

Busy election observation fall for OSCE Parliamentarians

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will lead four, possibly five, election observation missions this fall, starting with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 October and ending with Moldova in November at a date to be determined.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kanat Saudabayev, has appointed four members of the Assembly as OSCE Special Co-ordinators. They will lead several hundred OSCE observers, including OSCE Members of Parliament and OSCE/ODIHR short term observers, and deliver the post-election statements on behalf of the OSCE.

The Special Co-ordinators are Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) to Bosnia and Herzegovina 3 October; Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) to Kyrgyzstan 10 October; Joao Soares (Portugal) to the U.S. 2 November, and Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria) to Azerbaijan 7 November. The four, all experienced election

observers, will also serve as heads of the delegations from the OSCE PA.

Thirty parliamentarians are scheduled to participate in the mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is still time to register for the other missions. The deadline for Kyrgyzstan is 28 September, the United States 30 September, and Azerbaijan 12 October. Members of the Assembly interested in participating in any of the missions should contact the International Secretariat in Copenhagen and complete relevant registrations forms as soon as possible.

The staff to the mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will be led by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, head of the PA's Liaison Office in Vienna. He will also lead the staff to the mission to Azerbaijan. Programme Officer Anna Chernova will lead the staff in Kyrgyzstan while Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen will lead the staff to the United States.

Shevchuk addresses OSCE Special Experts Meeting on energy security



Serhiy Shevchuk at the recent Annual Session in Oslo

Serhiy Shevchuk, Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Environment, Science and Technology, spoke at the OSCE Special Experts Meeting on assessing the OSCE's future contribution to International Energy Security Co-operation, held in Vilnius, Lithuania 13-14 September.

Co-organized by the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship, the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Office of the

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the meeting brought together over 200 representatives from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, as well as business and academia. The role of the OSCE and its potential in promoting energy security was the main focus.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shevchuk (Ukraine) underlined that energy security is not merely an intergovernmental but a truly transnational issue. He highlighted the several OSCE PA Declarations that underline the importance of energy security issues. Most recently, he pointed out, the Oslo Declaration, adopted at the 19th Annual Session on 10 July, proposed a number of recommendations that governments should implement to ensure energy security.

The speakers expressed a divergence of opinions on the substance of the issues under discussion, and Mr. Shevchuk assured participants of the readiness of parliamentarians to join actively in working out principles of early warning, crisis management and post-conflict management in the case of energy confrontation in the OSCE region.

OSCE PA Bureau to meet in Astana on 30 November

The Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be meeting on the eve of the Fifth OSCE Summit scheduled to take place in Astana, Kazakhstan on 1 and 2 December 2010.

The Meeting of the Bureau will be held on Tuesday 30 November from 15:00 to 18:00 on the premises of the OSCE

Summit. The Members of the Bureau will form the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation to participate in the Summit.

The Delegation will be led by President Petros Efthymiou, who will address the Summit at the opening session on 1 December.