

News from Copenhagen

Battelli participates in Stability Pact Conference

On 8 June, Roberto Battelli, the OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe and Head of the Slovenian Delegation, represented the OSCE PA in a conference organized by the European Parliament as a part of its Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact.

The Brussels Conference consisted of two seminars, one on the Freedom of the Media, the other on parliamentary oversight of budgets. In his welcoming address, Mr. Battelli noted that, with the Stability Pact having entered its final phase, national parliaments in the region have to take more and more of the issues dealt with by the Stability Pact into their own hands. This makes conferences like the present one particularly relevant, he noted. He also drew the attention of the audience – which comprised Parliamentarians from the region as well as experts on the topics – to OSCE PA work in the two fields being addressed. In particular, he noted the timely discussion on freedom of the media and the responsibility that must come with this freedom that the PA held during its Winter Meeting.

The purpose of the Troika is to assist national parliaments in the region in the process of adopting the necessary legislation on these and other issues, and to enable exchanges of views between parliamentarians. Mr. Battelli was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the Vienna Liaison Office.

Passy appointed to Transparency Committee

OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings has appointed Solomon Passy, Member of the Bulgarian Delegation to the Assembly and former OSCE Chairman-in-Office, to join the Assembly's *Ad Hoc* Committee on Transparency and Accountability.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee is chaired by Steny Hoyer (USA), and includes Vice-Chair Barbara Haering (Switzerland), Urban Ahlin (Sweden), Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), Pieter De Crem (Belgium), Assembly President Alcee Hastings, and Jerry Grafstein (Canada).

The Committee was established in 2001 to enhance transparency and parliamentary involvement within the Organization. Upon the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, at the 2005 Annual Session in Washington DC, the Assembly endorsed the Colloquium report on *The Future of the OSCE*, which recommended a number of important reforms of the Organization.

OSCE public affairs roundtable

On 8 and 9 June, Programme / Press Officer Andreas Baker took part in a roundtable meeting on press and public affairs in the OSCE, held in Split, Croatia. Hosted by the OSCE Mission to Croatia, the roundtable meeting brought together the spokespersons and media focal points from OSCE Institutions and field missions.

Norwegian Delegation visits International Secretariat



On 8 June, the Head of the Norwegian Delegation Mr. Morten Høglund and his Deputy Mr. Sigvald Oppebøen-Hansen visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. They met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and the staff and discussed upcoming OSCE PA activities, particularly

election observation missions. The Delegation was briefed on the preparations for the upcoming session in Brussels and discussed the issue of reform in the OSCE. The Norwegian Delegation also included Secretary of Delegation Ms. Ingrid Mollestad Sylow and Lisbeth Stock.