

# News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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## Parliamentary Conference on Migration

More than one hundred parliamentarians from over forty participating States attended the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Migration, held in Penha Longa, Portugal, from 10-11 October 2001. The two-day Conference, organized in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the invitation of the Parliament of Portugal, consisted of a series of presentations and discussions on various aspects of the topic, including the problems encountered by migrants, migrant rights and the positive and negative aspects of migration. The participants were welcomed by the President of the Assembleia da República, Mr. António de Almeida Santos and were addressed by prominent officials and experts of international standing, including Mr. Antonio Vitorino, EU Commissioner of Justice and Home Affairs and Mr. Peter Schatzer, Director at the IOM. Sessions were chaired by OSCE PA President Adrian Severin, Vice-Presidents Ahmet Tan and Ihor Ostash as well as by the Head of the Portuguese



Delegation Antonio Reis, Vice-Chair of the Third Committee Elena Mizulina and Treasurer Jerry Grafstein. In his concluding remarks President Severin noted that the discussions about the various aspects of migration had been fruitful and that important ideas had been noted for further elaboration. "Migration is an important issue

all over the OSCE region, and I think we have covered the issue from many different perspectives during this conference", said President Severin. The International Secretariat is preparing a summary report of the Conference which will be available shortly.

### Activities of the International Secretariat

From 12-16 October, the International Secretariat participated in a visit of the OSCE Permanent Council Delegation to Georgia. The Delegation was headed by the Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, Ambassador Liviu Bota and included representatives of 18 OSCE Delegations from Vienna, a representative of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA represented by Programme Officer Tina Schön. The Delegation also travelled to Tskhinvali in South Ossetia as well as to Omalo and Shatili at the border to Chechnya to see the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation.

From 15-19 October the International Secretariat, represented by Programme Officer Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer also participated in a visit by the OSCE informal Financial Committee (IFC) to the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. The purpose of the visit by the Committee was to be briefed on current and future activities in light of the ongoing preparations for the 2002 OSCE budget.

### Committee Chair Weisskirchen represents PA at Trafficking in Persons Conference

Mr. Gert Weisskirchen, MP (Germany), Chair of the Third General Committee of the OSCE PA, represented the Assembly at the Conference on "Europe Against Trafficking in Persons", which took place in Berlin on 15-16 October 2001. He was accompanied by Mr. Pentti Väänänen, Deputy Secretary General of the OSCE PA. The Conference, co-organized by the German Foreign Ministry and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, gathered together representatives of Governments, NGOs and OSCE Institutions. An important contribution to the Conference was made by the OSCE Field Missions, dealing directly with problems of trafficking. The problems of trafficking were discussed in three Working Groups dealing with prevention, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking. It was recognized that a particular task for Parliaments and Parliamentarians is to enact legislation to combat trafficking and to facilitate cooperation between the governments.

### New Chair Working Group on Belarus

President Severin has appointed Ms. Uta Zapf MP, (Germany) as the new Chair of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus. Ms Zapf replaces President Severin as Chair of the Group. Members of the Belarus Group are OSCE PA Vice-President Mr. Igor Ostash and Mr. Urban Ahlin MP, (Sweden). The main task ahead is to ensure that the Working Group has an active role in promoting further democratic developments in Belarus in the post-Presidential Election period.

