

OSCE PA's Special Representative calls for an international inquiry into events in southern Kyrgyzstan

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative for Central Asia, Kimmo Kiljunen, concluded on Wednesday 23 June a visit to Kyrgyzstan. Over two days, he met with a range of political interlocutors, including Interim President Roza Otunbaeva, her deputy in charge of constitutional reform, Omurbek Tekebaev, as well as with representatives of political parties, media, non-government organizations, and the international community.

In his meetings, Mr. Kiljunen expressed support for pluralistic parliamentary democracy in the country, including the importance of developing political parties ahead of key parliamentary elections in the coming months.

"Of course, we understand that conducting a referendum under the current circumstances is not easy, but not conducting the referendum at this stage would be even worse" said the OSCE PA Special Representative at a press conference in Bishkek on 23 June. "Supporting democratic processes in Kyrgyzstan at this difficult time for the country is important to the future of democratic elements in the region more widely."

Kimmo Kiljunen deplored the recent violence in southern



Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Special Representative Kimmo Kiljunen meet with Kyrgyzstan's Interim President Roza Otunbaeva

Kyrgyzstan and echoed the call for an international investigation into the events. He also highlighted the need for continued assistance to Kyrgyzstan, including possible peacekeeping or policing operations under the auspices of the United Nations and regional security organizations. He noted that the OSCE can offer particular expertise in the field.

Programme Officer Anna Chernova supported Mr. Kiljunen's mission, which was facilitated by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

Oslo Annual Session preparations nearly complete

Preparations for the 19th Annual Session, to be held 6-10 July in Oslo, are nearly final. The deadlines for Supplementary Items, compromise Draft Resolutions and amendments to Draft Resolutions have passed, and the deadline for amendments to the Supplementary Items is **Tuesday 29 June**.

In addition to the three Draft Resolutions of the General Committees, which deal with various dimensions of the Session's theme, "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption," 35 Supplementary Items will be considered in Oslo. The proceedings of the Annual Session will be streamed live on the website of the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, at www.stortinget.no.

Dealing with issues such as climate change, the Middle East peace process, nuclear security, cybercrime and the situation in Kyrgyzstan, all Supplementary Items are available on the Assembly's website, www.oscepa.org, as are the reports and Draft Resolutions of the General Committees.

Also on the website are the Final Follow-Up Reports produced by the Secretariat on behalf the General Committees'

Vice-Chairs, who will present them at the Annual Session. The reports provide an overview of actions taken in the OSCE area related to recommendations contained in the Final Declaration of the 18th Annual Session held last year in Vilnius. With the strong support of parliamentary delegations and the OSCE governmental side, the reports were produced to provide

context on relevant developments by participating States and the OSCE, and are based on responses to a questionnaire sent out last September, as well as independent research by the Secretariat. They build on and update the Interim Follow-Up Reports that were distributed at the Winter Meeting in Vienna.

The responses from OSCE PA delegations, which are summarized in the reports, are available in their

entirety from the International Secretariat, and PA Members are encouraged to examine this valuable source of information, in the interests of continuing exchanges of best practice.

The International Secretariat would like to thank all the delegations that responded to the OSCE PA International Secretariat's questionnaire for their support.

