

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Mr. Jacques Floch takes up post in the French Government

Following his appointment to serve in the French Government as Secrétaire d'Etat à la Défense chargé des Anciens Combattants, the Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Jacques Floch is leaving the French parliament and hence the French Delegation to the OSCE PA. On behalf of the Assembly President Severin congratulated Mr. Floch on his appointment and praised him for his active leadership in the Second Committee including his highly appreciated initiatives in organizing the Monaco and Nantes conferences on Sub-regional Co-operation.



Secretary Generals Oliver and Kubiš Meet in Vienna

On the invitation of OSCE Secretary General Ján Kubiš, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen met in Vienna with Mr. Kubiš and other senior OSCE officials on Tuesday 2 October to discuss improving communication and co-ordination between the two International Secretariats. Mr. Oliver also met with the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Liviu Bota of Romania, who also attended a working lunch hosted by Secretary General Kubiš. During subsequent meetings in Mr. Kubiš' office, discussions were held about co-operation with the new ad hoc committee on transparency and accountability, about better information exchange and about the need for a greater presence in Vienna of officials of the OSCE PA Secretariat. Recent misunderstandings were clarified and all present agreed that future close co-operation will be the result of the visit.

Stability Pact Troika Meeting in Brussels

On 17 and 18 September, in the framework of the troika for parliamentary co-operation in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, parliamentarians from 30 countries invited by the European Parliament and the Stability Pact met in Brussels to debate major topics related to Parliamentary Contribution to Stability in South Eastern Europe, its economic reconstruction and development and the fight against organized crime. The parliamentary troika, currently under the chairmanship of the European Parliament (EP), is formed by the EP and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - formed by President Adrian Severin, Vice-President Ahmet Tan, the Vice-Chair of the 1st General Committee Mr. Yiorgos Lillikas, and Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, member of the Belgian Delegation - actively contributed to the Conference. President Severin addressed the opening session and chaired the two first sessions of the Conference. In his speech Mr. Severin addressed the need to further enhance the involvement of parliamentarians in the processes of the Stability Pact; he welcomed the progress made by the parliamentary troika and he called for the establishment of ad hoc parliamentary groups for the Stability Pact within each of the parliaments in the region. Mr. Severin also referred to the challenges faced by the Stability Pact and advocated an International Conference that would define, in specific terms, the basis for security and stability in the region. In his address OSCE PA Vice-President Ahmet Tan stressed the need for international co-operation in the fight against organised crime whilst emphasizing the important contribution that parliamentarians can make in addressing this issue in order to devise more synergy and co-ordinated strategies to combat these phenomena.

OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Pentti Väänänen, Paul LeGendre and Tina Schøn took turns representing the International Secretariat in the OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues, held in Warsaw from 17-27 September. Representatives of the OSCE Member States, OSCE Institutions, the Secretariat in Vienna and other international organisations, and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. The overall subjects for discussion were Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law; Tolerance and Non-Discrimination; The Human Dimension Work of the OSCE; as well as Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights. During the meetings, the members of the Secretariat informed the Implementation Meeting about the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. During the discussion of equal opportunities for men and women, Ms. Schøn informed the participants about the new initiatives taken by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in creating a Gender Unit in the Secretariat. She also mentioned the proposals, put forward during the meeting of women parliamentarians in Paris, to ensure greater gender balance within the OSCE by introducing a quota for nominations in order to ensure that one-third of all nominees and newly seconded personnel be women. Mr. LeGendre informed the Meeting about the OSCE PA Resolutions on "Prevention of Torture, Abuse, Extortion or Other Unlawful Acts" and "Abolishment of the Death Punishment" adopted in Paris in July.

Election Update: Kosovo

The OSCE PA will monitor the Elections in Kosovo on November 2001. The deadline for registering with the International Secretariat is 2 November 2001. For further information please contact Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen, on Tel. +45 33378040 or e-mail pentti@oscepa.dk