

News from Copenhagen



Raidel Pays Working Visit to International Secretariat

The OSCE PA's newly elected Treasurer, Hans Raidel from Germany, visited the Assembly's headquarters in Copenhagen on 31 July and 1 August. Mr. Raidel planned the visit to familiarise himself with the working methods of the International Secretariat.

The Treasurer met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Tina Schoen and Vitaly Evseyev, Financial Assistant Per-Henrik Durr, and other staff. Mr.

Raidel was briefed on all aspects of the Secretariat's work, including through separate meetings focused on conference preparations, election monitoring and communications.

As examples of ongoing projects in the International Secretariat, Mr. Raidel was particularly briefed on financial aspects of the preparations for the upcoming Fall Meetings in Portoroz, the election observation mission to Kazakhstan, and plans to review and update the Assembly's website.

Lizin Addresses OSCE on Guantanamo

The OSCE PA's Special Representative on Guantanamo, and OSCE PA Vice-President, Anne-Marie Lizin, appeared before the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna last week to inform on her second visit to the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo.

In addressing the representatives of the 56 OSCE participating States on 26 July, Ms. Lizin urged the world's countries to help hasten the closing of the facility by agreeing to receive the detainees. She estimated that of the 360 detainees still in Guantanamo about 80 are eligible for immediate release and transfer, but no country is willing to take them, she said, citing security concerns. Only Albania has expressed willingness to receive detainees beyond the eight that it

has already taken, while Belgium has taken two and other European nations such as Denmark, Lithuania and Germany have expressed conditional interest, according to reports by the news agencies Reuters and the Associated Press.

Ms. Lizin also said that Middle Eastern and North African nations should consider taking some Guantanamo detainees and she urged multilateral organizations to step in and help bring about the closing of Guantanamo, which is such a "negative symbol" for the United States today.

Anne-Marie Lizin, who is also the President of the Belgian Senate, visited Guantanamo on 20 June this year, a year after her first visit. Since then, the situation in the jail has changed, she added, and gave the United States prison authorities credit for the improvements.



OSCE / Susanna Looft

Deadlines Reminder

All delegations are reminded of the following deadlines for the upcoming election observation missions:

- **Kazakhstan:** the deadline for registration **has been extended to 7 August**
- **Ukraine:** the deadline for registration is **14 September**