

Tony Lloyd to lead short-term observers to Belarus

Tony Lloyd, Member of the British Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, has been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister and Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Short-Term Observer Mission to the 19 December presidential election in Belarus.

Mr. Lloyd has also been appointed by Assembly President Petros Efthymiou to head the OSCE PA's delegation. Mr. Lloyd has long been active in the Parliamentary Assembly, serving on its Rules Committee as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE.

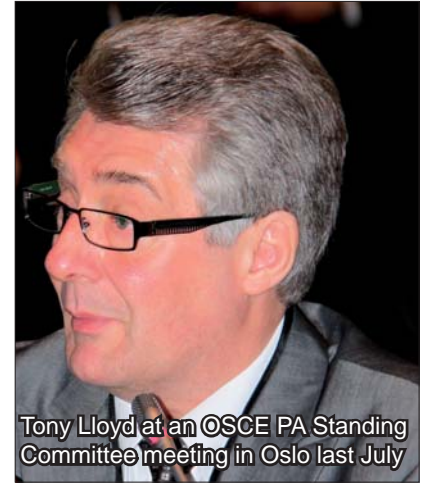
OSCE PA Vice-President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will serve as Deputy Head of the OSCE PA's election observation mission. Mr. Tokayev, a former Kazakh foreign minister, is Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan and heads the Kazakh Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In accordance with the Co-operation Agreement between the PA and the OSCE/ODIHR from 1997, Mr. Lloyd will lead the short-term observers and deliver the post-election

statement on behalf of the OSCE in Minsk on 20 December.

The OSCE's election observation mission is being deployed following an official invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. It will assess the election for its conformity with the OSCE commitments as stated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, to which Belarus has subscribed.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly last observed elections in Belarus in September 2008, and expects to send around 60 parliamentarians to observe the 19 December election.



Tony Lloyd at an OSCE PA Standing Committee meeting in Oslo last July

Students visit PA Secretariat



Students listen to Secretary General Spencer Oliver talk about the history of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly

A group of 24 graduate students from the European Studies Programme at Gothenburg University in Sweden visited the Assembly's International Secretariat in Copenhagen on Friday 26 November.

The students were briefed on the objectives, activities and functioning of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Editorial Director Nat Parry. Also participating was the current team of OSCE PA research fellows, who described the work that they do and talked about their educational and professional backgrounds.

After the briefing, an open discussion provided the students an opportunity to ask questions about the Assembly and the OSCE in general. The discussion focused primarily on issues such as election observation, political development, integration and human rights.

Kiljunen reports on the situation in Kyrgyzstan

At last week's Bureau meeting in Astana, OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) provided an overview of the developing situation in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Kiljunen noted that the parliament of Kyrgyzstan was working to build a coalition in a fragile situation and needed continued OSCE support, including through the OSCE field presence in the country.

He reported on the progress of the International Independent Commission for Inquiry into the June interethnic violence in the southern part of the country, noting the gravity of the human tragedy that took place there.

Dates set for 2011 Assembly meetings

The following dates have been set for Assembly meetings in the coming year:

- Winter Meeting, Vienna, 24-25 February
- Bureau Meeting, Copenhagen, 11 April
- Annual Session, Belgrade, 6-10 July
- Fall Meetings, Dubrovnik, 7-10 October
- Bureau, Vilnius, 5 December
(OSCE MC: 6-7 December)