

Vice-President Guliyev addresses nuclear conference, holds meetings in Kazakhstan



Azay Guliyev and György Szabo (left) meet with Nurlan Nigmatulin and OSCE PA Member Kuanysh Sultanov, 30 August.

OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan) was in Astana, Kazakhstan, this week, where he addressed the international conference “Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World,” and held bilateral meetings with the Chairmen of the Senate and Majlis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev – who also serves as Head of Kazakhstan’s OSCE PA Delegation – and Nurlan Nigmatulin.

In meetings Tuesday, Guliyev expressed appreciation to Tokayev and Nigmatulin for the strong role that the Kazakh

Parliament plays in the OSCE PA and discussed prospects for continued co-operation. The sides also discussed how to further consolidate co-operation between OSCE PA and all Central Asian countries, with the Kazakh parliamentarians expressing firm political will to further develop their relationship and deepen co-operation with the OSCE PA.

The Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, Ambassador György Szabo, also attended the meetings.

In his address Monday to the “Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World” conference, Guliyev expressed the OSCE PA’s support for achieving a world free from the dangers of nuclear weapons. He noted that at its Annual Session Tbilisi in July, the PA “expressed our clear support for the start next year of United Nations-facilitated deliberations and negotiations on multilateral nuclear disarmament.”

The conference, which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan, took place in the Kazakh capital on 28-29 August.

Special Coordinator Harstedt continues pre-electoral work in Belarus, meets with President



Kent Harstedt (right) meets with Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk, 30 August.

OSCE PA Vice-President Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden), who has been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE’s short-term observer mission for the 11 September parliamentary elections in Belarus, continued his pre-electoral work this week by meeting with President Alexander Lukashenko,

Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Mikhail Myasnikovich, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei.

In the discussions, Harstedt encouraged greater public space and more initiatives for pluralism and democracy, while the Belarusian side expressed readiness to discuss any topical issues with the OSCE. Also participating in the meeting with Lukashenko was Tana De Zulueta, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission.

The visit to Minsk followed up on a pre-electoral visit earlier this month, in which Harstedt met with a range of officials including the Chairperson of the CEC, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Head of the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and the Deputy Foreign Minister.

OSCE PA Secretariat reinforcing election co-operation with partners

The OSCE PA is hosting officials this week from the OSCE/ODIHR, PACE, European Parliament, and NATO PA for an election observation brainstorming retreat north of Copenhagen. Including the participation of OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link, PACE Secretary General Wojciech Sawicki, NATO PA Secretary General David Hobbs, and European Parliament Director of the Directorate for Democracy Support Pietro Ducci, the two-day session is intended to address questions related to the overall aims of election observation and explore ways to enhance co-operation and the final delivery of the election observation exercise. Participants are also discussing practical matters including possibilities for early exchange of calendars for observation and follow-up activities.

Last week, the PACE communications team in Strasbourg hosted Poulain and Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry, together with the communications staff of NATO PA, for two days of meetings regarding communications strategies. PACE provided a thorough briefing on its communications toolbox and all three teams agreed to strengthen their co-operation going forward.



Elections teams of the OSCE PA, PACE, EP, NATO PA and ODIHR in Helsingor, Denmark, 31 August.