

Alcee L. Hastings appoints Belgian Senate President Lizin as Special Representative on Guantánamo



OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings has appointed the President of the Belgian Senate, Anne Marie Lizin, as his Special Representative on Guantánamo in order to follow up the development of the situation of the detainees from the OSCE participating States.. At its 2003 Annual Session in Rotterdam the OSCE PA adopted a

Resolution on the prisoners detained by the United States at the Guantánamo. The Resolution deplored “the fate and the treatment of the persons, including minors, being held at Guantánamo by the United States as “unlawful combatants”

and not as either “prisoners of war” in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and with the right of such persons or as criminals with the rights pertaining to that status”. President Hastings and Ms. Lizin, who also serves as Rapporteur of the Assembly’s General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, will soon discuss the details of the mandate of the Special Representative on Guantánamo . According to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly the President may appoint Special Representatives on areas of particular interest to assist or act on his behalf. There are also Special Representatives on Gender Issues, Mediterranean Affairs, the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict and on Human Trafficking Issues.

Chairman-in-Office appoints Finnish parliamentarian Kimmo Kiljunen to lead OSCE election observation missions to Kyrgyzstan and Moldova.



On the request of OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel has appointed Finnish parliamentarian Kimmo Kiljunen as Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE Observation Missions for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 27 February and

Moldova on 6 March. On 28 February and 7 March Kimmo Kiljunen will deliver the preliminary post-election statements in conjunction with other appropriate officials.

The OSCE Election Observation Missions are joint efforts between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. The ODIHR deploys long term observers in the field several weeks before election day, as well as short-term observers seconded by OSCE participating States and provides the framework for the deployment of the short-term parliamentary observers. The OSCE PA also works in close co-operation with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. The OSCE Observation Missions will assess the conduct of the elections, the political campaign and the role of the media.

Preparatory visit to Washington, D.C.



Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and General Services Officer Kurt Lerras visited Washington, D.C. from 31 January-2 February to discuss together with the host organizers, Martha Morrison, Janice McKinney and Claire Etches, the programme and arrangements for the 14th Annual Session which will take place in Washington from 1-5 July 2005. During their visit they also met with OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings, Chair of the Second Committee Benjamin Cardin and with the staff of the US Helsinki Commission.

The International Secretariat has already forwarded to the Assembly Members a letter of invitation signed by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives and by the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, a Draft Programme of the Annual Session, General Information Document as well as Registration and Accommodation Booking Forms. These documents have been distributed in English and French. Russian version will be sent out shortly. Congressman Christopher Smith from the US Delegation will brief the Assembly Members in Vienna on arrangements for the Session.