

News from Copenhagen

Members of Danish Delegation visit International Secretariat



Members of the OSCE PA Danish Delegation (left) at the Assembly's International Secretariat on 29 March.

Members of Denmark's OSCE PA Delegation, including Head of Delegation Peter Juel Jensen and Deputy Head Orla Hav, as well as Rene Gade and Malte Larsen, visited the International Secretariat on 29 March to discuss ongoing and upcoming PA work. Secretary of Delegation Eva Esmarch and Co-Secretary Charlotte Faber also participated in the visit, which included meetings with Secretary General Roberto Montella and PA staff.

Discussions focused on the governance of the Parliamentary Assembly and its relationship with the Organization's executive structures, as well as the upcoming spring Bureau meeting of the OSCE PA, which is held every year at the Danish Parliament (Folketinget).

Secretary General Montella offered the Assembly's sincere gratitude for the generosity of the Danish Parliament in having hosted the OSCE PA International Secretariat since 1993, and briefed the parliamentarians on his efforts to modernize the Secretariat to further improve the way it supports OSCE PA Members. He underlined that his guiding principle is

impartiality and that he aims to strengthen the Secretariat by instituting a number of internal reforms. Teamwork and flexibility will continue to be key components of the Secretariat's work, he said.

Other topics of discussion included the OSCE PA's election observation activities, the upcoming Annual Session in Tbilisi, Georgia, and next week's Bureau meeting in Copenhagen. Montella welcomed the active participation of Danish MPs in all Assembly activities, including during the busy election observation schedule for the months ahead, with observation missions foreseen in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belarus, Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States.

Jensen noted satisfaction with the Assembly's improved relations with the OSCE governmental side. Other Members of the Delegation underlined the importance to Denmark of hosting the OSCE PA and expressed interest in maintaining and expanding on the Danish Delegation's involvement in the Assembly.

OSCE PA team pays working visit to Germany for meetings with Treasurer



Left to right: Gustavo Pallares, Kurt Lerras and Doris Barnett

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Administrative Director Kurt Lerras and Accounting Consultant Merete Andreassen paid a working visit to Germany on 31 March to meet with OSCE PA Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) for discussions on budgetary matters. Montella and colleagues briefed the Treasurer on the OSCE PA's finances, which remain in good health, and discussed proposals for the draft budget for the fiscal year 2016/2017, which Barnett will present on 11 April at the OSCE PA Bureau meeting in Copenhagen.

Particular focus was paid to the changing financial needs of the Assembly in view of its statutory meetings, evolving

staff requirements and management changes, and its ongoing activities in the areas of election observation and field visits. Following Barnett's presentation of the draft budget to the Bureau, it will be finalized for consideration by the OSCE PA's Standing Committee at the 25th Annual Session this summer in Tbilisi.

Treasurer Barnett commended the International Secretariat for the efficient and cost-effective way it operates, which enables a high level of activities despite the fact that the OSCE PA's budget is much smaller than similar organizations.

PA leadership to meet in Copenhagen

The Assembly's Bureau will meet in Copenhagen on 11 April to discuss reports by the OSCE PA President, Treasurer, Secretary General, rapporteurs of the general committees, special representatives, and leaders of election observation missions and ad hoc committees. Members will also hear reports on ongoing preparations for upcoming meetings, including this summer's Annual Session.