

News from Copenhagen

Number 63

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

29 November 2002

Parliamentarians visit Secretariat in Copenhagen

On 29 November a group of Canadian parliamentarians (*see photo below*) led by Charles Caccia and including Vice-Chair of the Assembly's Third Committee, Svend Robinson, paid a working visit to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat in Copenhagen. The delegation had meetings with senior members of staff including Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Vitaly Evseyev and Pentti Väänänen. The focal points of the discussions centered around the work of the International Secretariat and the working relationship with governmental side of the OSCE.



The visit by the Canadian parliamentarians was preceded by a visit to the International Secretariat by the Head of the Norwegian Delegation, Mr. Bjørn Hernæs, on 22 November (*see photo above.*) Mr. Hernæs, who was accompanied by the Norwegian Secretary of Delegation Mr. Sverker Henrik Foyn, discussed current OSCE PA priorities with senior members of staff and showed particular interest in the OSCE activities in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the situation in Belarus



Seminar on Federalism Proposed for Moldova

The OSCE Parliamentary Team on Moldova visited the country on 18-20 November 2002. The Team was led by OSCE PA Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen, MP (Finland) and included Mr. Roberto Battelli, MP (Slovenia) and Ms. Ann-Marie Lizin, MP (Belgium). The Delegation was accompanied by Mr. Pentti Väänänen, Deputy Secretary General.

Following a meeting with Ambassador David H. Swartz, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Team had meetings in Chisinau with Mr. Vladimir Voronin, President of Moldova, Ms. Eugenia Ostapciuk, Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Vasile Tarlev, Prime Minister, and other political leaders. In Tiraspol the Team met with Mr. Igor Smirnov and Mr. Gregory Marakutca.

In all discussions the Team expressed its strong support for the new OSCE initiative to solve the dispute concerning the status of Transdnistria. Although negotiations between the parties concerned had made some progress, the Team expressed concern about the present pause in the process. In order to promote the debate aiming at solving the dispute, the Team suggests the organizing of a "Parliamentary Seminar on Federalism", to be held in Moldova early 2003. Under the proposal the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly would invite Moldovan parliamentarians and other political leaders, from both Chisinau and Tiraspol. Others, such as the Russian Duma and the Ukrainian Rada as well as the Council of Europe PA and the European Parliament, should also be invited. The Team also visited the Moldovan-Ukrainian border where border security, and the problems of smuggling and trafficking were discussed with the authorities

OSCE PA Sub-Office Opens in Vienna

Secretary General Spencer Oliver has announced the opening of the new Parliamentary Assembly Sub-Office in Vienna, headed by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, a former Secretary of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA, who has been seconded by the German Bundestag to the Assembly. Ambassador Nothelle will be assisted by Liaison Officer Kathrin Volz, a former Research Assistant in the OSCE PA Headquarters in Copenhagen. The office began its work in November, although the formal opening of the facilities will not take place until early January. The office is located very near to the Austrian Parliament and the OSCE meeting rooms in the Hofburg.

Upcoming Events

- 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...
- 24-25 April 2003, Expanded Bureau meeting in Copenhagen...
- 14-16 May 2003, Third OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sub-Regional Co-operation, Bern...
- 5-9 July 2003, Annual Session, Rotterdam.