

News from Copenhagen

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Bucharest 21-23 January

Prior to the opening of the Heads of Missions meeting, Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Research Co-ordinator Tina Schön spent Sunday working with President Severin and his staff in the OSCE PA presidential offices in the Parliament of Romania.

President Severin, Secretary General Oliver and Research Co-ordinator Schön participated in a working dinner with Chairman-in-Office Romanian Foreign Minister Geoana, Romanian OSCE Office Director Ambassador Ene and the Chairman of the Permanent Council Ambassador Bota on Sunday night. They discussed forms of co-operation and co-ordination between the governmental side of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly

The new Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mr. Christian Dumitrescu, hosted a dinner for the Secretary General with the Members of the Romanian Delegation to the Assembly on January 23.

President Severin Addresses Heads of OSCE Missions

On Monday 22 January 2001, President Adrian Severin addressed the Heads of Missions at their meeting in Bucharest. Mr. Severin, noting the continuing support of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for OSCE Field Activities, told the Mission Heads "that by far the most important part of the OSCE's work is that of the Missions. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly are very interested in the OSCE field work and the ones who have visited the field are impressed with the work and the dedication of the OSCE field staff." Mr. Severin also stressed that the OSCE PA is ready to increase its co-operation with the Missions. By getting more involved in OSCE field work, Members of Parliament can

help provide a communication link to indigenous governments and parliaments and help increase support for the work of the Missions. At the end of his address, President Severin expressed his hope "that you (Heads of Missions) will see visits of parliamentarians as an opportunity to create another link through which political or practical problems can be raised with the OSCE and the parliaments of the OSCE participating States."

Heads of OSCE Missions welcomed the Assembly's field activities, particularly the hard work of the OSCE PA ad Hoc Working Groups. Several Heads of Missions praised the work already done by parliamentarians in Albania, Belarus and Moldova and

asked for increased contacts between their Missions and Members of Parliament, stressing that more visits to the Field could be very helpful to them in their efforts.

The Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana noted the need for good co-operation between the two branches of the OSCE and welcomed the presence of President Severin and Secretary General Spencer Oliver. During the meeting, Mr. Oliver discussed ways in which parliamentarians have been helpful to the Missions in carrying out their important work. Research Co-ordinator Ms. Tina Schön also participated in the meeting of the OSCE Heads of Missions.

OSCE Ministerial Troika Meeting

President Adrian Severin participated in the OSCE Ministerial Troika Meeting, which was held in Bucharest on Tuesday 23 January 2001, including the Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mircea Geoana, Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama and Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs Albert Rohan. The Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Spencer Oliver also participated in the Troika meeting along with the Secretary General of the OSCE Ján Kubiš, Director of the ODIHR Ambassador Stoudmann and Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Tom Price. During the meeting, current issues of concern to the OSCE were discussed, particularly the situation in the Fed-



President Severin and the OSCE Troika

eral Republic of Yugoslavia, regional issues in the Caucasus as well as the situation in Moldova and Belarus. The Heads of OSCE Missions in each of these countries briefed the Troika on the present situation. Mr. Geoana remarked that the

fortunate coincidence bringing the Romanian Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Romanian Presidency of its Parliamentary Assembly into the leadership at the same time will help increase co-operation between the two branches of the OSCE.