

News from Copenhagen

Sanchez Amor completes two-day visit to Turkey ahead of 24 June elections



Ignacio Sanchez Amor meeting with Vatan (Patriotic) Party representatives Hasan Korkmazcan and Ismail Yunus Soner, Istanbul, 4 June 2018



Ignacio Sanchez Amor pays respects to the victims of the attempted coup of July 2016, at Edirnekapi Cemetery in Istanbul, 4 June 2018

Ignacio Sanchez Amor (Spain), the Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission to the early parliamentary and presidential elections taking place in Turkey later this month, concluded a two-day visit to Istanbul on Tuesday. Meetings were held with representatives of the Justice and Development Party, Republican People's Party, Nationalist Movement Party, People's Democratic Party, Good Party, and the Patriotic Party, as well as NGOs, analysts, and journalists.

The visit also included a meeting with HDP's presidential candidate Selahattin Demirtaş in Edirne's high security prison and a visit to Edirnekapi Cemetery, where Sanchez Amor paid respects to those who lost their lives during the attempted coup of July 2016.

Topics of discussion included the state of emergency that has been in force in Turkey since 2016. Sanchez Amor noted that security and media issues were of concern to several

interlocutors, and issues to which election observers should pay close attention.

Sanchez Amor also discussed with interlocutors the general election environment including any challenges that exist to campaigning, campaign activities both inside and outside of Turkey, and the climate for journalists and election observers. He urged all stakeholders to refrain from any forms of violence or intimidation ahead of the elections.

As Special Co-ordinator, Sanchez Amor leads the OSCE's short-term observer mission to the elections. He will deliver the observers' preliminary post-election statement on 25 June in Ankara. Peter Osusky (Slovakia) will serve as the Head of Mission for the 60 OSCE PA observers. The PA will work closely with observers from the OSCE/ODIHR and in co-ordination with colleagues from PACE.

The visit to Turkey was supported by OSCE PA Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani.

Current and former OSCE PA Presidents hold meetings in Warsaw and Moscow

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) met in Warsaw this week with OSCE/ODIHR Director Ingibjorg Solrun Gisladottir for discussions that focused on co-operation in a range of areas, including election observation. Tsereteli was accompanied by Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat.

Also this week, President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva (Finland) participated in the International Forum for the

Development of Parliamentarianism in Moscow. Taking part in the session "Strengthening International Security – the Role of Parliaments," Kanerva met with Russian officials on the margins, including Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin. Topics of discussion included developments in Ukraine and the importance of implementing the Minsk Agreements.

Kanerva served as PA President from 2014 to 2016 and is currently Special Representative on Mediation.

OSCE PA's conference team visits Berlin to prepare for Annual Session next month



OSCE PA staff visited Berlin last week in preparation for the 27th Annual Session being held 7-11 July in the German capital. The five-member OSCE PA preparatory team held discussions with counterparts at the German Bundestag on practical, technical and logistical matters and reported that preparations

are proceeding well.

The Annual Session is being held under the theme "Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments" and will include high-level speeches and debates. Reports and draft resolutions for the three committees are posted at www.oscepa.org. Valid supplementary items will be posted as they become available.

Delegations are kindly reminded of the upcoming deadlines:

- Amendments to the three general committee draft resolutions: **23 June**
- Amendments to supplementary items: **30 June**