

# News from Copenhagen

## President Krivokapic and Special Representative Battelli visit Sarajevo

Speaking at the 85th Rose-Roth seminar, held in Sarajevo on Tuesday, OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic highlighted the OSCE's contribution to the democratization of the Western Balkans, saying that it is up to EU politicians to complete the accession process. The theme of the seminar, organized by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was "Security and Democratization in Southeast Europe: Strengthening stability, promoting reform."

Noting that while under siege for three and a half years, Sarajevo "became the modern symbol of resistance, a symbol of the fight against the dark side of human nature."

President Krivokapic also met with Stasa Kosarac, Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dragan Durovic, Montenegro's Ambassador to BiH; Mirsada Bukarić-Kovacevic, Head of International Relations and Protocol

Department of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH; members of the Presidency of BiH; Vjekoslav Bevanda, Chairman of the Council of Ministers; Zlatko Lagumdžija, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Milorad Zivkovic, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Talks continued Wednesday with the PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia), visiting the Central Election Commission and meeting with the BiH Delegation to the PA. In his meetings, Battelli discussed upcoming elections and was updated on the current political situation, including the recent unrest in the country. He offered his ideas to the BiH delegation for a PA resolution to be introduced at the Baku Annual Session on South East Europe. Battelli and Krivokapic also met with Amb. Fletcher Burton, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH.

Battelli and Krivokapic were accompanied in Sarajevo by Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella.

## Battelli and Compagna lead election observers in Serbia



Post election press conference. Left to right: ODIHR Head of Mission Boris Frlec, Special Co-ordinator Roberto Battelli, PA Head of Mission Pedro Agramunt, OSCE PA Head of Mission Luigi Compagna.

The 16 March 2014 early parliamentary elections in Serbia offered voters a genuine choice, were conducted on a sound legal basis, and fundamental freedoms were respected throughout the campaign, international election observers said in a statement issued on behalf of the OSCE by Roberto

Battelli (MP, Slovenia), the Special Co-ordinator appointed to lead the OSCE short-term observers.

The OSCE PA observer delegation, led by Luigi Compagna (MP, Italy), included 47 parliamentarians and staff, who visited polling stations throughout the country, including extensive coverage in and around Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis, Subotica, Stara Pazova, and many small towns and villages across the country.

The OSCE PA worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR and parliamentary colleagues from the Council of Europe. The PA mission was staffed by Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk and Communications Director Richard Solash.

Gordana Comic (MP, Serbia) won re-election and will continue serving as Rapporteur of the PA's General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

## Soares to lead election observation mission to Ukraine

Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, who is currently serving as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, has appointed former PA President Joao Soares as the OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the 25 May elections in Ukraine. Political Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Makis Voridis, Head of the Hellenic Delegation to the PA, has been named by PA President Ranko Krivokapic as Head of the PA short-term observer mission to those elections.

Mr. Soares will begin this election observation project next week with a preliminary visit to Kyiv. He will be accompanied

by Mr. Voridis, who most recently observed the Serbian elections and previously served as Head of the PA election observation mission to Azerbaijan in 2013. Mr. Soares has led several OSCE PA election observation missions, including to the presidential election in Ukraine in 2010.

They will be joined by PA Vice President Ilkka Kanerva, who served as Head of the PA team for the Georgian elections in 2013, as well as Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Programme Director Anna Chernova and Communications Director Richard Solash.