

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 569 Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

3 June 2015

Special Representatives Battelli and Nothelle visit South East Europe



Roberto Battelli (right) meeting with officials at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia), the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, is on a visit to the region this week, meeting in Belgrade on Monday with Serbian parliamentary leaders including National Assembly Deputy Speaker Vladimir Marinkovic, PA Delegation Head Dijana Vukomanovic, PA Third Committee Rapporteur Gordana Comic, and PA Delegation Members Meho Omerovic and Irena Aleksic. On Tuesday, Battelli, who is accompanied by the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, visited the Administrative Border Line and

met with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Amb. Jean-Claude Schlumberger, at the mission's headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština.

On Wednesday, Battelli and Nothelle met with several Kosovo leaders, including Enver Hoxhaj, Atifete Jahjaga, and Teuta Sahatqija, as well as representatives of the international community. The visit continues Thursday and Friday with meetings in Skopje at the OSCE Mission, and with the PA Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as other parliamentary and governmental leaders.

Harstedt represents PA at ODIHR seminar on national human rights institutions

OSCE PA Vice-President Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden) represented the Assembly at the ODIHR-organized Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw on Tuesday. The event focused on the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting human rights in the OSCE area.

Harstedt spoke about the importance of national parliaments co-operating with NHRIs, noting that the OSCE PA has long encouraged such work. He shared examples of best practices

within the OSCE region, such as the British Parliament's Human Rights Committee, as well as details on the Swedish model. He called for NHRIs themselves to push for increased parliamentary co-operation, noting that parliaments are well-equipped to facilitate changes in national human rights practices. One possibility Harstedt suggested is for parliaments to hold "Human Rights Days" as joint ventures between parliamentarians and NHRIs.

Head of Portuguese OSCE PA Delegation Silva visits Secretariat



L-R: Adao Silva, Spencer Oliver and Gustavo Pallares

The Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA, Adao Silva, visited the International Secretariat Wednesday for a meeting with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares. Topics included the preparations for the Annual Session in Helsinki next month and the supplementary items that have been submitted for consideration. They also discussed the current political situation in Portugal and upcoming elections in Denmark.

Ukrainian Chargé d'Affaires meets with OSCE PA Secretary General



Andriy Biriuchenko meeting with Spencer Oliver

Ukraine's Chargé d'Affaires in Denmark, Andriy Biriuchenko, visited the OSCE PA International Secretariat Tuesday to meet with Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The Chargé provided an update on the situation in Ukraine. The sides also discussed supplementary items put forward by the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA for consideration at the upcoming Annual Session, which will be held on 5-9 July in Helsinki.