focus on democratic substance in order to strengthen trust in the process instead of undermining it.”

Observers noted that electoral contestants were able to campaign freely, and that the candidate-registration process was inclusive and transparent. Interlocutors alleged the abuse of state resources and reported violations of a public sector recruitment ban during the campaign. There were also concerns over the quality of the voter lists.

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 29 parliamentarians and staff, and worked in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and a delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Battelli, who serves as OSCE PA Treasurer and Special Representative for South East Europe, led the OSCE short-term observer mission and headed the OSCE PA delegation. The mission was supported by Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet and Research Fellow Antonia Montanus from the OSCE PA’s Vienna Liaison Office.
UKRAINE
Parliamentary Elections
28 October 2012

Ukraine’s parliamentary elections on 28 October 2012 were characterized by a tilted playing field, concluded international observers in a statement delivered by OSCE PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas, the Special Co-ordinator who led the OSCE short-term election observation mission. This was the result, primarily, of the abuse of administrative resources, as well as a lack of transparency in campaign and party financing and of balanced media coverage.

Voters had a choice between distinct parties and candidate registration was inclusive, with two notable exceptions, representing a wide variety of political views. The political environment, however, is dominated by powerful economic groups, to the detriment of the electoral process, the statement said.

Election day was calm overall, and the voting and counting was assessed mostly positively by the observers, but tabulation was assessed negatively, as it lacked transparency.

“Considering the abuse of power, and the excessive role of money in this election, democratic progress appears to have reversed in Ukraine,” said Habsburg Douglas (MP, Sweden), who served as Head of the OSCE PA delegation.

OSCE PA Delegation

HABSBURG DOUGLAS, Walburga
Sweden

FRIIS, Lykke
Denmark

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang
Austria

ALLIK, Jaak
Estonia

HAIDER, Roman
Austria

KLINKE, Jurgen Willi
Germany

WENINGER, Hannes
Austria

THOENNES, Franz
Germany

SHAMAL, Alena
Belarus

VIOLA VON, Cramon
Germany

HENRY, Oliver
Belgium

WELLMANN, Karl-Georg
Germany

IVANOV, Lachezar
Bulgaria

PSYCHARIS, Andreas
Greece

TANCHEV, Svetlen
Bulgaria

VAREMENOS, Georgis
Greece

BEZAN, James
Canada

VORDIS, Mavroudis
Greece

CAMPBELL, Larry W.
Canada

BARBIERI, Emerenizio
Italy

CHISU, Corneliu Emil
Canada

CAFORIO, Giuseppe
Italy

DUNCAN, Linda
Canada

D’AMICO, Claudio
Italy

KOMARNICKI, Edward
Canada

DEL VECCHIO, Mauro
Italy

LIZON, Wladyslaw
Canada

MECACCI, Matteo
Italy

MACAULEY, Lawrence
Canada

PICCHI, Guglielmo
Italy

OPITZ, Ted
Canada

KULAGIN, Sergey
Kazakhstan

PECLET, Eve
Canada

AZSTRAUTS, Igor
Latvia

NASH, Peggy
Canada

ENGELIS, Karlis
Latvia

RIVARD, Michel
Canada

BRATLI, Susanne
Norway

SGRO, Judith Ann
Canada

BARTUS, Barbara
Poland

RADIN, Furio
Croatia

DERA, Andrzej
Poland

DOUPOVCOVA, Hana
Czech Republic

GRAD, Mariusz
Poland

HOJDA, Pavel
Czech Republic

JAWORSKI, Andrzej
Poland

OHLIDAL, Ivan
Czech Republic

KLEINA, Kazimierz
Poland

PLACHY, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

SKURKIEWICZ, Wojciech
Poland

SARAPATKA, Borivoj
Czech Republic

SZCZERBA, Michal
Poland
Following the election observation mission, Habsburg Douglas and OSCE PA human rights committee chair Matteo Mecacci (MP, Italy) were denied access to a previously approved meeting with former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at a hospital in Kharkiv.

Habsburg Douglas had intended to hand-deliver a copy of the post-election statement and discuss issues related to the elections. Ukrainian authorities had helped to facilitate the meeting, but the delegation was informed just before their arrival at the hospital that due to the fact Tymoshenko is on a hunger strike, the meeting could not take place.

The OSCE PA’s delegation in Ukraine was supported by Programme Director Anna Chernova, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Communications Director Neil Simon, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina.

Director Neil Simon, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina.

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<td>PETTERSSON, Leif Thure</td>
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<td>STENBERG, Siv Maria</td>
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<td>HILTON OF EGGARDON, Jennifer</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

International Secretariat

SCHOEN, Tina
Deputy Secretary General

CHERNOVA, Anna
Programme Director

DZAKHAEV, Semyon
Senior Counselor

SIMON, Neil
Director of Communications

CHEPURINA, Maria
Programme Officer

Accompanied by

MUSSI, Lukas
Austria

RUND, Petra
Austria

LAUZON, Andrew
Canada

PETKOVIC, Milovan
Croatia

TOPERCZEROVA, Katerina
Czech Republic

CHAMPOURIS, Georgis
Greece

CASELLI, Frederico
Italy

KOSIERNADZKA, Anetta
Poland

SOVAGAU, Mirea Nehad
Romania

AGAEVA, Adelya
Russian Federation

PANKOV, Dmitry
Russian Federation

HOGHAMMAR MITKAS, Ludwig
Sweden

TOLLIN, Ingrid
Sweden

DEYCHAKIWSKY, Orest
United States of America

REDFIELD, Daniel
United States of America

A voter examines a ballot prior to voting.
The 6 November 2012 elections in the United States demonstrated a commitment to democracy, international observers said on 8 November at the OSCE press conference.

Joao Soares, the Special Co-ordinator who led the OSCE short-term election observation mission, delivered the official statement of the OSCE at a news conference Thursday.

The observers noted the large role money played in the campaign, and Soares called it “troubling that many political ads did not reveal the source of their funding, thereby undermining transparency and accountability in the elections.”

The OSCE PA’s election observation mission assessed the U.S. elections for their conformity with the 1990 Copenhagen Commitments, to which the United States has subscribed. The 100 observers included 73 parliamentarians from 26 countries. After thorough preparations and briefings, they observed election activities in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, and were largely well received and granted open access to polling stations with only one exception.

“We were warmly welcomed at all polling stations in Philadelphia,” reported Alfred Dubs (United Kingdom). “Indeed, people there seemed positively pleased that an international team had come from Europe to observe their elections. We were impressed by the way the elections were conducted in a fair and proper manner.”

The OSCE observers lauded the professionalism of election administrators but pointed to crowded polling stations and how decentralization created vulnerabilities in the system. Following the OSCE news conference, attended by more than 80 journalists, academics and diplomats, U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin and Secretary General Spencer Oliver joined a panel of experts at Johns Hopkins University to discuss the affect the elections could have on the OSCE region.
## OSCE PA Delegation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOARES, Joao</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DADE, Arta</td>
<td>Albania</td>
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<td>DODA, Mesila</td>
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<td>GJONI, Ilir</td>
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<td>VOKSHI, Albana</td>
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<td>PICULA, Tonino</td>
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<td>HALSBOE-LARSEN, Ane</td>
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<td>KAUMA, Pia</td>
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Romania demonstrated a pluralistic political culture and an established democratic process in the 9 December parliamentary elections, concluded observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in a statement issued 10 December.

“These elections were a convincing demonstration that Romania benefits from established structures for the conduct of elections,” said Wolfgang Grossruck, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly limited election observation mission. “The ability to deliver democratic elections in the current highly polarized environment indicates that Romania has strong potential to overcome challenges.”

The election campaign was largely overshadowed by the power struggle between the President of Romania and the Prime Minister, said the observers. Sharp rhetoric and reported pressure on authorities undermined confidence but did not challenge the overall conduct of democratic elections.

The PA opened its mission on 26 November. Grossruck and Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle conducted a pre-electoral visit on 28 November, meeting with high-level election officials, politicians and representatives of the international community in Romania.

Amb. Nothelle served as the chief of staff for the mission, which included 17 observers with 11 parliamentarians from ten countries. Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Senior Advisor Andreas Baker supported the mission.
The 18 February Armenian presidential election demonstrated improvements over previous presidential elections but the limited field of candidates meant that the election was not genuinely competitive, concluded observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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**BULGARIA**

Parliamentary Elections

12 May 2013

Bulgaria’s parliamentary elections on 12 May were held in a competitive environment, fundamental freedoms were respected, and the election administration was well managed, OSCE PA election observers concluded. The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 27 observers from 17 countries.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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Albania’s parliamentary elections on 23 June were competitive with active citizen participation throughout the campaign and genuine respect for fundamental freedoms, reported Roberto Battelli, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observer mission. The atmosphere of mistrust between the two main political forces however tainted the electoral environment and challenged the administration of the entire electoral process, he said.

“This was a substantive election offering voters real choices at a critical time for Albania. It is now time for the country’s political leaders to listen to the people’s verdict,” said Battelli.

“Albania is fortunate to have strong political forces that have presented alternative visions for this country, but by not appointing officials to promptly count the ballots, political parties are unnecessarily making their voters wait for the results of these elections,” said João Soares, the Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation.

Around 50 PA election experts participated in the election observation mission, including parliamentarians from 15 OSCE participating States. Battelli, a member of parliament from Slovenia, was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as the Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observation mission and deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE. Joao Soares, a member of parliament from Portugal and former President of the Assembly, served as Head of the PA delegation within the mission.

OSCE PA Delegation
BATTELLI, Roberto
Slovenia
Special Co-ordinator

SOARES, Joao
Portugal
Head of OSCE PA Delegation

GROSSRUCK, Wolfgang
Austria

OEELLINGER, Karl
Austria

DARMANN, Gernot
Austria

STEVENS, Helga
Belgium

SARAPATKA, Borivoj
Czech Republic

BRATSKY, Petr
Czech Republic

HOJDA, Pavel
Czech Republic

PLACHY, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

SKARKA, Jaroslav
Czech Republic

OHLIDAL, Ivan
Czech Republic

NAUCLER, Elisabet
Czech Republic

VORIDIS, Mavroudis
Greece

QUICK, Terens Spenser Nikolaos
Greece

VAREMENOS, Georgios
Greece

LIEPINS, Valdis
Latvia

HOKSRUD, Baard Andre
Norway

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GRAD, Mariusz
Poland

SANTOS, Miguel
Portugal

CIOLACU ION, Marcel
Romania

MOVILA, Petru
Romania

SANCHEZ AMOR, Ignacio
Spain

GONZALEZ VAZQUEZ, Sebastian
Spain

STENBERG, Maria
Sweden

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ORNFIJADER, Krister
Sweden

CEDERFELT, Margareta
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HOLM, Christian
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HILTON, Jennifer
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Accompanied by
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SCHERIS, Ingeborg
Belgium

TOPERCZEROVA, Katerina
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Greece

AIZSTRAUTS, Irgors
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Montenegro

PAIXAO, Nuno
Portugal

JOHNSON, Alex
United States

International Secretariat
BAKER, Andreas  Senior Advisor to the Special Co-ordinator

MONTELLA, Roberto  Director of Presidential Administration

NOTHELLE, Andreas  Chief of Staff

PAUZENBERGER, Christian  Assistant to the President

SABASHUK, Iryna  Operations Officer
Some 390 OSCE observers, including 16 parliamentarians from 15 countries, observed the 9 October presidential election in Azerbaijan. The observers concluded that the election was undermined by limitations on the freedoms of expression, assembly and association that did not guarantee a level playing field for candidates. “I was pleased by the good organization of the election and the number of candidates who took part, as well as the peaceful atmosphere on election day,” said Michel Voisin, the Special Co-ordinator who led the OSCE short-term election observation mission. “Regrettably, however, we have to underline shortcomings in areas like the counting of ballots, and I would hope that the Azerbaijani authorities will make a real effort to bring such areas in line with OSCE commitments.”

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), served as Deputy Head of Delegation.

The OSCE PA worked 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.

On election day, PA observers deployed to polling stations in Baku, Gobustan, and Sumgait.
In a statement delivered by Joao Soares, the Special Co-ordinator who led the short-term OSCE observer mission to the 27 October 2013 presidential election in Georgia, OSCE observers concluded that the election was efficiently administered, transparent and took place in an amicable and constructive environment. Fundamental freedoms of expression, movement and assembly were respected, and candidates were able to campaign without restriction.

Soares (MP, Portugal), a former OSCE PA President and current Special Representative on South Caucasus, led the OSCE observers during the mission. The OSCE PA delegation, led by Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), co-operated closely during the mission with the OSCE/ODIHR and parliamentarians from PACE, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

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### International Secretariat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Baker, Andreas</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MONTELLA, Roberto</td>
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<td>OLIVER, Spencer</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>SABASHUK, Iryna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baker, Andreas</td>
<td>Senior Advisor to the Special Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montella, Roberto</td>
<td>Director of Presidential Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver, Spencer</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabashuk, Iryna</td>
<td>Operations Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoen, Tina</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A team of 34 observers from the OSCE PA observed the 6 November 2013 presidential election in Tajikistan, concluding that restrictive candidate-registration requirements resulted in a lack of pluralism and genuine choice. The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda however took measures to enhance the transparency and efficiency of election administration. The OSCE PA observation mission was undertaken in close co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and with the European Parliament.

OSCE PA Delegation
COMIC, Gordana
Special Co-ordinator
CEDERFELT, Margareta
Head of PA Delegation
VUKSIC, Branko

ACCOMPANIED BY
PETKOVIC, Milovan

International Secretariat
CHERNOV A, Anna
Programme Director
SABASHUK, Iryna
Operations Officer

TAJIKISTAN
Presidential Election
6 November 2013

A delegation of OSCE parliamentarians assessed the quality of Turkmenistan’s first multi-party parliamentary elections, held on 15 December 2013, on the basis of the 1990 Copenhagen commitments. The Assessment Visit was organized after the OSCE PA received for the first time an open invitation from Ashgabat to observe a parliamentary vote.

OSCE PA Delegation
WALSH, James
Head of Delegation
HARSTED, Kent
KIENER, Margret Nellen
LIEPINS, Valdis
VUKSIC, Branko
PICCHI, Guglielmo
SILVA, Adao

ACCOMPANIED BY
PETKOVIC, Milovan

International Secretariat
KOSTUNOV, Ilya
Programme Director
CHERNOVA, Anna
Operations Officer

TURKMENISTAN
Parliamentary Elections
15 December 2013
The 16 March 2014 early parliamentary elections in Serbia offered voters a genuine choice, were conducted on a sound legal basis, and fundamental freedoms were respected throughout the campaign, international election observers said in a statement issued on behalf of the OSCE by Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia), the Special Co-ordinator appointed to lead the OSCE short-term observers.

The OSCE PA observer delegation, led by Luigi Compagna (MP, Italy), included 47 parliamentarians and staff, who visited polling stations throughout the country, including extensive coverage in and around Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis, Subotica, Stara Pazova, and many small towns and villages across the country.

The OSCE PA worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR and parliamentary colleagues from the Council of Europe. The PA mission was staffed by Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Communications Director Richard Solash.

Gordana Comic (MP, Serbia) won re-election and will continue serving as Rapporteur of the PA’s General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

The OSCE PA Delegation

Slovenia: Battelli, Roberto
Italy: Compagna, Luigi
Austria: Garretgruber, Carmen
Azerbaijan: Guliev, Azay
Portugal: Santos, Isabel
Spain: Gonzalez Vazquez, Sebastian
Romania: Ciolacu, Carmen
Sweden: Ibrahimov, Eldar
Bulgaria: Kotseva, Irena
Belgium: Totev, Mariana
Croatia: Vukovic, Branko
Czech Republic: Stetina, Jaromir

Slovakia:

Slovakia: Dera, Andzej
Poland: Smolarz, Henryk
Poland: Smolarz, Carla
Portugal: Santos, Isabel
Portugal: Ciolacu, Ion-Marcel
Romania: Sanchez Amor, Jose Ignacio
Spain: Gonzalez Vazquez, Sebastian
Spain: Sanchez Amor, Jose Ignacio

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Croatia: Petkovic, Milovan
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Greece: Champouris, Georgios
Italy: Trezza, Giuseppe
Latvia: Aizstraits, Igors
Sweden: Tollin, Ingrid Margareta
Turkey: Karaarslan, Yasin

Director of Elections

Chief of Staff

Operations Officer

Communications Director

OSCE PA Delegation

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Belgium: Totev, Mariana
Croatia: Vukovic, Branko
Czech Republic: Stetina, Jaromir

Slovakia:

Slovakia: Dera, Andzej
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Spain: Gonzalez Vazquez, Sebastian
Spain: Sanchez Amor, Jose Ignacio

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Italy: Trezza, Giuseppe
Latvia: Aizstraits, Igors
Sweden: Tollin, Ingrid Margareta
Turkey: Karaarslan, Yasin

Director of Elections

Chief of Staff

Operations Officer

Communications Director
The 6 April 2014 parliamentary elections in Hungary were well administered and offered voters a diverse choice, but a number of factors provided undue advantage to the ruling party, OSCE observers said.

The candidate registration process was inclusive, observers found, with 18 party and joint party lists registered for the nationwide proportional system and 1,531 candidates registered for the contests in the 106 single-member constituencies. The vastly different voting procedures for two types of categories of voters abroad undermined the principle of equal suffrage and were perceived as an attempt to differentiate voting rights on partisan grounds, according to the statement.

The Assembly worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission, led by Ambassador Audrey Glover. The PA delegation consisted of nearly 50 parliamentarians and staff including the PA’s Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet, and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk. Following two days of briefings, the PA observers monitored the vote in Budapest and several other cities across the country.
Fundamental freedoms were respected and candidates were able to campaign freely in the 27 April 2014 elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but shortcomings identified in the first round of the presidential election two weeks earlier, including the blurring of state and party activities and biased media coverage in favour of the ruling party, persisted, election observers said in a statement.

“Yesterday’s elections were effectively administered and election day went smoothly, but there were real problems before and, unfortunately, after the vote,” said Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria), the Special Co-ordinator who led the short-term OSCE observer mission.

The observers noted that there continued to be credible allegations of voter intimidation, including pressure by one party on ethnic Albanian voters to boycott the presidential ballot. Media monitoring during the campaign period identified a bias in favour of the ruling party and its presidential candidate in the majority of monitored media, accompanied by negative reporting on the main opposition party and its presidential candidate. The lack of analysis and independent reporting identified in the first round of the presidential election continued during the second round and the parliamentary election, the statement said.

“The media monitored were largely biased in favour of the ruling party and the incumbent presidential candidate, while reporting negatively on the campaign of the main opposition party,” said Isabel Santos, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. “All stakeholders should take a serious look at these findings, and then work together to create the conditions for a freer and impartial media environment.”

The OSCE PA’s delegation consisted of 31 MPs and staff, led by Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal), Chair of the PA’s Third Committee. From the OSCE PA’s Vienna Liaison Office, Roberto Montella, Francesco Pagani and Firuze Demir supported the mission, working closely with the OSCE/ODIHR and in co-ordination with colleagues from PACE.
Former OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) and PA Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) led OSCE observers to the 25 May 2014 presidential election in Ukraine.

Soares, appointed by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter as Special Co-ordinator of the observation mission, led more than 1,000 short-term observers while Kanerva served as the head of more than 100 OSCE parliamentary observers who were deployed throughout the country. The OSCE PA teams were deployed in Kyiv and surrounding areas, as well as Lviv, Odessa, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk.

In addition, Soares led a team to Donetsk including Vice-Presidents Kanerva and George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia), as well as Canadian MP Chrystia Freeland, on the eve of the election. OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk accompanied the delegation to Donetsk city, which turned out to be the most difficult area for the election, where separatists prevented all polling stations from opening on 25 May.

OSCE PA Special Representative Ambassador Andreas Nothelle supported the PA’s ten-member team in Lviv, which included Vice-Presidents Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) and Isabel Pozuelo (MP, Spain). PA staffer Francesco Pagani supported the ten-member team in Kharkiv, while Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella was in charge of the 12-member team in Odessa.

Secretary General Oliver attended the opening of a polling station in Kyiv along with Vice-President Kanerva, National Democratic Institute (NDI) Chair and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and NDI President Kenneth Wollack. Later in the day, Oliver joined the team in Dnipropetrovsk and met with oblaster governor Ihor Kolomoyskyi.

All teams reported positively on election day procedures and the work of the more than 100 parliamentarians deployed in the country. PA Director of Elections Andreas Baker and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk were responsible for the overall organization of the election observation mission and the observation teams in the Kyiv region. Communications Director Richard Solash handled press relations and chaired the joint press conference of the OSCE PA, PACE, NATO PA, European Parliament and the OSCE/ODIHR.

OSCE PA Delegation
SOARES, Joao
Special Co-ordinator
KANERVA, Ilkka
Head of OSCE PA Delegation
MUTTONEN, Judith
HAIADER, Roman
SCHWENTNER, Judith
GERSTL, Wolfgang
MILASHUSKI, Valiantsin
FREELAND, Christina
CICCOLINI AMBLER, Stella
WARKENTIN, Christopher
TOET, Lawrence
CHRISTOPHERSON, David

LATENDRESSE, Alexandrine
BEZAN, James
LAMoureux, Kevin
DUNCAN, Linda Francis
NASH, Peggy
OPITZ, Ted
LIZON, Wladyslaw
VUKSIC, Branko
ZENISEK, Marek
BEBAROVA-RUJBROVA, Zuzka
DOBESOVA, Ivana
STETINA, Jaromir
BRATSKY, Petr
JIRSA, Tomas
JENSEN, Peter Juel

Canada
Canada
Canada
Canada
Canada
Canada
Canada
Croatia
Czech Republic
Czech Republic
Czech Republic
Czech Republic
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ilkka Kanerva (left) speaks to former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (right) at a polling station in Kyiv, 25 May 2014.
The Third Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (MP, Lithuania) delivered the preliminary post election statement for the 10 August presidential election in Turkey, stating: “This first direct presidential election demonstrated that there is a vibrant political life in Turkey, and the preliminary results show the potential for a healthy balance in political forces. However, the challenges we have noted, particularly the imbalanced media coverage, must be overcome to fully live up to the democratic aspirations of the people.”

Observers concluded that candidates were able to campaign freely and that fundamental freedoms of assembly and association were respected. However, it was noted that the Prime Minister’s use of his official position, along with biased media coverage, gave him a distinct advantage over the other candidates.

“The presence of political party representatives in polling stations across the country yesterday is an important oversight mechanism,” said Asa Lindestam (MP, Sweden), Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. “I hope that citizens and NGOs will also be given the right to observe in the future, bringing Turkey’s dynamic civil society fully into the election process.”

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 21 MPs from 15 countries. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office designated Aleknaite Abramikiene as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission. PA observers deployed to Ankara, Diyarbakir, Istanbul, and Izmir where they were thoroughly briefed and observed all aspects of the voting and tabulation process on election day.

The observers were supported by Andreas Baker, Director of Elections; Roberto Montella, Director for Political Programmes; Iryna Sabashuk, Operations Officer; and Firuze Demir, Research Fellow. The PA worked closely with colleagues from PACE and ODIHR. It was the second time that the OSCE PA had observed an election in Turkey, the first being the parliamentary elections of June 2011.

OSCE PA Delegation

ALEKNAITE-ABRAMIKIENE, Vilija
Special Co-ordinator
LINDESTAM, Asa
Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
LOPATKA, Reinhold
WILLI, Georg
VUKSIC, Branko
KYRIAKOU-HADJIYANNI, Kyriakos
GUY, Teissier
TSERETELI, George
BEYER, Peter
STRITZL, Thomas
QUICK, Terens Spencer
VAREMENOS, Georgios
COMPAGNA, Luigi
TIDEI, Marietta
BORTNIK, Mikhail
BARTUS, Barbara

SMOLARZ, Henryk
Lithuania
SILVA, Adao
NORDEN, Marie
Sweden
KIENER NELLEN, Margareta
MCGUIGAN BURNS, Simon
Austria
Austria
Croatia
Cyprus
France
Georgia
Germany
International Secretariat

Accompanied by

International Secretariat

BAKER, Andreas
DEMR, Firuze
Greece
Greece
Montella, Roberto
SABASHUK, Iryna

Director of Elections
Research Assistant
Director of Presidential Administration
Operations Officer

Poland
Portugal
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Croatia
Greece
Italy

OSCE PA Delegation

OSCE PA Delegation
In a statement delivered on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Sarajevo on 13 October 2014, Roberto Battelli, the Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that the 12 October general elections were held in a competitive environment but that the interethnic divide was a key factor.

"Yesterday’s elections demonstrate that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a legal framework sufficient for conducting democratic elections,” said Battelli, who serves as the OSCE PA’s Treasurer and Special Representative on South East Europe. “However, the lack of political will to move beyond the Dayton agreement prevents the country from moving away from the current interethnic divides and towards real progress for the country.”

The lack of a shared vision in the country’s future and of co-operation among the three constituent peoples continues to hinder the reforms necessary to fully ensure democratic elections, and a growing mistrust in the functioning of democratic institutions endangers stability, observers said. At the same time, candidates were able to campaign freely and fundamental freedoms of expression, association and assembly were respected.

Marietta Tidei, who led the OSCE PA’s delegation of 27 parliamentarians, noted that election day was generally well administered and polling commission members for the most part performed efficiently. “The new 40 per cent gender requirement was respected both in the election administration bodies and in candidate lists,” she added. “This, unfortunately, does not necessarily translate into a proportionate gender balance in the legislative bodies.”

The PA worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR’s mission and observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
The 26 October 2014 early parliamentary elections in Ukraine marked an important step in consolidating democratic elections in line with international commitments, the observers said in a statement delivered in Kyiv by Kent Harstedt, the Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission. The elections were characterized by many positive aspects, including an impartial and efficient Central Election Commission, competitive contests that offered voters real choice, and general respect for fundamental freedoms.

“At this crucial moment for the future of their country, Ukraine’s institutions and voters responded to daunting challenges with an election that largely upheld democratic commitments,” said Harstedt. “That response and, in particular, the authorities’ determination to enable voting in as many areas of the country as possible, demonstrate a resilience that will help the country overcome its national and international challenges.”

“The nearly 30 seats that will be left empty in the new parliament serve as a stark reminder that illegal armed groups prevented voters in some parts of the country from being able to vote,” said Doris Barnett, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. “These illegal actions do not call into question the validity of the overall election. We look forward to these seats being filled as soon as possible so that representatives of those areas can join their colleagues in an open dialogue to the benefit of all Ukrainians.”

In most of the country, election day proceeded calmly, with few disturbances and only isolated security incidents reported. The voting process was assessed positively in 99 per cent of the polling stations observed, although some procedural irregularities were identified. Due to the efforts of the election administration to ensure voting in as much of the east as possible under extraordinary circumstances, voting took place in 12 out of 21 election districts in the Donetsk region, and in five out of 11 in the Luhansk region.

Harstedt led some 700 short-term OSCE election observers. The OSCE PA’s delegation, headed by Barnett, included parliamentarians from 31 countries who deployed to Kyiv, Bila Tserkva, Chernigiv, Zhitomyr, Cherkasi, Kaniv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Odessa and Lviv.

The mission was supported by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Director for Political Programmes Roberto Montella, Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Communications Director Richard Solash, Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet, and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk.
### The Third Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

#### OSCE PA Delegation

- **HARSTEDT, Kent**
  - Sweden
- **BARNETT, Doris**
  - Germany
- **Head of the OSCE PA Delegation**
- **FUCHS, Hubert**
  - Austria
- **HANGER, Andreas**
  - Austria
- **HEINZL, Anton**
  - Austria
- **SCHWENNTNER, Judith**
  - Austria
- **KAZAROVETS, Nikolai**
  - Belarus
- **MILOSHEVSKY, Valentin**
  - Belarus
- **DE GUCHT, Jean-Jacques**
  - Belgium
- **METSU, Koen**
  - Belgium
- **VAN DER MAELEN, Dirk**
  - Belgium
- **ALLEN, Malcolm**
  - Canada
- **BEZAN, James**
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- **CHRISTOPHERSON, David**
  - Canada
- **DUNCAN, Linda**
  - Canada
- **LAMOUREUX, Kevin**
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- **OPTIZ, Ted**
  - Canada
- **WARAWA, Addie Mark**
  - Canada
- **VUKSIC, Branko**
  - Croatia
- **BEBAROVA-RUJBROVA, Zuzka**
  - Czech Republic
- **BRATSKY, Petr**
  - Czech Republic
- **JIRSA, Tomas**
  - Czech Republic
- **ANDERSEN, Liv Holm**
  - Denmark
- **JENSEN, Peter Juel**
  - Denmark
- **LINDE, Vaino**
  - Estonia
- **SOTNIL, Olga**
  - Estonia
- **NAUCLER, Elisabeth**
  - Finland
- **SOUKOLA, Ismo**
  - Finland
- **POZZO DI BORGIO, Yves**
  - France
- **VOISIN, Michel**
  - France
- **TSERETELI, George**
  - Georgia
- **KEUL, Katja**
  - Germany
- **KLIMKE, Jurgen**
  - Germany
- **STRITZL, Thomas**
  - Germany
- **THONNES, Franz**
  - Germany
- **RIGAS, Panagiotis**
  - Greece
- **VAREMENOS, Georgios**
  - Greece
- **HOFFMANN, Rozsa**
  - Hungary
- **IDIRISSOV, Kuttykhoza**
  - Kazakhstan
- **KUSTAVLETOV, Dulat**
  - Kazakhstan
- **DEMETERS, Edmunds**
  - Latvia
- **LIEPINS, Valdis**
  - Latvia
- **ORLOVS, Vitalijs**
  - Latvia
- **RUSINS, Gunars**
  - Latvia
- **VECTIRANS, Juris**
  - Latvia
- **BUKAUSKAS, Valentinus**
  - Lithuania
- **LYDEKA, Arminas**
  - Lithuania
- **DE CALUWE, Ingrid**
  - Netherlands
- **ELVESTUEN, Ola**
  - Norway
- **MICHAELSEN, Aase**
  - Norway
- **BARTUS, Barbara**
  - Poland
- **KOZLOWSKA, Iwona**
  - Poland
- **RULEWSKI, Jan**
  - Poland
- **RODRIGUES, Carla**
  - Portugal
- **SANTOS, Isabel**
  - Portugal
- **POZUELO, Isabel**
  - Spain
- **SANCHEZ AMOR, Jose Ignacio**
  - Spain

**Accompanied by**

- **HARSTEDT, Kent**
  - Sweden
- **BARNETT, Doris**
  - Germany
- **FUCHS, Hubert**
  - Austria
- **HANGER, Andreas**
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- **SOUKOLA, Ismo**
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- **KLIMKE, Jurgen**
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- **VECTIRANS, Juris**
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- **LYDEKA, Arminas**
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  - Poland
- **KOZLOWSKA, Iwona**
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- **RULEWSKI, Jan**
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- **SANTOS, Isabel**
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- **POZUELO, Isabel**
  - Spain
- **SANCHEZ AMOR, Jose Ignacio**
  - Spain

**International Secretariat**

- **BAKER, Andreas**
  - Director of Elections
- **CARILLET, Marc**
  - Deputy Director of Administration
- **NOTHELLE, Andreas**
  - Special Representative
- **MONTELLA, Roberto**
  - Director of Presidential Administration
- **PALLARES, Gustavo**
  - Deputy Secretary General
- **SABASHUK, Iryna**
  - Operations Officer
- **SOLASH, Richard**
  - Communications Director

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A polling station in Kyiv.
In a statement issued in Washington, D.C, OSCE PA observers noted that the 4 November 2014 elections in the United States were professionally administered but overshadowed by the increasing role of money.

“This country has once again demonstrated that its commitment to democracy is undiminished,” said Isabel Santos, leader of the OSCE PA observers. “However, the amount of money involved in campaigns has become truly staggering. With certain individuals and groups now spending millions on elections – amounts wildly beyond the capacity of average citizens – there is increasing inequality in the process.”

The OSCE PA deployed a limited election observation mission to the United States of America following an invitation by the United States Government in line with OSCE commitments. On election day, the U.S. State Department issued a statement officially welcoming the OSCE PA observers. OSCE PA observers were warmly welcomed at polling stations throughout the day and experienced good co-operation at every level. The mission, headed by Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal), included parliamentarians from 18 OSCE countries.
The 30 November parliamentary elections were characterized by a wide choice of political alternatives and were generally well administered, although the deregistration of one electoral contestant shortly before election day raised questions about the timing and circumstances, international election observers said in a statement issued 1 December.

The PA delegation included 63 participants, of which 48 were MPs, from 26 countries. OSCE PA Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, and Research Assistant Astrid Loury staffed the mission.

OSCE PA Vice-President Emin Onen served as Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term observer mission. Arta Dade served as Head of the OSCE PA delegation.
Delivering the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Dushanbe on 2 March, Marietta Tidei, the Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission, noted that while some electoral contestants provided political alternatives, the 1 March parliamentary elections in Tajikistan took place in a restricted political space and failed to provide a level playing field for candidates.

“Engagement by various political forces in this campaign was, unfortunately, not enough to result in truly competitive elections. Uneven treatment by the authorities and remaining legal restrictions limited the space for debate on the real problems facing Tajikistan,” said Tidei (MP, Italy). “While we have noted some improvements, for example in the election law, the advantages of incumbency were still misused. Greater equal treatment in law and in fact for all political forces is required for Tajikistan to live up to its democratic commitments,” said Geir Joergen Bekkevold (MP, Norway), Head of the OSCE PA delegation.

On election day, 230 observers from 40 countries were deployed, including a 58-member delegation from the OSCE PA, a nine-member delegation from the European Parliament, and 163 long-term and short-term observers deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR.
The 7 May general elections in the United Kingdom provided an opportunity for a thorough debate on challenges facing the country, and voters could freely cast their ballots in a strong demonstration of democratic processes, concluded OSCE PA observers led by Special Co-ordinator George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia). The complex legal framework was effectively implemented by election administrators, but could benefit from consolidation and simplification, observers said.

More than 40 OSCE parliamentarians and staff from 17 countries observed the elections in the United Kingdom. Observers participated in two days of briefings in the British capital before deploying to several regions of the country to observe voting and counting. Briefings on 5-6 May included presentations by representatives from major political parties, media professionals and analysts, as well as Electoral Commission Chief Executive Peter Wardle.

The 7 May election observation mission came five years after the OSCE PA’s observation of the previous general elections in the UK -- the first-ever OSCE PA election observation in the country -- in May 2010, and was co-ordinated by Director of Elections Andreas Baker. Also in the United Kingdom to support the election observation mission were Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Programme Officer Loic Poulain.

**OSCE PA Delegation**

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**International Secretariat**

- Andreas Baker, Director of Elections
- Robert Spencer, Secretary General
- Iryna Sabashuk, Operations Officer
- Loïc Pouilain, Programme Officer
- Roger Willis, Research Assistant
The Third Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

TURKEY
Parliamentary Elections
7 June 2015

The 7 June parliamentary elections in Turkey were characterized by active citizen participation, with voters provided a wide array of choices, but the 10 per cent threshold to enter parliament limits political pluralism, OSCE observers concluded in a statement issued Monday. Media freedom is an area of serious concern, with media outlets and individual journalists critical of the ruling party being subject to pressure and intimidation during the campaign, the observers said.

“The elections engaged society in a vibrant and hard-fought campaign, and demonstrated that there is a real choice from among strong political forces in Turkey,” said PA Vice-President Vilija Aleknaitė Abramikienė, Special Co-ordinator and Leader of the Short-Term OSCE Observer Mission. “Remaining challenges, including on media freedoms and the high threshold for entry into the parliament, should be addressed to better reflect people’s choices.”

Unfortunately, the campaign was tainted by a high number of attacks on party offices and serious incidents of physical attacks, some resulting in fatalities. The elections were organized professionally, but greater transparency in election administration would increase trust, the statement said.

“While Turkey has a history of a generally functioning, pluralistic system, challenges related to freedom of expression and the dominant role played by the President in the campaign partially undermined fairness in this election,” said Head of the OSCE PA Delegation Ignacio Sanchez Amor, who also serves as Special Representative on OSCE Border Issues. “Turkey clearly plays a stabilizing role in a tough neighbourhood, but these security challenges cannot be a justification for backsliding on democratic commitments.”

The OSCE PA Delegation consisted of 57 participants who deployed to several regions of Turkey. The mission was supported by OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella, Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Communications Director Richard Solash, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, Programme Officer Loic Poulain, and Research Fellow Anna Di Domenico.
The Third Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

OSCE PA Delegation

ALEKNAITĖ-ABRAMIĶIENE, Vilija
Lithuania

SANCHEZ AMOR, Jose Ignacio
Spain

Head of the OSCE PA Delegation

MUTTONEN, Christine
Austria

DEWINTER, Philip
Belgium

IVANOV, Luchezar
Bulgaria

KOTSEVA, Irena
Bulgaria

TZOCHCHEV, Kiril
Bulgaria

JERKOVIC, Romana
Croatia

VUŠEČ, Branko
Croatia

KYRIAKΟU-HADJIYANNΗ, Kyriakos
Cyprus

Accompanied by

DOBESOVΑ, Ivana
Czech Republic

GAWLAS, Petr
Czech Republic

HORNΙK, Jan
Czech Republic

SINCL, Ladislav
Czech Republic

JUTΤNER, Egοn
Germany

KLIMKE, Jurgen
Germany

MUTLI, Oezcan
Germany

FAMELLOS, Sokratis
Greece

KARAΟGLΟU, Theodoros
Greece

VAREМΕΝΟS, Georgios
Greece

CSENGER-ZALAN, Zsolt
Hungary

International Secretariat

AMENDOLA, Vincenzo
Italy

DIVINA, Sergio
Italy

TIDEI, Marietta
Italy

ASHIM, Nurgalii
Kazakhstan

TEEVEN, Fred
Netherlands

BEKEVOLD, Geir Joergen
Norway

BARTUS, Barbara
Poland

DERA, Andrzej
Poland

SMOLARZ, Henryk
Poland

SANTΟS, Isabel
Portugal

SEΝΑ, Nilza
Portugal

SILΙSTRУ, Dοina
Romania

GΟΝΖАLEZ ЗΑV肩膀ΟEЗ, Sеbastiaν
Spain

CEDERFELT, Margaτe
Sweden

HΑMEDΝΑCA, Arhe
Sweden

HARSTEĐT, Kent
Sweden

DУBS, Alfred
United Kingdom

HILTON, Jennifer
United Kingdom

MCГУIГAN BURNS, Simon
United Kingdom

MUSSI, Lukas
Austria

PETKΟVΙC, Milovan
Croatia

ADАMΙDOУ, Marina
Cyprus

DEМΙR, Silvia
Czech Republic

CHΑМPOУΙRΙS, Georgios
Greece

TREZZA, Giuseppe
Italy

CONSTΑΝΤΙΝ, Anca
Romania

HJEM, Eva
Sweden

JOHΝSON, Alex
United States

Director of Elections

Director of Presidential Administration

Secretary General

Programme Officer

Operations Officer

Communications Director

Vilija Aleknaite Abramiene (left) observes the counting at a polling station in Ankara, 7 June 2015.

Ignacio Sanchez Amor (right) speaks to the media at a polling station alongside Vilija Aleknaite Abramiene, Ankara, 7 June 2015.
The Third Decade of OSCE PA Election Observation

KYRGYZSTAN
Parliamentary Elections
4 October 2015

Kyrgyzstan’s 4 October 2015 parliamentary elections were competitive and provided voters with a wide range of choice, while the manner in which they were administered highlighted the need for better procedures and increased transparency, observers concluded in a statement issued on 5 October.

“These lively and competitive elections were unique in this region as, until 8 o’clock last night, nobody knew what the composition of the parliament would be,” said Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain), Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission. “Impressive efforts were made to implement biometric registration and new voting technologies, but procedural shortcomings point to the need for further work.”

While the use of new voting technologies, signaling the political will to improve elections, was successful in many respects, the hurried introduction of biometric registration resulted in significant problems in the inclusiveness of the voter list. This, concerns over ballot secrecy and significant procedural problems during the vote count were the main issues that tarnished what was a generally smooth election day, observers said.

Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), Head of the OSCE PA delegation, noted the positive impact of televised debates on the electoral process. “The embrace of live debates, enabling voters to clearly compare their candidates, was a welcome addition to what became a vibrant campaign,” she said. “The expectation that politicians should be held accountable in front of television audiences is, for this region, a rare but healthy practice.”

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 23 MPs from 14 countries and worked closely with colleagues from the OSCE/ODIHR, PACE and the European Parliament.

OSCE PA Delegation
SANCHEZ AMOR, Jose Ignacio
Special Co-ordinator
DOBESOVA, Ivana
Head of the OSCE PA Delegation
HAIDER, Roman
JERKOVIC, Romana
VUKSIC, Branko
GAWLAS, Petr
HORNIK, Jan
BEBAROVA-RUJBROVA, Zuzka
MARRANDI, Jaanus
RAIDMA, Mati
VOISIN, Michel
JUTTNER, Egon
STRITZL, Thomas
CSENGER-ZALAN, Zsolt
KLEMENTJEVS, Andrejs
SMILTENS, Edvards

JAWORSKI, Andrzej     Poland
RULEWSKI, Jan         Poland
KOSTUNOV, Ilya         Russian Federation
POZUELO, Isabel       Spain
CEDERFELT, Margareta   Sweden
BAGCI, Cahit          Turkey
WOODCOCK, John        United Kingdom

Accompanied by
PETKOVIC, Milovan     Croatia
DEMIR, Silvia         Czech Republic
JAKUBEC, Ales         Czech Republic
BLAUWBLUMME-DELROUX, Anne-Cecile  France

International Secretariat

BAKER, Andreas        Director of Elections
CHEPURINA, Maria      Programme Officer
IBRAEV, Belek         Research Assistant
SABASHUK, Iryna       Operations Officer
Belarus
Presidential Election
11 October 2015

The 11 October 2015 election in Belarus indicated that the country still has much progress to make in meeting OSCE commitments, according to a post-election statement delivered by Kent Harstedt, Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, in Minsk. “It is clear that Belarus still has a long way to go towards fulfilling its democratic commitments. The recent release of political prisoners and a welcoming approach to observers were positive developments. However, the hope that this gave us for the broader electoral process was largely unfulfilled,” said Harstedt, an OSCE PA Vice-President and Member of the Swedish Parliament.

“Given worldwide conflicts today, I welcome Belarus’ recent constructive role facilitating dialogue over Ukraine. In this regard, greater international focus on this election is inevitable, and this opportunity has not been fully embraced,” said Irish Senator Jim Walsh, Head of the OSCE PA delegation.

Working closely with PACE and the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE PA delegation consisted of 58 parliamentarians and staff who deployed to several regions of the country for election day.

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<th>Head of the OSCE PA Delegation</th>
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The 1 November early parliamentary elections in Turkey offered voters a variety of choices and were well organized by the election administration bodies, reported Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission Ignacio Sanchez Amor and Head of the OSCE PA delegation Margareta Cederfelt. At the same time, the security environment, particularly in the southeast of the country, coupled with a high number of violent incidents against party members, premises and campaign staff, hindered contestants’ ability to campaign freely. Restrictions on media freedom remain a serious concern, the observers said.

“While Turkish citizens could choose between genuine and strong political alternatives in this highly polarized election, the rapidly diminishing choice of media outlets, and restrictions on freedom of expression in general, impacted the process and remain serious concerns,” said Sanchez Amor. “Physical attacks on party members, as well as the significant security concerns, particularly in the southeast, further imposed restrictions on the ability to campaign.”

“The violence in the largely Kurdish southeast of the country had a significant impact on the elections, and the recent attacks and arrests of members and activists, predominantly from the HDP, are of concern, as they hindered their ability to campaign,” said Cederfelt.

The OSCE PA worked closely with observers from PACE and with the limited election observation mission deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR. More than 30 OSCE parliamentarians took part in the observation mission.
B ringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and Seminars are held to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions deploy to areas of latent or active crisis.
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
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