

News from Copenhagen

Meeting with PA Treasurer focuses on finances, preparation for Bureau meeting

In Berlin on 20 March the Assembly's Treasurer, German parliamentarian Doris Barnett, met with OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, and Chief of Administration and Finance Marieta Samac to prepare the OSCE PA's draft budget for 2018-2019. Treasurer Barnett welcomed the ongoing commitment to the modernization of the International Secretariat through implementing effective management principles. This, she said, is in line with the efforts of national legislatures to minimize expenses and remain within objectives of austerity and accountability.

The Secretary General briefed the Treasurer on the streamlining of administration, finance, human resources and procurement, including by ensuring that human and material resources are administered in accordance with the OSCE PA Staff Rules and Financial Regulations recently adopted by the OSCE PA's Standing Committee.

Barnett noted that the PA's finances are in good order



and welcomed once again the positive assessment by the outside independent professional auditor. She stressed that to be successful, the PA should combine efforts with other international organizations, underlining that achieving solutions is the ultimate aim of the OSCE work and should be actively pursued.

The Treasurer will present a detailed report to the Assembly's Bureau meeting taking place in Copenhagen on 16 April. The draft budget will be presented to the Standing Committee for approval on 7 July.

OSCE PA's de Sena and Kiener Nellen to lead election observers in Azerbaijan



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will deploy a delegation of observers to Azerbaijan next week for the presidential election on 11 April. Nilza de Sena (MP, Portugal) will serve as Special Co-ordinator, leading the short-term OSCE mission

of more than 300 observers, while Margret Kiener Nellen (MP, Switzerland) will serve as head of the OSCE PA delegation of some 40 members of parliament from more than 20 countries.

Nilza de Sena is Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, a position she has held since 2016. Previously, she served three years as Vice-Chair of the committee. Kiener Nellen is the Head of Switzerland's Delegation to the OSCE PA.

For the 11 April election, the PA will be working closely with the mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), led by Ambassador Corien Jonker, and with colleagues from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The joint findings of the observers will be delivered at a press conference in Baku on 12 April.

OSCE SG Greninger meets with members of PA's Russian Delegation in Moscow

OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greninger met with members of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA, led by Petr Tolstoi, in Moscow on Tuesday. The sides discussed the divisions that are evident among OSCE countries, with SG Greninger noting that these are reminiscent of times we thought we had long overcome. He said there is more focus on deterrence than dialogue, which is where the OSCE, including its Parliamentary Assembly, can play a role.

Tolstoi stressed the importance of the OSCE in today's security climate and agreed that more needs to be done to rebuild trust amid the current tensions.

Re-establishing trust, the sides said, is important not only

within politics and institutions, but also between participating States, to ensure their ability to work together in addressing common challenges.

