

Onen and Dade lead OSCE election observers in Moldova



OSCE Special Co-ordinator Emin Onen and PA Delegation Head Arta Dade speak to the media outside a Chisinau polling station.

The 30 November parliamentary elections were characterized by a wide choice of political alternatives and were generally well administered, although the deregistration of one electoral contestant shortly before election day raised questions about the timing and circumstances, international election observers said in a statement issued Monday.

“A largely well-run election offered voters the opportunity to choose their preferred candidates and even geopolitical aspirations, which was at the heart of the campaign,” said Emin Onen (MP, Turkey), Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission. “That said, the late

removal of a highly visible party from the ballot cast a shadow over the final days.”

Arta Dade (MP, Albania), Head of the OSCE PA delegation, said: “Thousands of people worked hard to make yesterday’s election come together, and I applaud the efforts of the polling station workers. The failure for several hours yesterday of the electronic voter’s register was an unfortunate glitch to an otherwise smoothly run election day. The effective work particularly by women in running the elections yesterday is a sign that women can play a larger role in parliament and governing.”

The PA delegation included 63 participants, of which 48 were MPs, from 26 countries. OSCE PA Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk, and Research Assistant Astrid Loury staffed the mission.

OSCE Special Co-ordinator Emin Onen has served as a Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2013. Arta Dade is the Head of Albania’s Delegation to the OSCE PA.

PA leadership meeting in Basel ahead of Ministerial Council

The OSCE PA Bureau is meeting Wednesday in Basel, Switzerland, on the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Following opening remarks by OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva and the Acting Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Christine Egerszegi-Obrist, Bureau members will hear reports by the Treasurer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Roberto Battelli, Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and from the leaders of recent election observation missions to Moldova, the United States, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Joao Soares, Chairperson of the Transparency and Reform ad hoc Committee and of the Helsinki +40 Project, will report on the progress of this Project, including the recent preparatory visit to Stockholm. Members will also hear a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure Peter Bowness and reports on the preparations for upcoming Assembly meetings.

President Kanerva will address the Ministerial Council on Thursday and has several high-level bilateral meetings scheduled over the next two days in Basel.

Parliamentary Assembly Secretaries General meet in Brussels



L to R: Wojciech Sawicki, David Hobbs and Spencer Oliver

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver met in Brussels on Tuesday with his counterparts from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

The fourth in a series of consultations between the senior parliamentary officials, which began on the initiative of Oliver in 2012, the meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on parliamentary practices and co-ordinate calendars to avoid scheduling overlaps to the greatest extent possible.

The Brussels meeting was hosted by David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, and included Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of PACE, Klaus Welle, Secretary General of the European Parliament, and Oliver. They discussed ongoing co-operation in the field of election observation, including recent experiences in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and Moldova. Other topics of discussion included internal personnel practices, particularly the election of senior officials of the parliamentary assemblies, and comparative budgetary practices.

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine was also a topic of conversation, including the responses and initiatives of the assemblies related to the situation in the country. They agreed to continue ongoing consultations and communication with each other and scheduled the next meeting, which will take place in mid-2015 in Copenhagen.