

News from Copenhagen

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Final preparations for Brussels Session



All deadlines in preparation for the Annual Session to be held in Brussels, 3-7 July have now passed, and final arrangements are underway in Brussels and Copenhagen to prepare for the arrival of Members. Parliamentarians from more than 50 countries are expected to arrive in Belgium in the coming days to take part in the Session.

In addition to the three Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the General Committees, the International Secretariat has received a total of 15 Supplementary Items for consideration by the Assembly. Members have proposed over 160 amendments to the Draft Resolutions and Supplementary Items.

In addition to debating current issues in the OSCE, the Assembly will be addressed by senior officials from Belgium, including

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, the President of the Belgian House of Representatives, Herman De Croo, the President of the Belgian Senate, Anne-Marie Lizin, and the Belgian Foreign Minister, Karel De Gucht, who is also the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. According to tradition, the address by the Chairman-in-Office will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the gathered parliamentarians. The Secretary General of the OSCE, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, will also address the Assembly.

The PA will meet in Plenary Session on Monday 3 July. From Tuesday to Thursday, the Assembly's General Committees will debate resolutions, which will be forwarded to the Plenary Session on Friday 7 July for consideration by the Assembly. On the final day of the Session, the Members will also elect a new President to lead the Assembly for the coming year.

OSCE PA 2007 Economic Conference in Andorra



24 - 26 MAY 2007

OSCE PA
ANDORRA

At the invitation of the Consell General (Parliament of Andorra) the OSCE PA will hold its next economic conference in Andorra la Vella from **24 to 26 May 2007**. The theme of the conference will be *Strengthening Stability and Co-operation through International Trade*. The two day conference will enable participants to address various

topics related to trade and its implications for international co-operation. The Parliament of Andorra is planning an excursion for all participants following the conference.

In preparation for the Conference, members of the International Secretariat visited Andorra from 14 to 16 June. Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallarés were hosted by the Head of the Andorran Delegation to the Assembly, Josep Dallerés and met extensively with the Delegation and the staff of the Parliament to discuss all aspects related to the Conference. While in Andorra, members of the Secretariat were also received and met with Bernadeta Gaspà, Deputy-Speaker of the Andorran Parliament.

The Assembly organizes economic conferences on a biennial basis.

Battelli in Skopje to discuss upcoming elections

On 14 June in Skopje, Roberto Battelli, Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on South East Europe, represented the Assembly in a Council of Europe seminar on the upcoming parliamentary elections in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which are being held on 5 July. In his welcoming address he underlined that the PA has – from the very start – followed developments in the country closely. He said however that, due to the upcoming Annual Session that will take place at the same time as the scheduled elections, OSCE PA observers cannot be present, but that the PA will continue to closely watch election developments during its Brussels Session.

Mr. Battelli stressed that “as parliamentarians, elections are the fabric from which we are woven. We want a parliament that represents a country to be the result of free and fair expression of the will of the people. And we also expect the people – not only the government or the political parties – to show its maturity by refraining from resorting to violence or any other way of impeding an orderly process.” In this context, he pointed to the crucial role of political parties. He stated that the parties have to decide what they want to be: promoters of a successful society, or mere gatherings of people who follow their own agenda.

Mr. Battelli was accompanied by Ambassador Nothelle from the Parliamentary Assembly's Vienna Office.