

News from Copenhagen

Efthymiou calls for support for parliamentary dimension in Astana



President Petros Efthymiou and Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev meeting during the PA's recent Fall Meetings in Palermo

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou sent a letter to OSCE Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev yesterday, asking for support in ensuring that text in the Astana Summit Declaration pays due recognition to parliamentary views and the role of the Parliamentary Assembly within the Organization.

In this regard, Mr. Efthymiou expressed his concern about recent draft language being discussed, and suggested language that more appropriately reflects the Assembly's role in the OSCE. He expressed his hopes for reaching agreement on a concluding document that will be an effective and forward-looking document and provide a stronger basis for future co-operation within the OSCE.

President Efthymiou also distributed his proposal to Heads of OSCE PA Delegations today, expressing his hope that they would support his efforts on behalf of the Assembly, ensuring that the PA, as the parliamentary dimension of the Organization, is adequately reflected in discussions in Astana

and in the final declaration to be adopted.

President Efthymiou will report on developments at the Assembly's Bureau meeting on 30 November in Astana. Mr. Saudabayev will also be addressing the Bureau, which consists of the President, the nine Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Officers of the three General Committees and the President Emeritus. Also participating in the Bureau meeting will be the chairs of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committees and the PA's Special Representatives.

Mr. Efthymiou will address the opening session of the Summit on 1 December.

As the President's letter to the Chairman-in-Office points out, the Parliamentary Assembly has been a vocal advocate of Kazakhstan's work in convening the Astana Summit, the seventh such Summit in the OSCE's history. Previous Summits were held 1975 in Helsinki, 1990 in Paris, 1992 in Helsinki, 1994 in Budapest, 1996 in Lisbon and 1999 in Istanbul.

PA Member Thierry Mariani appointed to French Cabinet

Thierry Mariani, member of the French Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed Secretary of State for Transport to the Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing by President Nicolas Sarkozy on 14 November 2010.

Mr. Mariani has been an active member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participating in many meetings and election observation missions, particularly to Eastern European and Central Asian countries. Most recently, he was part of the OSCE PA's election observation mission to the 7 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan and to the United States for the 2 November midterm elections.

Mr. Mariani gave a presentation at the U.S. pre-election seminar regarding campaign finance laws in France.

He has also taken part in numerous events and conferences organized by the Assembly, including a Seminar on Labour Migration held in Tajikistan in April 2009, as well as the



Thierry Mariani at the U.S. election observation mission

Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in May 2010. As France's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan by Nicolas Sarkozy in 2009, his expertise in this area has been very useful to the OSCE PA's work.

In addition to being a member of the OSCE PA, Mr. Mariani has also been active in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation.