

# News from Copenhagen

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## President Hastings participates in Ministerial Troika

OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings flew from Washington to Vienna last week to participate in the first OSCE Ministerial Troika held on 14 January 2005 under the new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel of Slovenia. Belgian Foreign Minister Karel de Gucht participated in the Troika's discussions for the first time as Belgium will succeed the OSCE Chairmanship in 2006.



During the formal meeting followed by a working lunch, the C-I-O discussed his plans for the Slovenia Chairmanship. Items on the agenda included discussion of appoint-

ment of a group of eminent persons to consider the future of the OSCE, regional issues and the appointment of a successor to Secretary General Jan Kubis. The C-i-O



indicated that, although there are well qualified candidates for the position, there were great difficulties obtaining the necessary consensus. PA Secretary-General Spencer Oliver also participated in the Troika dis-

ussions. President Hastings met privately with Minister Rupel to discuss future cooperation between the Slovenian Chairmanship and the Assembly.

## PA Representatives attend Heads of Mission Meeting

On 13-14 January, Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Programme Officers Tina Schon and Paul LeGendre participated in the Annual OSCE Heads of Mission Meeting, which took place in Vienna. They also took part in the regional meetings, at which time they had an opportunity to brief the Heads of Mission on the Assembly's election observation activities as well as present and future plans of the OSCE PA Working

Groups and Special Representatives.

President Hastings met with the Heads of Mission at a reception hosted by the Slovenian Chairmanship on 13 January. He also addressed the OSCE Heads of Mission at a joint meeting with the participating States on 14 January. President Hastings pointed out that the Missions are the place in the OSCE "where the real work is being done." He expressed the Assembly's appreciation and support for the Missions.

## OSCE Chairman-in-Office presents priorities for 2005

On 13 January, the new Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel addressed the Permanent Council and presented the ideas and priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE. Minister Rupel summarized the Slovenian priorities under what he called the Triple R agenda: Revitalize, Reform and Rebalance. He also stressed the desire to enhance co-operation and use the synergy of all the branches of the OSCE. In this connection he said: "I emphasize the importance of the Parliamentary Assembly, particularly

its role in election observation". The Chairman-in-Office described the OSCE as an effective Organization which is unique in the tasks it performs and he stressed the need to provide sufficient resources to allow the OSCE to do its work. He also emphasized the need for reform, including redefining some of the priorities, refocusing efforts and strengthening the relationship between the Secretariat and the Chairmanship. In addition, Minister Rupel said that he would appoint a panel of eminent persons to look at strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE.