

News from Copenhagen

Number 18

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

19 January 2001

Kosovo Committee meets in Berlin

On 17-18 January 2001 the OSCE PA ad hoc Committee on Kosovo, chaired by Vice-President Dr Rita Süßmuth, met in Berlin to evaluate the work already done by the Team and to prepare for further actions. The Team was welcomed in Berlin by President of the German Bundestag Wolfgang Thierse and Dr. Gunter Pleuger, Secretary of State at the Foreign Office. The Kosovo Team Members Vice-President Tana de Zulueta, Mrs. Elisabeth Meijer and Mrs. Grethe Fossum participated in the meetings which included extensive briefings by experts from German ministries the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and various international organizations, including UNHCR, UN and Red Cross. The main topics discussed were the situation of minorities and the conditions for general elections in Kosovo, refugee problems in South-Eastern Europe, trauma and reconciliation projects, youth unemployment and the situation of women, children and young people in Kosovo as well as problems and prospects for business in Kosovo. The meeting was attended by Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väinänen and Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer, of the International Secretariat

President Severin on Second Working visit to Copenhagen

From 14 - 17 January 2001 President Severin paid a second working visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen to discuss upcoming meetings of the Assembly's leadership, schedules for presidential visits, the preparations for the Paris Annual Session and other activities of the Assembly. Whilst in Copenhagen Mr. Severin met with the new Head, Mrs. Jytte Andersen, a former minister, and other members of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He also met with Danish Foreign Minister Mogens Lykketoft and the Chair of the Danish Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms Inger Marie Bruum-Voerø. Mr. Severin informed his

interlocutors on his recent visit to the Balkans and his experiences in leading the OSCE observation of the Serbian elections as Special Representative of the Chairman-

in-Office. Furthermore views were exchanged on the impact of the priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship on the work of the Assembly.



President Severin and Danish Foreign Minister, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft



President Severin and the Staff of the International Secretariat in Copenhagen

Further Activities in January

On 22-23 January President Severin and Secretary General Spencer Oliver will participate in the OSCE Ministerial Troika Meeting and the preceding Meeting of the OSCE Heads of Mission in Bucharest

On 22 January Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev will travel to Lisbon to discuss preparations for the OSCE PA Seminar in Portugal this fall.

On 22-24 January Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väinänen will attend the 2001 Ordinary Session of Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg, where he will also meet with several Secretaries of OSCE PA delegations who will also be in attendance.

On 25 January Vice President Ihor Ostash will moderate the Second Round Table on Elections in Astana, Kazakhstan. Mr. Ostash will be accompanied by Program Officer Mr. Paul LeGendre

On 27 January Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, Conference Co-ordinator Gina Dark and General Services Officer Kurt Andersen will travel to Paris to further prepare for the 10th Annual Session in July.

On 30 January President Severin will deliver a key note speech at the opening plenary session of the OSCE Economic Forum 2001 in Brussels.