

# News from Copenhagen

## Soares and Kanerva: Georgian election 'clean' and democratic



Ilkka Kanerva and Joao Soares speak to the press in Tbilisi.

In a statement delivered on Monday by Joao Soares, the Special Co-ordinator who led the short-term OSCE observer mission to the 27 October presidential election in Georgia, OSCE observers concluded that the election was efficiently administered, transparent and took place in an amicable and constructive environment. Fundamental freedoms of expression, movement and assembly were respected, and candidates were able to campaign without restriction.

“In a positive and transparent election, the Georgian people have confirmed last year’s historic transfer of power,” said Soares. “This clean election following a political cohabitation tells me that Georgia’s democracy is maturing.”

Soares (MP, Portugal), a former OSCE PA President and current Special Representative on South Caucasus, led the OSCE observers during the mission. The OSCE PA delegation, led by Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), co-operated closely during the mission with the OSCE/ODIHR and parliamentarians from PACE, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

“With yesterday’s vote, Georgia brings this cycle of elections to a close. The Georgian people can be proud of the democratic steps they have made,” said Ilkka Kanerva on Monday.

The OSCE, joined by the other parliamentary assemblies, fielded more than 400 international observers for the election, complemented by several thousand local observers. Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, an expert on Georgia and the Caucasus, was in charge of organizing the PA election observation mission, assisted by Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Special Adviser Andreas Baker, along with Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella and Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

It was the tenth election in Georgia that the OSCE PA has observed since 1995.

## Vice-President Neri speaks at OSCE Mediterranean Conference

OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri (France) represented the Parliamentary Assembly at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference held in Monaco on 28-29 October 2013. As a panelist in the second session of the conference, Vice-President Neri recalled that just over a year ago, Monaco hosted the 21st Annual Session and that the last edition of the PA’s Mediterranean Forum was held barely two weeks ago in Budva, Montenegro. Building on the experience accumulated by the OSCE PA in dealing with the issue of trafficking in human beings, Neri expressed his expectation that parliamentarians adopt measures to protect workers’ rights to avoid a worsening situation for the rights of women, migrants and children and to prevent human trafficking for

labour exploitation.

He further called on diplomats and parliamentarians to set an example by ensuring respect for these rights and referred to the relationship between the legal status of female migrant workers and their degree of protection from abuse and exploitation.

Mr. Neri was accompanied by Marc Carillet from the Vienna Liaison Office.



Alain Neri addresses the OSCE Mediterranean Conference.

## Special Rep Battelli wraps up visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Roberto Battelli (MP Slovenia), OSCE PA Treasurer and Special Representative for South East Europe, completed his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina on Friday. Accompanied by PA Special Representative in Vienna Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Battelli was received in Sarajevo by the Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ognjen Tadic. After the meeting, the delegation met with Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee Mirza Kusljagic, the head of BiH’s PA delegation Dragan

Covic, and with the Deputy Director of the BiH Agency for Statistics, which is currently conducting the first census in the country since 1991.

Other meetings in Sarajevo included a meeting with the President of the Federation of BiH Zivko Budimir, the Speakers of Parliament, Fehim Skljajic and Radoje Vidovic, and the Prime Minister, Nermin Niksic. In Konjic, Mr. Battelli addressed the OSCE’s regional seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.