

## PA President Migliori meets UNODC Executive Director Fedotov

OSCE PA President Riccardo Migliori met United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Yury Fedotov Monday in Vienna. Migliori and Fedotov discussed areas of possible co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and UNODC. In particular, Migliori recalled the need to give full implementation to the Palermo Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols with the aim of harmonizing national legislations.

President Migliori identified three areas of concrete co-operation: fighting against human trafficking, works of art trafficking and drug trafficking. Fedotov acknowledged the important role the OSCE Police Academy in Tajikistan, a training centre for Afghan border guards, has played in this regard.

The president also visited the OSCE PA Liaison Office where he met with Special Representative Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Roberto Montella.



Riccardo Migliori is greeted by Yury Fedotov in Vienna.

## Vice-President Picula to lead Armenia election observation

President Migliori has appointed Vice-President Tonino Picula (Croatia) to lead the OSCE PA election observation mission to the presidential election in Armenia on 18 February. Picula is planning to conduct a pre-election visit to Armenia in January together with the OSCE PA Special Representative on South Caucasus Joao Soares from Portugal. More information and a notice will be distributed to delegations in early January. Because this mission will take place just prior to the Winter Meeting in Vienna, it will be limited in size. Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen and Logistics Officer Iryna Sabashuk from the International Secretariat will staff the mission.

Picula, a former foreign minister of Croatia, has led several election observation missions, including to Georgia in October. He also participated in the U.S. election observation in November.

## First Committee Chair and staff visit International Secretariat

Chair Asa Lindestam (Sweden) and staff representing other leaders of the OSCE PA's First Committee met in Copenhagen last week to review issues to be discussed at the Winter Meeting in Vienna and the Annual Session in Istanbul. Committee Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania) joined the meeting via a Skype video call from Vilnius.

Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, who is in charge of election observation for the Assembly, briefed the members on election observation issues. Other Secretariat staff who have been involved with recent election observation missions also participated in the discussions.



First Committee Chair Asa Lindestam and Tina Schoen in Copenhagen

## Preparations underway for OSCE PA's 12th Winter Meeting

Taking place 21-22 February 2013 in Vienna, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 12th Winter Meeting will include addresses by the President of the Austrian Parliament, Barbara Prammer, the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and OSCE PA President Riccardo Migliori. Also expected to address the meeting are OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek and OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada).

The Winter Meeting will be comprised of meetings of the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations, each General

Committee, and joint sessions of the three Committees.

A topic for the special debate, to be held during a joint session on 22 February, will be announced in due course. The draft programme is available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org), along with registration forms. Delegates are kindly asked to register no later than **22 January 2013**.

Established by a decision of the Standing Committee in 2001, the Winter Meeting is the primary venue for the Assembly's Members and three General Committees to receive high-level briefings from OSCE officials and discuss draft reports for the upcoming Annual Session.