

News from Copenhagen

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President Hastings in Rabat, Tunis and Algiers

During the week of December 8-13, President of OSCE PA, Alcee Hastings traveled for his first official visit to Mediterranean Partners in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Hastings met with high level officials in his dual role as US Congressman and President of the PA to discuss increased dialogue, participation and the strengthening of the role of the Mediterranean partners with OSCE. He also talked about the importance of naming permanent appointees of each delegation to allow for more continuity and meaningful dialogue.

The President praised the cooperative relationship between OSCE, U.S., and the respective countries and their participation during recent observation missions.

During discussions he also encouraged the partners to join

the upcoming election observation mission in Ukraine on the 26th December.

Hastings lauded the work of predecessor, Bruce George and committed himself during his tenure as president to work to increase the awareness of the Partners, not just in OSCE, but also of among his colleagues in Congress.

While in Rabat, Tunis and Algiers Mr. Hastings met with members of Parliament, various Political Committees heads and Foreign Ministers Mohammed Benaissa of Rabat and Abdelaziz Belkhadem of Algeria.

Hastings told officials, that "There is no third world, second world or first world countries; we are all here this world striving toward the same objective, peace and stability."



Foreign Minister Mohammed Benaissa of Morocco and OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings.



Members of the Tunisian Parliament and OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings.



Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem of Algeria and OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings.

OSCE Chair appoints PA Vice-President Gert Weisskirchen as Personal Representative on Combating anti-Semitism

OSCE PA Vice-President Gert Weisskirchen had been appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Personal Representative of the C-i-O on Combating anti-Semitism. Mr. Weisskirchen's mandate will be to promote better coordination of participating State's efforts aimed at the effective implementation of relevant and Permanent Council Decisions in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination. As part of the overall fight of the OSCE in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance, the Chairman-in-Office has also appointed Anastasia Crickley, Chair of European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, as his Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions. Finally the C-i-O appointed Turkish Ambassador Omur Orhun as his Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. According to his mandate Mr. Weisskirchen will cooperate and coordinate with the two other Personal Representatives as well as with the other OSCE Institutions. He will consult with the Chairmanship-in-Office in advance on all planned activities and regularly report to the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Permanent Council.

Theme for the 2005 OSCE PA Annual Session in Washington:

**30 Years Since Helsinki:
Challenges Ahead**

Security in the Mediterranean and Beyond

Rt. Hon Bruce George, President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, has recently published a volume entitled "Security in the Mediterranean and Beyond: A collection of Essays". The publication contains some fifty articles from a wide variety of authors regarding the main chapters of the book: History of the Mediterranean, Regions, Country Studies, Islands, Challenges and Relations between Euro-Atlantic Institutions and the Mediterranean. In his introduction Mr. George elaborates on the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Mediterranean security. Mr. George also expresses the hope that "some of the chapters in this volume will provide food for thought within the OSCE family and its Partners for Cooperation that may help stimulate more rapid movement towards creating a more stable and peaceful Mediterranean region and those linked regions beyond".

The publication is available at Mr. George's personal website:

www.rthonbrucegeorgemp.co.uk

The Website of the OSCE PA – www.oscepa.org – contains a link to Mr. George's Website (See page Special Representatives, Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs and click on Bruce George).