

News from Copenhagen

Five supplementary items currently valid for Monaco Annual Session

In addition to the three General Committee resolutions to be debated at the Monaco Annual Session on 5-9 July under the general theme of "The OSCE: A Region of Change," the International Secretariat is currently aware of 34 proposed supplementary items, five of which are presently valid (pending Annual Session registration by members).

The high number of supplementary items received by the International Secretariat would indicate that the Monaco

Annual Session will include packed agendas for the Assembly's three general committees. Only the Oslo Annual Session in 2010 had more supplementary items submitted by this time, which resulted in less time for consideration during the meetings.

Based on this past experience, the Secretariat expects that the high number of supplementary items this year may affect the ability of members to properly debate the issues.

Danish Speaker Lykketoft visits OSCE PA International Secretariat

Mogens Lykketoft, Speaker of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget), visited the OSCE PA International Secretariat last week to view the premises and discuss the Assembly's ongoing work.

Accompanied by Soren Koushede, Advisor to the Speaker, and Pernille Deluran, Head of International Affairs in the Folketing, Speaker Lykketoft met with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Tina Schoen, and Administrative Director Kurt Lerras.

Oliver expressed the gratitude of the Assembly for the Folketing's generous contribution to the OSCE PA. As the host of the International Secretariat, Denmark is the single biggest contributor to the Assembly. Last year, the Folketing

provided newly refurbished offices in central Copenhagen, two blocks from the parliament. Oliver pointed out that the generosity of Denmark has helped the OSCE PA stay under budget for the past 19 years.

Lykketoft, a former Foreign Minister of Denmark, welcomed the important work that the OSCE PA performs in the field of election observation and in promoting parliamentary dialogue. The visit marked the Speaker's first tour of the building, which also hosts living quarters for members of the Folketing on the upper levels.

Discussions also included an exchange of views on electoral systems in the OSCE area, with Oliver noting the exceptional reputation of Denmark for holding genuinely democratic and pluralistic elections.



Speaker Lykketoft is given a tour of the International Secretariat by Secretary General Spencer Oliver.



Speaker Lykketoft, with Pernille Delarun, meets with Oliver.

Pre-electoral visit to Ukraine

Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in a pre-electoral Needs Assessment Mission to Ukraine on 22-25 May, organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The NAM, led by Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department Beata Martin-Rozumilovicz, met with a variety of interlocutors, including election officials, representatives of political parties, members of the legal community, media representatives and civil society. Dzakhaev also met with Ukrainian parliamentarian Serhiy Shevchuk, Chair of the OSCE PA's Second Committee.

The NAM was conducted in preparation for the Ukrainian parliamentary elections scheduled for 28 October 2012.

Monaco Annual Session deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for the 21st Annual Session, to be held in Monaco on 5-9 July 2012:

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| • Hotel reservations | 31 May |
| • Registration | 31 May |
| • Supplementary items | 31 May |
| • Compromise draft resolutions | 21 June |
| • Amendments to committee resolutions | 21 June |
| • Amendments to supplementary items | 28 June |

Further information on the Annual Session is available at www.oscepa.org.