

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA to observe elections in Albania and Mongolia



Roberto Battelli



Marietta Tidei

The OSCE PA will deploy election observers to Albania and Mongolia for upcoming votes later this month. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, has appointed OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) to serve as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission to Albania and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security Guglielmo Picchi (MP, Italy) to serve as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission to Mongolia.

The OSCE PA election observation mission for the 25 June parliamentary elections in Albania will be led by Marietta Tidei (MP, Italy), who serves as Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment. Head of the OSCE PA's Greek Delegation Georgios Varenenos will lead OSCE

parliamentary observers for the 26 June presidential election in Mongolia. In Albania, the PA will work closely with partners from OSCE/ODIHR, PACE, and the European Parliament. In Mongolia, the PA will work with OSCE/ODIHR and the European Parliament. The OSCE/ODIHR mission to Albania is led by Amb. Peter Tejler, while Amb. Geert-Hinrich Ahrens leads OSCE/ODIHR's mission to Mongolia.

The Mongolia mission will mark the first time for the OSCE PA observing an election in that country.

On 24-27 May, OSCE PA Head of Administration for Election Observation Iryna Sabashuk participated in an OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission to Kyrgyzstan for an upcoming presidential election. Further information on the OSCE PA's election observation activities for the Kyrgyzstan election will be announced in due time.



Guglielmo Picchi



Georgios Varenenos

OSCE PA delegation meets with leaders in Turkey



OSCE PA delegation with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, 7 June 2017.

PA Vice-President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) is leading a senior delegation of four Members of the Assembly on a diplomatic visit to Turkey this week, meeting with government officials, parliamentary leaders, leaders of opposition parties and representatives of civil society. In addition to Tsereteli, Vice-President Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan), and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PA's human rights committee, Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain) Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), and Secretary General Roberto Montella are contributing to the work of the delegation.

The visit is intended as a follow-up to an earlier visit last summer in the wake of the failed coup in July 2016 and included meetings today with Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Ismail Kahraman, Deputy Prime Minister

Numan Kurtulmus, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdog and Members of the OSCE PA delegation. Members noted the extraordinary challenges faced by Turkey, including from terrorism, large migration flows, and the aftermath of the July 2016 failed coup. They also noted the government's ambition to bring the current state of emergency to a close when possible and called for full transparency and due process in the country's efforts to deal with the aftermath of the coup and terror threats.

Earlier in the week, the OSCE PA delegation met with a range of representatives of civil society, including experts on media issues. Meetings continue Thursday with leaders of the parties represented in the Turkish parliament: the Republican People's Party, the Peoples' Democratic Party, and the Nationalist Movement Party.

In August 2016, President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) led a delegation to Turkey, expressing solidarity with the Turkish people one month after the coup attempt.

The delegation this week also includes OSCE PA Chief of the Executive Office Andreas Baker, and Mary Albon, Senior Adviser from the Office of the OSCE Secretary General.