

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Secretary General Kubis visits OSCE PA International Secretariat

On 6 March OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis paid a working visit to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat in Copenhagen. Ambassador Kubis had meetings with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Vitaly Evseyev and Pentti Väänänen as well as other senior members of staff. The focal point of the discussions was furthering co-operation and contacts between the OSCE Governmental and Parliamentary sides. At a reception held in his honour, Mr. Kubis met with the Ambassadors of Portugal and the Netherlands and the *chargés d'affaires* from the Russian, Romanian and US Embassies in Copenhagen.



L to R OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen, during Ambassador Kubis' visit to the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen

OSCE PA joins the "Council on Democratic Elections"

The first meeting of the "Council on Democratic Elections" took place in Venice on 7 March under the auspices of the Venice Commission. The Council of Europe PA, the Venice Commission, the Council of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the OSCE PA and the ODIHR were present at the meeting. The OSCE PA was represented by Mr. Giovanni Kessler, MP (Italy) and Mr. Pentti Väänänen, Deputy Secretary General.

The Council was established at the initiative of the Council of Europe PA and it is administered by the Venice Commission. The purpose of the Council is to codify and analyse all European electoral systems and national legislation and to define a code of good conduct in electoral matters.

Third Speakers Conference, Tirana

President Severin, participated in the Third Conference of Speakers of South Eastern European Countries, in Tirana on 5 March 2002.

In his address to the Conference, President Severin stressed the commitment of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the region in order to meet the challenges of democracy, peace, stability, security and prosperity. As an example Mr. Severin mentioned the Parliamentary Assembly's involvement in the long-term assistance project, prepared by the OSCE Presence in Albania, entitled "Modernising the Capacity of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania".

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly currently leads the parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact and Mr. Severin announced that a parliamentary conference will be held in Bucharest on 5 and 6 June. The conference will consider cultural, economic and political aspects of security.

During his stay in Tirana Mr. Severin held meetings with the Albanian Foreign Minister, Mrs. Arta Dade, and with the Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, Mr. Namik Dokle. On 4 March Mr. Severin visited the OSCE Presence in Albania to be briefed by the Head of Presence, Ambassador Ahrens and senior members of staff.

OSCE Regional Heads of Mission Meeting, Almaty

On 4-5 March, Paul LeGendre, from the International Secretariat participated in the Regional Heads of Mission Meeting in Almaty which brought together the Heads of OSCE Mission from the five Central Asian countries as well as representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship, Secretariat, and Institutions in order to exchange views on and coordinate the work of the OSCE in Central Asia.

Participants also discussed implementation of OSCE initiatives to assist in the fight against terrorism.

Election Update: Ukraine

More than 30 OSCE parliamentarians from 17 countries have registered as observers for the parliamentary elections in Ukraine on 31 March 2002. The **DEADLINE** for Registration with the International Secretariat in Copenhagen is 15 March 2002. For further information please contact Mr. Paul Legendre, Programme Officer.