

News from Copenhagen

President Hastings meets with Secretary of State Rice

On 20 January, President Alcee L. Hastings met with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. During the meeting President Hastings and Secretary Rice discussed the outcome of the past Annual session in Washington. In addition, the President took the opportunity to raise a number of OSCE issues including the upcoming elections in Belarus and Ukraine and the Assemblies priorities for the future. Congressman Hastings also reported on his recent visits to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Georgia, as well as the conclusions of the election observation mission to Azerbaijan which he headed. In addition, they discussed the upcoming visit of Belgian Speaker of Senate Anne-Marie Lizin to Guantanamo in her capacity as Special Representative on this issue.



Registration reminders

Delegations are kindly reminded of the following registration deadlines for upcoming activities by the Assembly:

Winter Meeting

(February 23-24)

please register by January 27

Belarus election observation

(March 19)

please register by March 3

Ukraine election observation

(March 26)

please register by March 10

Preparatory visit to Belarus

From 24-27 January, Press / Programme Officer Andreas Baker visited Belarus as a part of the OSCE Needs Assessment Mission for the Belarusian presidential elections on March 19. The joint ODIHR-OSCE PA team met with government and election officials, parliamentarians, and civil society and media representatives.

The Secretariat welcomes new staff member

As of February 15, Anna Chernova will be joining the International Secretariat on a full-time basis as Programme Officer. Apart from English Ms. Chernova speaks fluent Russian and Bulgarian, and has spent several years working for the Danish Refugee Council in Russia. Prior to this, she gained experience working with the Parliament of Bulgaria and the United Nations, in Sofia.

Joao Soares visits International Secretariat

Mr. Joao Soares, Head of the Portuguese delegation to the OSCE PA, paid a two-day working visit to the headquarters of the Assembly in Copenhagen. Mr. Soares met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Vitaly Evseyev and Tina Schøn, and other staff of the International Secretariat. Mr. Soares was briefed about upcoming events, including preparations for the Assembly's Winter Meeting in February and the election observation missions to Belarus and Ukraine in March. Mr. Soares also briefed the Secretariat's

Research Fellows on the electoral system in Portugal and they discussed the work of the OSCE. In addition, Mr. Soares met with the Head of the Danish Delegation, Mr. Kristian Pihl-Lorentzen and the Deputy Head of the Danish Delegation, Jeppe Kofod. They discussed upcoming OSCE PA events as well as the political situation in Denmark and Portugal.

In December of 2005, Mr. Soares served as Deputy Head of the OSCE PA delegation to the presidential elections in Kazakhstan, leading the OSCE PA observer teams in Almaty.

