

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Parliamentary Field Visit to Armenia and Georgia

From 6-11 May 2002 twelve OSCE parliamentarians, led by Ms. Tone Tingsgaard from Sweden, visited the OSCE field presences in Armenia and Georgia. This fourth field visit of its kind is part of a Parliamentary Assembly initiative to inform parliamentarians more directly about the fieldwork of the OSCE. Previously, OSCE PA Delegations visited OSCE Missions in Latvia and Estonia, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the OSCE Mission in Uzbekistan. During the visit to Armenia and Georgia, the parliamentarians met with the Heads of Missions and were briefed on OSCE activities in the region. Meetings were also held with the respective national OSCE PA Delegations, high-level Governmental Officials, NGOs and media representatives. In Yerevan, discussions focussed on the ongoing constitutional reform process in the country and the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections as well as on the freedom of media, various human rights topics, trafficking in human beings, the environmental situation and possibilities for economic development. In Georgia, they discussed the ongoing conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the situation of Internally Displaced Persons, economic problems, the upcoming elections and the democratization process. The International Secretariat is currently planning field visits to the OSCE presences in the Balkan region in autumn 2002. The Delegation



Mrs. Tone Tingsgaard, MP (Sweden) headed the OSCE PA Delegation to Armenia and Georgia

included Mr. Guido Tastenhoye (Belgium), Mr. Tosho Peykov (Bulgaria), Mr. Vladimir Dzhafferov (Bulgaria), Ms. Eleni Theocharous-Kariolou (Cyprus), Mr. Lapo Pistelli (Italy), Mr. Roberts Jurdzs (Latvia), Mr. Thore Nistad (Norway), Mr. Gheorghe Tokay (Romania), Mr. Aron Belascu (Romania), Mr. Jeronimo Nieto (Spain) and Mr. José Juan Gonzalez de Txabbarri (Spain). The Delegation was accompanied by Programme Officer Ms. Tina Schön.

Vice-President Bruce George Leads Follow-up Visit to Ukraine

From 9-11 May, Vice-President Bruce George travelled to Kyiv as part of a follow-up visit of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) to the 31 March Parliamentary Elections, for which Mr. George had been designated Special Representative by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Representatives of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) also took part in the visit.

During the course of the visit, the Delegation met with the President, Speaker of Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Chairman of the Central Election Commission, Chairman of the Supreme Court, representatives of political parties, and representatives of the diplomatic community. The Delegation discussed the measures taken by the Ukrainian authorities to address the shortcomings noted in the IEOM's preliminary statement, as well as further cooperation with the international community to strengthen electoral processes in Ukraine, with a view to the 2004 Presidential Elections. The Press Release "Recent parliamentary elections bring Ukraine closer to international standards." is available on www.osce.org/pa

Kosovo Committee visits Pristina

A delegation from the Kosovo Committee, headed by Vice-President Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), visited Kosovo from 5-7 May 2002. The delegation, which also included Mrs. Elisabeth Meijer MP, (Netherlands) and Mr. Giovanni Kessler, MP (Italy), travelled to Kosovo to assess the situation in the area in the aftermath of the Kosovo Assembly election last November. The Delegation assessed the possibility of expanding the contribution by OSCE parliamentarians in the process of democratization and institution-building. During their stay the Delegation had meetings with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Pascal Fieschi, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General Mr. Michael Steiner, officials of the Kosovo Assembly, including Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci as well as with minority representatives. The Delegation also visited the Kosovo Police School in Vushtrri/Vucitrn and met the School Director, Mr. Steve Bennett. The Delegation was accompanied by Programme Officer Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer

Upcoming Events

- **6-7 June 2002**
Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact in Bucharest
- **6-10 July 2002**
11th Annual Session in Berlin.
- **15 September 2002 (TBC)**
Parliamentary Elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- **2-4 October 2002**
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee Meeting and OSCE Parliamentary Annual Autumn Conference.
- **5 October 2002**
Parliamentary Elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina.