

# News from Copenhagen

## Soares addresses OSCE-CICA Ministerial, visits Turkmenistan



Joao Soares and Spencer Oliver listen to a briefing by Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, Ambassador Arsim Zekolli



President Soares at the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

OSCE PA President Joao Soares said at the OSCE-CICA Ministerial in Istanbul this week that political security cannot be separated from democracy and good governance and that democracy is absolutely critical for long-term stability.

The President also urged CICA Ministers to maintain flexibility and political engagement in their work to ensure that the bureaucracy does not take over the agenda of the organization. This has happened to a large degree in several international institutions, including the OSCE, with the result that work in the field suffers greatly, he said.

Mr. Soares spoke at a joint meeting of the OSCE Troika and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at the level of Ministers. It was convened by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kanat Saudabayev of Kazakhstan, and Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoglu.

Prior to the speech in Istanbul, President Soares traveled

to Turkmenistan to support the work of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. The visit on 4-5 June provided an opportunity for the President to get familiarized with the work of the OSCE Centre and the situation in the country.

The PA delegation, which included Canan Kalsin, Vice-Chair of the Assembly's First General Committee, and Secretary General Spencer Oliver, was fully briefed on OSCE activities in the country by the Head of the Centre, Ambassador Arsim Zekolli. It also met with diplomats from OSCE countries and a range of international representatives, including the European Union and the United Nations, as well as representatives of civil society and media in Turkmenistan.

Mr. Soares expressed his hope that Members of the Mejlis, Turkmenistan's Parliament, will soon resume their participation in upcoming OSCE PA events.

The delegation was accompanied by Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker.

## Secretariat conducts preparatory visit to Belgrade

A team from the Assembly's International Secretariat in Copenhagen and the Vienna Liaison Office visited Belgrade on 2 and 3 June in preparation for next year's Annual Session. The Twentieth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly will be held in the Serbian capital from 6 to 10 July 2011 hosted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Conference Co-ordinator Odile Lelarge, and Programme Officer Roberto Montella met with the Serbian Delegation to the Assembly and held extensive meetings with the members of the organizing committee in

the Serbian Parliament, led by Serbia's Head of Delegation Suzana Grubjesic and Secretary General Veljko Odalovic. The team also visited the Sava Centre where the Session will be held, as well as the different hotels where delegations will be lodged.

In Belgrade, Deputy Secretary General Pallares also visited the OSCE Mission to Serbia and met with Thomas Moore, Deputy Head of Mission. Mr. Pallares and Mr. Dzakhaev also attended, on behalf of the Assembly, the 35th Plenary Session of the PABSEC (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation).



Members of the Serbian Delegation to the PA and members of the International Secretariat at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia