

News from Copenhagen

PA urges Ukrainian Chairmanship to exceed expectations

The OSCE PA offered active input to the opening of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship last week in Vienna. Following the address on 17 January by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, who outlined his priorities for the year, Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle said that the OSCE PA is committed to making its contribution to the Helsinki +40 Working Group.

"The OSCE PA has mandated a committee to prepare our input into the process," Nothelle said. "We will also continue to help the OSCE achieve greater effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and visibility."

Nothelle further pointed out that members of parliament have been entrusted by the citizens of participating States to exercise oversight over the executive branch of government. "All in all, you will find us to be firm supporters for every effort aimed at strengthening the implementation of our common commitments in all three dimensions," he said.

Adding to these discussions, PA President Riccardo Migliori wrote an article for the *Kyiv Post* on 17 January calling on the Ukrainian Chairmanship to "exceed expectations."

"Given the chance to stand out in the international community as an established and independent world actor, Ukraine must demonstrate its potential to be a global political bridge between East and West and help the OSCE succeed on security matters where it has too often fallen short," President



Migliori wrote.

Represented by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Programme Director Anna Chernova, and the staff of the PA's Vienna Liaison Office, the Assembly participated in all events related to the Chairmanship opening, including the Regional Heads of Field Operations and Institutions Working Group sessions.

Secretary General Oliver and Amb. Nothelle also hosted a reception marking the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Office, which was attended by Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck, most Permanent Representatives of the participating States, and OSCE Secretary General Amb. Lamberto Zannier.

Vice-President Grossruck will become president of the Assembly on 15 March, according to the Rules of Procedure, due to the fact President Migliori will not seek re-election to the Italian parliament.

PA's leadership of Romanian election observation praised

The Speaker of the Parliament of Romania this week praised the expertise and objectivity of last month's election observation mission led by Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck. Speaker Valeriu Stefan Zgonea complimented the observers in letters to President Riccardo Migliori (Italy) and to Vice-President Grossruck (Austria).



is a valuable resource in monitoring elections in the OSCE area," wrote Speaker Zgonea. "We all highly valued the objective approach that you and your team displayed in this context."

Grossruck led the OSCE PA short-term observers from ten OSCE participating States who were deployed throughout Romania for the 9 December vote.

The work of the mission was met with high interest by the Romanian media. The mission's preliminary statement on the outcome of the elections was also positively assessed by members of the diplomatic community with whom the PA had closely worked.

OSCE PA to observe Armenian presidential election

The International Secretariat has circulated an invitation to the Assembly's Standing Committee for a limited election observation mission to the 18 February 2013 presidential election in Armenia. Vice-President Tonino Picula (Croatia) has been appointed by President Riccardo Migliori to lead this mission, which will be staffed by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Director of Presidential Administration Roberto

Montella and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk.

In addition, former OSCE PA Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker will re-join the Secretariat for this mission. Schoen and Sabashuk will be in Yerevan on 29-30 January to gather information about the pre-election situation in the country, as well as to prepare various logistical elements of the mission. The registration deadline for the mission is 28 January 2013.