

## Klimke appointed OSCE PA Special Representative for the Baltic Sea Area



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) has appointed German parliamentarian Juergen Klimke to serve as the PA's first Special Representative for the Baltic Sea Area.

The newly established position will help focus and strengthen the Assembly's work on security and co-operation in the Baltic Sea area while promoting

co-operation with other international organizations in the region in representation of the OSCE PA.

Klimke is Deputy Head of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA and as a Member of Parliament from Hamburg, which hosts the largest port for the Baltic Sea area, has been active on Baltic Sea issues for many years. He is also a member of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, a contact person for maritime issues, and a foreign policy expert on the Baltic Sea States.

"In light of current developments, it is important that the Baltic Sea region has its own dimension within the OSCE," he said upon his appointment. "The crisis in Ukraine affects this part of Europe very strongly. Important issues to deal with

are concerns of a military threat from Russia in the Baltic States and in Poland, but also the situation of the Russian minorities in the Baltic States. I see it as a task to strengthen the co-operation between the Baltic Sea countries within the OSCE and to promote confidence-building measures in their own discussion groups."

The full mandate for the position is as follows:

- Raise awareness in the OSCE PA regarding the Baltic Sea area;
- Promote co-operation within the OSCE PA among all Delegations from the Baltic Sea area;
- Maintain contact with and follow up the work of the OSCE regarding the Baltic Sea area;
- Maintain contact with and follow up the work of other international organizations dealing with and involved in the Baltic Sea area;
- Monitor the situation of the Baltic Sea area and report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to the President on developments.

Traditionally there have been several OSCE PA Special Representatives with mandates pertaining to specific issues within the Assembly's work or to specific geographical areas within, or of particular importance to, the Assembly. Other Special Representatives have covered the South Caucasus, Afghanistan, Gender Issues, Human Trafficking, South East Europe, the OSCE Budget, Anti-Terrorism, Border Issues, Central Asia, and Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance.

## SG Oliver to mark Helsinki Final Act anniversary at event in Copenhagen

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, signed on 1 August 1975, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver will attend an event this Saturday in Copenhagen hosted by the Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

The event will be addressed by Karsten Fledelius, an associate professor and chair of the Committee, which was established 30 years ago as part of the international movement inspired by the Helsinki Accords.

"At this milestone, it is important to take stock of the OSCE's past, present and future," Oliver said today. "Since 1975, there have been many OSCE anniversaries, but I can say in complete earnestness that this 40th anniversary of the Final Act comes at one of the most critical junctures in OSCE history. In short, our Organization faces a crisis moment, for the 40th anniversary has come at a time when world events and violations of the Helsinki Final Act do not merely present a challenge, but threaten to destroy our Organization, making this anniversary a 'final act' of the Helsinki Final Act."

In marking this important milestone, the OSCE PA has led an effort over the past two years to critically examine the

OSCE's strengths and weaknesses with a view toward reform as the Organization heads into its fifth decade. Officially launched in January 2014, the Helsinki +40 Project brought together parliamentarians and diplomats, as well as experts and academics from several prominent think tanks, to evaluate the OSCE's history, current activities and its future.

The Final Report of the Helsinki +40 Project, available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org), was presented during the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 24th Annual Session in Helsinki on 6 July, and a corresponding resolution promoting reform of the Organization was included in the OSCE PA's Helsinki Declaration adopted 9 July.

### Autumn Meeting deadline approaching

OSCE PA Delegations are advised that the deadline for reserving hotel rooms for the OSCE PA's 14th Autumn Meeting, to be held on 15-18 September in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, is **17 August 2015**.

All meetings will take place at the Shangri-La Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.