

## Security committee leaders meet with OSCE officials in Vienna



Susanne Bratli, Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene, Asa Lindestam and Andreas Nothelle

The leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Political Affairs and Security visited the OSCE in Vienna on 30 May.

Chair Asa Lindestam (Sweden), Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli (Norway) and Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania) attended a meeting of the Permanent Council and held talks with numerous ambassadors involved in the OSCE's security work.

The delegation spoke about preparations for the upcoming Istanbul Annual Session, the future of the Helsinki +40

process, frozen conflicts and other security matters contained in the committee's draft resolution to be voted on in Istanbul.

Meetings with Ambassador Tacan Ildem, Chairman of the Security Committee and Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE, Ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis, Chairman of the Forum for Security and Cooperation and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the OSCE, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Claus Neukirch, Deputy Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, and Pierre Von Arx, Deputy Head of the Delegation of Switzerland to the OSCE for Security Policy Issues, focused on finding new instruments for dialogue in order to address urgent challenges, including resumption of arms control efforts. The interlocutors also stressed the role of MPs in all phases of the conflict cycle, in particular in mediation.

The PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle hosted the meetings, supported by the staff from the Vienna Office.

## Joao Soares to head OSCE PA delegation to Albanian elections

OSCE PA President Wolfgang Grossruck has appointed Joao Soares (Portugal) as Head of the PA Delegation observing the 23 June Albanian parliamentary elections. Soares will assist PA Special Representative for South East Europe Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), who was appointed by OSCE Chair-in-Office and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara as OSCE Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission. This mission will include the OSCE PA delegation as well as the 200-plus OSCE short-term observers seconded by OSCE participating States. The OSCE/ODIHR had requested 400 short-term observers for the mission.

The delegation headed by Soares will include approximately 50 observers from 17 countries. Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle will serve as the mission's chief of staff. Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, Senior Adviser to the Special Co-ordinator Andreas Baker and Presidential Assistant Christian Pauzenberger will support the delegation as well.

## Oliver meets with counterparts from NATO PA and PACE in Strasbourg



Spencer Oliver, Wojciech Sawicki and David Hobbs

SG Spencer Oliver met Monday in Strasbourg with his counterparts from the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and NATO. In the second of a series of ongoing meetings aimed at expanding co-operation between the three bodies, Wojciech Sawicki (PACE), David Hobbs (NATO PA) and Oliver discussed the importance of parliamentarians working together in election observation. The secretaries general also discussed good practices in conference organization and other business related to effectively communicating the common work of the assemblies.

## Transparency International Chair visits Copenhagen office

Huguette Labelle, Chair of the Board of Directors of Transparency International, visited the International Secretariat last week for a meeting with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Programme Director Anna Chernova and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina.

During the meeting, Labelle briefed the OSCE PA staff on the work of Transparency International in the OSCE region and

discussed how the OSCE PA and Transparency International can work together and complement each other in the future to promote human rights and the fight against corruption.

Secretary General Oliver informed Labelle about the activities of the OSCE PA as well as the overall work of the OSCE.

The Chair of the Danish Board of Transparency International Knut Godfredsen also participated in the meeting.