

# News from Copenhagen

## Ukraine's presidential election meets international standards



Alcee Hastings briefing on observations in Kyiv



Joao Soares delivers the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE



Tone Tingsgaard speaks to poll workers in Donetsk

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 François-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 PA's preparation for the election began in October, with substantive research conducted by the Secretariat in Copenhagen and a pre-election visit to Ukraine by President Soares in November.

The Assembly's delegation consisted of 117 observers from 31 countries. Preparations continue for the important second round on 7 February.

The PA mission was supported by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy SG Tina Schoen, Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhayev, Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker, Programme Officers Anna Chernova and Roberto Montella, Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova, and Director of Communications Klas Bergman.

## OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova visits Chisinau and Tiraspol

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Parliamentary Team on Moldova paid a visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol 18-20 January 2010. The delegation, which included Canan Kalsin (Turkey), was led by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden).

The delegation met with the Speaker of Parliament and Acting President of Moldova, Mihai Ghimpu, the Prime Minister Vlad Filat, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Iurie Leanca, the newly appointed Delegation of Moldova to the OSCE PA, other leaders of political parties, negotiators on both sides of the Nistru river, and the international community in Chisinau. The OSCE Parliamentary Team worked closely with the OSCE Mission to Moldova on the visit.

In these meetings, the Team expressed hope for continued good participation and co-operation with the Parliament of

Moldova, and possible opportunities for co-operation with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In meetings with the Supreme Soviet in Tiraspol, Ms. Habsburg Douglas highlighted the need for legislators to resolve their difference through dialogue.

"We are here to lend support to the important work done by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, and to find ways to build contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol at the parliamentary level," Ms. Habsburg Douglas said.

The Parliamentary Team on Moldova was established in early 2000. Its mandate includes promoting peace, stability and the rule of law in Moldova. Resolving the status of Transnistria is a particular priority of the Team, which was accompanied on this visit by Programme Officer Anna Chernova.