



PA President Krivokapic hosts Planning Meeting in Podgorica with Secretary General Spencer Oliver , Pres. Advisor Roberto Montella

OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic and Secretary General Spencer Oliver held consultations in Podgorica and Budva, Montenegro on 22-23 July. Krivokapic and Oliver discussed the planned activities of the OSCE PA in the coming year with a special focus on the forthcoming Autumn Meeting. The Autumn Meeting will be hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro in Budva in October.

The President plans to visit Poland, Finland, Georgia and Romania within the next two months. He has also accepted an invitation to visit Russia, probably sometime in November.

Before addressing the Kiev Ministerial Council meeting in December, the President will address the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on October 31st. In particular the President wants to focus on enhancing trust, transparency and accountability within the OSCE, including the proposal for OSCE reform put forward by

the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform, François-Xavier De Donna, which was overwhelmingly supported by the Plenary of the Istanbul Session.

President Krivokapic has decided that the OSCE PA will not deploy an election observation mission to Azerbaijan as the scheduled date for the Presidential election coincides with the Assembly's Autumn Meeting in Budva. The Assembly will however send an election observation mission to Georgia for the 27 October Presidential elections, which will take place two weeks after the Budva gathering.

The President is planning to visit the OSCE PA Secretariat on 4 September for a working meeting with the OSCE PA staff.

Presidential Advisor Roberto Montella also participated in the meetings in Podgorica and Budva.

PA Special Representative promotes Istanbul Declaration in Vienna

During the course of last week, PA Special Representative, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, delivered three briefings on the Istanbul Annual Sessions in Vienna: one to the Permanent Council on Thursday, July 18th, one for the Joint Contact Group for Mediterranean and Asian Partners on Friday, July 19th, and one informal briefing open to all, upon invitation by the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

The purpose of the briefings was to review the Istanbul Declaration and inform the delegations on results of the Annual Session. Ambassador Nothelle highlighted key resolutions and their relevance for the participating States, the Vienna-based OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Institutions. He also informed on the election of Ranko Krivokapic as President as well as other elections to

senior OSCE PA posts in the Bureau.

Ambassador Nothelle highlighted the Resolution on Enhancing Trust, Transparency and Accountability within the OSCE Institutions, which calls for increased oversight by the PA on OSCE activities and budget. This Resolution was discussed in detail in all three briefings.

Nothelle also emphasized the PA's intention to enhance co-operation within the OSCE between the Governmental structures and the Assembly. He also reported that the Assembly had decided to continue to observe the 1997 Co-operation Agreement on election observation, on the condition that all participants in the EOM begin early joint drafting of the preliminary statement on an inclusive basis with the PA, ODIHR, and other co-operating parliamentary observation missions.