

President Kanerva to hold high-level meetings in Moscow this week

PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) and Secretary General Spencer Oliver will meet this week in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Federation Council Chairperson Valentina Matviyenko, State Duma Chairperson Sergey Naryshkin, and Chair of the Russian State Duma Committee on International Affairs Aleksei Pushkov.

The situation in Ukraine, Russia's commitment to OSCE principles, the mediation role of the PA and the future of the OSCE in light of the crisis will feature in the discussions.

"I will reiterate that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is committed to doing its part in efforts to mediate the crisis. Our aim is that Russia will demonstrate genuine commitment

to de-escalation and respect for its neighbour's sovereignty," Kanerva said.

The visit to Moscow follows a debate that Kanerva addressed in the Finnish Parliament on 2 September in which he argued that Russian military actions not only jeopardize the stability of Ukraine, but also European security and stability as a whole. He lamented that in ceasefire negotiations, the sides seem to be "talking past each other."

The PA delegation also includes Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev, Communications Director Richard Solash, and Gunilla Carlander, Secretary of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE PA.

OSCE PA and RIAC finalize programme for first Helsinki +40 seminar



L-R: Alexander Eliseev, Ivan Timofeev, Natalia Evtikhevich, Anton Tsvetov, Semyon Dzakhaev and Spencer Oliver

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev, and Communications Director Richard Solash visited the office of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) in Moscow on Wednesday to finalize logistics for the first seminar of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project, to be hosted by RIAC in the Russian capital on 25 September. Representing RIAC in the meeting were Programme Co-ordinator Alexander Eliseev, Programme Director Ivan Timofeev, Programme Manager Natalia Evtikhevich, and Media and Government Relations Manager Anton Tsvetov.

Participants agreed on the final programme for the seminar, which will feature the presentation of papers by Andrey Zagorsky, Head of Department at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) at the

Russian Academy of Science, and Javier Ruperez, longtime Spanish diplomat and OSCE expert. The participants in the meeting also discussed the venue for the seminar, press coverage and planning for future Helsinki +40 Project events.

Led by former PA President and current Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE Joao Soares, the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project seeks to evaluate the OSCE's past, present and future in a series of seminars in Russia, the United States, Sweden and Finland. Through the engagement of distinguished experts, politicians and diplomats who have been involved in CSCE/OSCE activities, the Project will provide important food-for-thought materials and recommendations for the OSCE participating States and the Organization as a whole as it pursues reform on the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in August 2015.

Following the RIAC seminar in Moscow later this month, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) will host the second seminar in mid-November 2014. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) will host the third leg of the Project in early spring 2015, and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) will host the final Helsinki +40 Colloquium in Helsinki in July 2015 on the eve of the 2015 PA Annual Session.

Psycharis appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration

Andreas Psycharis (MP, Greece) has been appointed by Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva as Special Representative on Migration, succeeding Makis Voridis who was appointed Health Minister of Greece in June.

A career diplomat who was elected to the Parliament of Greece in May 2012, Psycharis serves in Parliament on the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice; and the Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad. As the PA's Special Representative on Migration, Psycharis is mandated to follow the situation and prepare

reports regarding migration movements with a view towards promoting discussion and awareness on migration issues within the OSCE PA. He will serve as the focal point for the Assembly's participation in events related to migration, and will communicate with relevant actors within the OSCE that work on issues related to migration.

Further, he is tasked with suggesting specific lines of action that the OSCE and Member Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may undertake to better address migration issues.