

News from Copenhagen

Sanchez Amor and Cederfelt to lead OSCE election observers in Turkey



Ignacio Sanchez Amor

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ivica Dacic has designated Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain) as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE's short-term observer mission in Turkey for the 1 November early parliamentary elections. Margareta Cederfelt (MP, Sweden) will serve as Head of the OSCE Parliamentary

Assembly Delegation, which will include approximately 40 MPs from nearly 20 OSCE participating States.

Sanchez Amor is Deputy Head of the Spanish Delegation to the Assembly. He served as Head of the Assembly's Delegation of observers for the June 2015 elections in Turkey and has also observed elections in Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Cederfelt serves as the Rapporteur of the Assembly's Committee on Political Affairs and Security. She has monitored more than 20 elections across the OSCE area, including Turkey's parliamentary elections this June.

The OSCE parliamentarians will participate in several days of briefings in Ankara before deploying to polling stations in several regions across Turkey for election day observation. They will work closely with observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and in co-ordination with colleagues from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The mission will assess the elections against democratic commitments contained in the OSCE's 1990 Copenhagen Document.



Margareta Cederfelt

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares will join Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Senior Policy Analyst Francesco Pagani, Programme Officer Loic Poulain, and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk in organizing the observation mission. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has observed elections in Turkey in 2011, 2014 and in June 2015.

SG Oliver represents OSCE PA at UN event on election observation



Pietro Ducci, Michael Link and Spencer Oliver at the UN on Wednesday.

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver is participating this week in the 10th Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation, being held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21-22 October. Organized by the UN Electoral Assistance Division, the conference is commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the DoP, which Oliver and PA President Ilkka Kanerva signed earlier this year on behalf of the Assembly.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Oliver met with ODIHR Director Michael Link and the Head of European Parliament's Election Observation Unit, Pietro Ducci, who all expressed support for each institution's decisions not to observe the upcoming 1 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan. They reiterated, however, that this decision would not preclude further co-operation with Azerbaijani authorities in the future.

President Kanerva highlights refugee and migrant crisis as PA priority

In a letter distributed to members of the OSCE PA Standing Committee Tuesday, President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) informed members that the refugee and migrant crisis impacting Europe and the Mediterranean region will be on the agenda of upcoming Assembly meetings, including the Bureau meeting in December and the Winter Meeting in February.

"The rising number of refugees and migrants coming to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea and South East Europe presents the greatest humanitarian challenge we have faced in decades," Kanerva wrote to the Standing Committee, which consists of heads of national delegations and members of the Bureau. "The OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, given their broad membership, can contribute to finding a co-ordinated response to this crisis."

The Bureau will be meeting in Belgrade on 2 December prior to the opening of the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, and Kanerva expressed his intention to devote substantial time at the Bureau meeting to discuss the crisis. Kanerva hopes to use this opportunity to develop concrete proposals which he will present to the Ministerial Council during his address at the opening of the meeting of foreign ministers on 3 December.

He also recalled that Third Committee Chair Isabel Santos has prioritized the refugee crisis for the upcoming year and is currently working on developing proposals which may also be presented at the Belgrade Bureau meeting.