

News from Copenhagen

Mariani and Voisin hold high-level meetings in Turkmenistan



Michel Voisin and Thierry Mariani (right) meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov.



Thierry Mariani (left) with the Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan Akdja Nurberdiyeva.

Thierry Mariani and Michel Voisin, the OSCE PA's Special Representatives for Central Asia and for Afghanistan, respectively, concluded a four-day visit to Turkmenistan on Tuesday, which included meetings with the Foreign Minister, the Chairperson of the Mejlis, representatives of the international community, and others.

Aimed at continuing and reinforcing the engagement between Turkmenistan and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly through multifaceted dialogue, the visit opened new co-operation opportunities for the PA and Turkmenistan, Mariani noted. The delegation was briefed on the latest legislative changes and on the upcoming modifications to the constitution, with Mariani noting the importance of these changes being carried out in practice.

Meetings were held with Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan; Akdja Nurberdiyeva, Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan; Turkmenistan's delegation to the OSCE PA; the Chairman of the CEC, Gulmyrat Myradov; and representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court.

From the international community's presence in

Turkmenistan, Mariani and Voisin met with Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat Ivo Petrov, UN Resident Co-ordinator and Resident Representative Jacinta Barrins, UNRCCA Deputy Head of Mission Fedor Klimtchouk, and the public organization Keik Okara. The PA's delegation also attended the official celebrations of the Neutrality Day of Turkmenistan on 12 December.

On 16 December a training session was organized by the OSCE Centre and the OSCE PA International Secretariat for the delegation of Turkmenistan to the PA. The session included a special briefing on the modalities of the Assembly's work conducted by Programme Officer Maria Chepurina

Mariani and Voisin, both members of the French Delegation to the PA, noted that all meetings demonstrated an overall readiness of the leadership to working together with the OSCE and to engaging in dialogue to pursue reforms beneficial for the country. The visit, coming a year after the PA's first election assessment field visit to the country, demonstrated evidence of goodwill and willingness to co-operate, Mariani pointed out.

Mariani and Voisin expressed their appreciation for the OSCE Centre's support throughout the visit.

Season's Greetings from the OSCE PA Secretary General



"As another successful year draws to a close, I'd like to extend my warmest holiday wishes to Members of the Assembly, my staff at the International Secretariat, and colleagues in the OSCE's offices throughout the OSCE area.

"A special thanks goes out to our parliamentarians for their dedication and engagement throughout the year, and I would like to also commend my staff on their hard work in service of the OSCE's mandate and values.

"I look forward to a busy and fruitful 2015."

-- OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver

Dates set for 2015 Assembly meetings

The following dates have been set for Assembly meetings in the coming year:

- Winter Meeting, Vienna, 18-20 February
- Bureau Meeting, Copenhagen, 26-27 April
- Annual Session, Helsinki, 6-10 July
- Autumn Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, 16-18 September
- Bureau Meeting, Belgrade, 2 December