

## President Efthymiou meets leaders in Turkey

In one of his first official visits, OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou this week travelled to Ankara for high-level meetings aimed at encouraging the important role that Turkey can play in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The two-day visit starting 31 January came at the invitation of Mehmet Ali Sahin, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and also included meetings with Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Vecdi Gonul, Minister of National Defence, and Alaattin Buyukkaya, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA.

In all meetings, Mr. Efthymiou applauded the active and effective work of the Turkish Delegation in the OSCE PA, led by Mr. Buyukkaya, and Canan Kalsin's work as Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security.

Mr. Efthymiou underlined the important role that Turkey can play in the OSCE, and particularly welcomed the country's



hosting of the 2013 Annual Session of the Assembly. He stressed the need to reinvigorate the work of the OSCE through enhanced political dialogue, and encouraged more active use of the Organization.



President Efthymiou meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu

Reinforcing a longstanding recommendation of the Assembly, President Efthymiou said the coming appointment of a new OSCE Secretary General is an opportunity to select a high profile candidate who would upgrade both the position of Secretary General and the Organization as a whole.

Several interlocutors welcomed the active role of President Efthymiou and the Assembly in encouraging parliamentary diplomacy, noting that the flexibility of parliamentary dialogue is an important addition to inter-state relations. In meeting with the delegation, the President was also briefed on the status of the Turkish economy and on Turkey's energy transit relations.

Mr. Efthymiou was accompanied by Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker and Programme Officer Anna Chernova from the International Secretariat and Chara Papaxoudi from the Hellenic Parliament.

## SG Spencer Oliver meets new British Delegation

On 26 January, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputies Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Tina Schoen visited the House of Commons in the United Kingdom to meet with the OSCE PA's new British Delegation.

The Delegation, under the leadership of Sir Peter Bottomley, had expressed an interest in discussing the work of the Assembly and ideas on how to strengthen the Assembly's agenda by, for example, limiting the number of supplementary items at Annual Sessions. During the meeting, the Delegation was briefed on upcoming meetings and events in the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly as well as on the work of the PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

In addition, discussions covered election observation and the activities of the Assembly's ad hoc committees and special representatives.

## Kiljunen wraps up investigation into Kyrgyzstan violence

Kimmo Kiljunen, the OSCE PA's Special Representative for Central Asia, said last week that the International Independent Commission for Inquiry into the June interethnic violence in southern Kyrgyzstan has completed its field work.

Having led this Commission since October, Kiljunen said that its work is based on over 700 interviews and statements by victims and witnesses. The final report is expected to be published by early March of this year. Emphasizing the objectivity of the Commission, Kiljunen said he hopes that its report will help mend relations between local Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions.

Kiljunen will comment on the Commission's work at the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting in Vienna, where Kyrgyzstan will be discussed in the First Committee on 24 February, as well as report to the Standing Committee meeting on 25 February.