

News from Copenhagen

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY DEPLOYS ELECTION OBSERVERS TO UKRAINE AND UNITED STATES

HAERING, KESSLER, GEORGE, GRAFSTEIN LEAD TEAMS



Important elections on October 31 in Ukraine and on November 2 in the United States will be observed by more than 100 OSCE parliamentarians. More than 50 observers from the PA will be deployed to Ukraine under the leadership of former President Bruce George who has been appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead the short-term observers and Senator Jerry Grafstein of Canada, who will serve as Deputy Head of the observation team. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and the NATO Assembly are joining the OSCE PA in the observation effort, which is also supported by long-term observers and staff for the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Several hundred additional observers from the OSCE participating States are also present. Mr. George will deliver the preliminary assessment at a press conference in Kiev on November 1, along with the leaders of the other parliamentary delegations and a representative of the ODIHR.

PA Vice-President Barbara Haering, appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy to lead the OSCE short-term observers, presided over two days of extensive briefings for nearly 60 OSCE PA observers in Washington on Thursday and Friday October 28 and 29 before deployment to Florida, Ohio, New Mexico, Minnesota, North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia. Along with Ms. Haering, Vice-Presidents Panos Kammenos, Nebahat Albayrak, Nezvati Yalcintas and Giovanni Kessler as well as OSCE PA parliamentarians

Goran Lennmarker, Bjorn Hernaes and Leonid Ivanchenko will lead observers teams in various States. The ODIHR is also present in Washington with a core team of fifteen staff plus seven observers led by former OSCE PA Vice-President Rita Sussmuth. Barbara Haering will deliver the preliminary post-election statement on Wednesday 4 November at a press conference at the National Press Club, along with Deputy Head of the PA Mission, Giovanni Kessler.

For those who are interested, the OSCE PA Briefing Book on the U.S. Elections is available on our website (www.oscepa.org).

