

News from Copenhagen

Number 30

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

31 May 2001

Kosovo Committee address Women in Politics Seminar

From 26-27 May 2001 members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo participated in a two-day seminar in Pristina on women in politics, organized by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. The OSCE PA Delegation included Kosovo Committee Chair Ms. Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), Ms. Grethe Fossum, MP (Norway) and Ms. Elisabeth Meijer, MP (Netherlands). In addition the Delegation was joined by Ms. Paula Kokkonen, MP (Finland). By providing concrete examples of personal experiences as politicians the four OSCE PA delegates played a key role in the seminar discussions aimed at strengthening the voice of female politicians in Kosovo. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo placed particular importance on the Seminar in view of the upcoming elections in Kosovo on 17 November 2001.



Kosovo Committee member Elisabeth Meijer addressing the Seminar on Women in Politics. Photo: OMIK

OSCE PA Delegation attends 9th OSCE Economic Forum in Prague

An OSCE PA Delegation including President Adrian Severin, MP (Romania), 2nd Committee Chair Mr. Jacques Floch, MP (France) and 2nd Committee Rapporteur Barbara Haering, MP (Schweizerland) attended the 9th OSCE Economic Forum in Prague from 15-18 May 2001. In his address to the opening plenary of the Forum, Mr. Severin outlined the Parliamentary Assembly's

approach to economic and environmental matters in the OSCE area as well as the importance of the parliamentary dimension. *"The role of parliamentarians is paramount when bringing transparency to the economic processes through comprehensive and effective legislature and implementation. Elected officials should address citizens and groups of interest (business/enterprises)*

concerns, as well as providing the oversight of executive practise." Mr. Floch served as lead speaker of the working group dealing with instruments for promoting transparency and good governance and Ms. Haering served as rapporteur of the plenary session reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments in the Economic and Environmental dimension.

OSCE Public Affairs Round Table in Vienna

From 24-25 May, Mr. Jan Jooren of the International Secretariat participated in the 5th OSCE Public Affairs Round Table in Vienna. The Chairman of the Permanent Council Ambassador Liviu Bota opened the session on behalf of the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship. The Round Tables serve as important focal points for sharing information amongst public affairs professionals within the OSCE, including spokespersons from OSCE Field Missions and Institutions. Another important aspect of these bi-annual gatherings is the co-ordination and development of a common strategy for increasing public awareness of OSCE activities, for example through effective use of the internet.

10th Annual Session in Paris

From 28-29 May Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and other members of the International Secretariat visited Paris to finalize preparations for the 10th OSCE PA Annual Session in Paris 6-10 July. **Key documents** such as Committee Reports and Draft Resolutions are now also available from the OSCE PA web-site at: www.osce.org/pa

Election Update: Albania

To this date 20 OSCE parliamentarians from 11 countries have registered to monitor the parliamentary elections in Albania 24 June. The Mission will be led by Vice-President Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom).

The DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 13 June 2001