

News from Copenhagen

Annual Session in Oslo to debate transnational crime and corruption

The Nineteenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, with the theme “Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption,” is taking place 6-10 July in Oslo, hosted by the Parliament of Norway – Stortinget.

Nearly 300 parliamentarians from the OSCE’s participating States are expected to participate in the Session.

Over several days of deliberations, the Assembly’s three General Committees will consider resolutions dealing with various dimensions of the Session’s theme, as well as 35 supplementary items covering topics such as climate change, the Middle East peace process, nuclear security, cybercrime and the situation in Kyrgyzstan. The Session will end with the adoption of the Oslo Final Declaration.

Featured speakers include João Soares, President of



the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Dag Terje Andersen, Speaker of the Storting; Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway; and Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.

Participants at the Session will also elect new officers, including a new President. Joao Soares (Portugal) is stepping down as President after completing his two one-year terms. Assembly members Petros Efthymiou (Greece) and Consiglio Di Nino (Canada) have declared their candidacies

to succeed President Soares.

All resolutions and supplementary items are posted at www.oscepa.org. An electronic folder with all relevant documents will be distributed to Members prior to the Session, and will also be made available on the website.

Parliamentary Team calls for political dialogue in Moldova

The OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova visited the country 24-26 June, meeting with Acting President and Speaker of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu, Foreign Minister Iurii Leanca, and representatives of a wide range of political parties. The Team, led by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), met with the leadership of the Supreme Soviet in Tiraspol and the negotiator on the Transnistrian conflict, as well as representatives of the media.

Members of the Parliamentary Team, Canan Kalsin (Turkey) and Francois-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium), participated in the visit.

“Of course, it is up to the people of Moldova to decide on the form of government in their country, but we are concerned about the lack of consistent dialogue among the leadership of political parties,” said Ms. Habsburg Douglas in Chisinau on Friday.

The parliamentarians held consultations with the



Delegation of Moldova to the OSCE PA, led by Vasile Sova, on a proposed resolution to be debated at the Annual Session in Oslo, 6-10 July 2010. The Team follows the political climate in Moldova closely, and conducts regular visits to maintain consistent and open contacts with key interlocutors in Chisinau and Tiraspol. The visit was facilitated by the OSCE Mission to Moldova and was supported by Programme Officer Anna Chernova.

PA participates in South East Europe Regional Heads of Mission Meeting

OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, the PA’s Vienna Liaison Office, participated in the OSCE Regional Heads of Missions Meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 21-22 June.

Mr. Battelli briefed the participants about the extensive activities the PA undertook over the course of the last year and announced future activities, such as the election observation mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina later this year. He also

informed about two major PA events taking place in the region next year – the Annual Session in Belgrade, Serbia, and the Fall Meetings in Dubrovnik, Croatia. During a discussion about the situation in the region, Mr. Battelli recalled the role of leading artists and other significant cultural figures for the promotion of mutual understanding.

While in Sarajevo, Mr. Battelli met with the Head of the Bosnian delegation to the OSCE PA, Branko Zrno, to discuss the political situation in the country.