

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Joint Seminar on Democratic Control of Armed Forces

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held a joint seminar on the topic "Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security" in the Yugoslav Parliament in Belgrade on 4 and 5 November 2002. The seminar aimed to promote awareness of the parliamentary responsibilities outlined in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and to foster dialogue between parliamentarians involved in oversight of the armed forces and senior military personnel.

In his welcoming address to the Seminar, the Director of the CPC, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier emphasized that "...it is crucial to entertain regular contacts with parliaments and the relevant parliamentary Committees in order to ensure that awareness of the Code of Conduct remains high at the political level. Without any doubt, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should play a leading role in this process."

More than fifty Delegates from South-Eastern Europe, Moldova and Ukraine were also addressed by the Speaker of the Yugoslav Parliament, Dragoljub Micunovic, and heard presentations by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Bruce George, as well as by Mr. Roberto Battelli, MP (Slovenia), Mr. Mihai Stanisoara,



President Bruce George (Left) with the Speaker of the Yugoslav Parliament, Dragoljub Micunovic at the joint seminar on democratic control of armed forces.

MP (Romania), Mr. Pieter De Crem, MP (Belgium) and leading academic and military expert speakers.

During concluding discussions delegates agreed that "the role of parliaments lies in adopting an appropriate legislative basis, which would provide the necessary framework and conditions for transparency and accountability in relation to the armed, police and security forces. Parliamentary oversight should be based on the principles of constitutionality, legality and accountability."

OSCE Mediterranean Seminar

Mr. Panyiotis Kammenos, MP (Greece) and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar held in Rhodes, Greece on 4 and 5 November. This year's seminar was devoted to "The Media and New Technologies: Implications for Governments, International Organisations and Civil Society".

In his address Mr. Kammenos indicated the high importance that the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - Mr. Bruce George - attaches to Mediterranean issues. He referred to the various activities of the Assembly regarding the Mediterranean including the seminar held in Limassol, Cyprus, in September 2001 and the Parliamentary Conference on Security in the Mediterranean organised by the Assembly in Madrid last October. He continued by expressing the need of further enhancing the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE.

Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallarés who is responsible for Mediterranean affairs in the International Secretariat also participated in the Rhodes Seminar.

Notes

On 23-25 October, Programme Officer Paul LeGendre traveled to Minsk to attend a hearing of the Belarusian National Assembly on the state of rule of law in the country. The Justice Minister Viktor Golovanov and the Chair of the Constitutional Court Grigori Vasilievich addressed the National Assembly on the subject. On 29-31 October, Mr. LeGendre traveled to Astana, Kazakhstan to take part in the delegation of the Chairman-in-Office during his official visit to Kazakhstan. While in Astana, Mr. LeGendre also met with representatives of the Parliament of Kazakhstan to discuss preparations for the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum to be held in Almaty in June 2003.

OSCE Troika, Vienna

On 5 November in Vienna President Bruce George participated in the meeting of the OSCE Troika, chaired by Mr. Antonio Martins da Cruz, Foreign Minister of Portugal and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. Other participants included Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands and Mr. Mihnea Motock, Secretary of State of Romania. The agenda included developments in Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Chechnya. President George informed the Troika on current and upcoming activities of the Assembly. In addition working relations between the governmental side of the OSCE and the Assembly were discussed. President Bruce George was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, the new PA Special Representative in Vienna.

Upcoming Events

- **6-9 November 2002**
Field visit to the OSCE Office in Baku, Azerbaijan
- **11-13 November 2002**
Presidential visit to Greece
- **1 December 2002**
DEADLINE for nominations for 8th OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy
- **1-3 December 2002**
Field visit to the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- **5-7 December 2002**
PA Bureau Meeting and OSCE Ministerial Council, Porto
- **20-21 February 2003**
PA Winter Meeting, Vienna
- **14-16 May 2003**
Third OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sub-Regional Co-operation, Bern