OSCE PA Democracy Team Visits Kosovo

From 25-29 October 2000, four OSCE Parliamentarians, Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Democracy Team on Kosovo, visited Kosovo to continue their work to further democratic development. The Team, headed by Assembly Vice-President Dr Rita Süssmuth, MP (Germany), also included Vice-President, Senator Tana de Zulueta, (Italy), Mrs. Elisabeth Meijer, MP (Netherlands) and Mrs. Grethe Fossum, MP (Norway).

During their stay the parliamentarians visited Pristina, Prizren, Gracanica and Dragash and held meetings with representatives of the international community, leaders of political parties and media representatives.

The main purpose of the visit was to follow-up on the first visit to Kosovo by the Democracy Team on 12-15 August 2000. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established its Kosovo Democracy Team to concentrate especially on helping to build civic society by promoting dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the population in Kosovo. During their second visit to Kosovo the parliamentarians focused in particular on furthering the involvement of women and youth in politics, as well as the development of free and critical media.

The Delegation also had the opportunity to follow the Municipal elections in Kosovo on 28 October 2000. Senator de Zulueta and Mrs. Fossum visited several polling stations in the area around Pec/Peja, whilst Mrs. Süssmuth and Mrs. Meijer visited the areas around Pristina and Gnjilane/Gjilan respectively. The Team regarded the local elections as an important element in the building of democratic institutions and civic society in Kosovo and therefore of great significance in relation to the future work of the Team.

President Severin to address Ministerial Council

President Severin will address the Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, which will be held on 27 and 28 November 2000. Prior to the Ministerial Council Meeting the Bureau of the Assembly will hold its meeting in Vienna on Sunday, 26 November in the Austrian Parliament.

The meeting of the Bureau will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau Working Group on the Rules of Procedure. Bureau Members will be able to join President Severin as part of the delegation of the OSCE PA to the Ministerial Council Meeting.

OSCE PA Representation at Nordic Council Session

Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen, Deputy Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE PA, will represent the Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Nordic Council, which will take place from 6-8 November 2000 in Reykjavik.