

Kiljunen: OSCE could organize elections in Transdniestria

“The OSCE has experience not only in observing but also in running elections - and this experience could be very well used for conducting elections in Moldova’s Transdniestrian region”, said Kimmo Kiljunen, Chair of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova at a press conference at the end of a visit to the region, June 15-17. The goal of the visit was to meet with Moldovan parliamentarians and government officials as well as members of the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet and local authorities, for the purpose of discussing the situation in Moldova. In particular, discussions focused on the prospects for a renewal of the negotiation process, as well as exchanging views on how the Parliamentary Team on Moldova may be able to assist in that process.

Mr. Kiljunen exchanged views on a supplementary resolution focusing on Moldova which will be discussed at the upcoming OSCE PA Annual Session in Washington, DC. He also suggested organizing a seminar on democratization in September 2005 to involve parliamentarians from Moldova, Ukraine and Russia, among others, as well as Members of the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet. In addition, Mr. Kiljunen put forward a proposal by which the OSCE could organize elections in Moldova’s Transdniestrian region. Such an idea was raised in a recent Ukrainian plan for the settlement of the Transdniestrian problem, presented in May this year and reiterated in an appeal of the Moldovan parliament adopted on 10 June 2005. The latter called, among other things, for elections in Transdniestria to be conducted under the aegis of an International Election Commission, mandated by the OSCE.

During his visit, Mr. Kiljunen met with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin, Parliamentary Speaker Marian Lupu, Minister for Reintegration Vasile Sova and leading parliamentarians of all groups represented in the Moldovan parliament. In Tiraspol he held talks with Transdniestrian



Kimmo Kiljunen meets with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin, along with the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, William H. Hill.

leader Igor Smirnov, chief negotiator Valerij Litkai, Supreme Soviet Chairman Grigoriy Marakutsa and members of the Supreme Soviet presidium.

Mr. Kiljunen was accompanied by Programme Officer Paul LeGendre from the International Secretariat. The press release issued during a press conference at the end of the visit is available at www.oscepa.dk.

Amendments Reminder

Delegations are reminded that the deadline for amendments to Supplementary Items is this Friday, June 24. Approximately 80 amendments to the three Draft Resolutions met Assembly requirements for co-sponsorship and will be considered at the Annual Session in Washington.

President Hastings Appoints Rules Committee

President Alcee L. Hastings has appointed a Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure in accordance with Rule 44.2 of the PA Rules. The Committee has been tasked to examine changes proposed by Vice-President Giovanni Kessler to Rule 38 regarding the International Secretariat. The Sub-Committee will meet prior to the opening of the Annual Session, and will report its recommendations to the Standing Committee on July 1.

In addition, the President has asked the Committee to undertake an overall review of the Rules of Procedure and make recommendations as appropriate at the Assembly’s 2006 Winter Meeting. Such periodic examination of the Rules is an established practice in the Assembly to accommodate new circumstances and growing activities.

President Hastings has appointed the following Members to the Sub-Committee:

- Pieter De Crem, Chairman (Belgium)
- Nino Burjanadze, OSCE PA Vice-President (Georgia)
- Barbara Haering, OSCE PA Vice-President (Switzerland)
- Panos Kammenos, OSCE PA Vice-President (Greece)
- Kimmo Kiljunen, Former OSCE PA Vice-President (Finland)
- Alexander Kozlovsky, Deputy Head of the Russian Delegation
- Göran Lenmarker, Chairman of 1st Committee (Sweden)
- Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, Head of the Danish Delegation