

News from Copenhagen

President Lennmarker to lead OSCE PA Observers in Russia

OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker, this week confirmed the Assembly's intention to observe the upcoming parliamentary elections in Russia on 2 December.

From 14-16 November, Lennmarker visited Moscow where he held constructive and fruitful discussions with senior Russian officials. The President met with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Liubov Sliska, Vladimir Churov, Head of



President Lennmarker met with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during his visit to Moscow

the Central Election Commission, and Konstantin Kosachyov, the Head of the Russian Parliament's International Affairs Committee, as well as civil society representatives. During the talks, Lennmarker strongly expressed his regret that Russia had set limitations on the number of parliamentarians able to participate in the mission. He reminded them that the OSCE has 56 participating States. The Russian officials expressed their understanding and readiness to show

flexibility and confirmed that an enlarged mission from the Parliamentary Assembly is welcome.

Lennmarker also stressed that the presence of international observers can significantly enhance the electoral process, and that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will deliver a fair and impartial assessment of the elections. The senior OSCE PA Delegation will consist primarily of Members of the Assembly's Standing Committee, including Vice-Presidents Kimmo Kiljunen, Anne-Marie Lizin, Joao Soares,

and Tone Tingsgard, Assembly Treasurer Hans Raidel, and Committee Officers Petros Efthymiou, Walburga Habsburg Douglas, and Jesus Lopez-Medel.

In keeping with traditional practice, President Lennmarker will deliver the conclusions of the delegation in a press conference on 3 December in Moscow.

During his visit in Moscow, President Lennmarker was accompanied by Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

Kimmo Kiljunen to lead OSCE PA Observers in Kyrgyzstan



President Goran Lennmarker will appoint OSCE PA Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen to head the OSCE PA election observation mission to the pre-term parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 16 December. Mr. Kiljunen, who is also the OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia, has led several observation missions, including to Kyrgyzstan

for parliamentary elections in 2005.

The International Secretariat is currently undertaking preparations in advance of the mission, and all Members interested in participating in the OSCE PA observation mission are kindly reminded to submit their completed registration forms to the International Secretariat by Thursday 23 November.

Alcee L. Hastings to lead OSCE PA Observers in Georgia



President Emeritus Alcee L. Hastings (USA) will be appointed to lead the OSCE PA election observation mission to the Presidential election to be held in Georgia on 5 January, 2008. Congressman Hastings has extensive experience observing elections, including leading several missions during his term as President of the Assembly.

The OSCE PA observation mission will be thoroughly briefed in advance, and will monitor opening, balloting, and vote-counting procedures across the country on election day.

All Members interested in participating in the OSCE PA observation mission to Georgia are kindly requested to return their completed registration forms to the International Secretariat by 17 December.