

President Hastings Addresses World Conference of Speakers of Parliament



President Hastings met with the Speakers from Azerbaijan, Mr. Murtuz Aleskerov and from Kazakhstan, Mr. Oral Mukhamedzhanov

On 9 September, President Alcee L. Hastings travelled to New York where he took part in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, at the United Nations.

In his address to the Conference, which was attended by more than 100 Speakers of Parliament from around the world, President Hastings spoke about the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in promoting parliamentary diplomacy, and urged bold actions by all parliamentarians in the pursuit of basic rights and freedoms.

In addition, President Hastings held bilateral meetings with the Speakers of Parliaments from Azerbaijan and

Kazakhstan. These discussions focused on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan on November 6th and the presidential elections in Kazakhstan on December 4th. Both Speakers welcomed the intention of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe the elections.

OSCE PA Vice-President Nino Burjanadze, Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, and Anne-Marie Lizin, Rapporteur of the 3rd General Committee and Speaker of the Belgian Senate, also attended the Conference.

President Hastings was accompanied by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, and Paul LeGendre, Programme Officer.

Sveti-Stefan Preparations

Preparations for the Autumn Meetings to be held in Sveti-Stefan, Montenegro, from 7-9 October, are well underway. On 7 and 8 October, the Conference on 'Democracy and Good Governance in Multi-Ethnic Societies as a Basis for Stability and Security' will gather senior OSCE officials, as well as experts from across the OSCE region. The Conference will present an opportunity for parliamentarians to interact with these specialists and to discuss a range of issues related to governance in multi-ethnic societies.

Following the Conference, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee in the afternoon of 8 October and of the Mediterranean Forum on the 9th of October. Participants in the Mediterranean Forum will follow-up on past meetings of the Forum, and examine current security risks and challenges in the Mediterranean. An excursion is also planned for all participants on 10 October.

A draft programme for the Autumn Meetings will be distributed to all delegations shortly. The Meetings are organized jointly by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro and will be hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Participates in Mediterranean Seminar

Mr. Michel Voisin, Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Mr. Jean-Claude Lefort, Member of the French Delegation, represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2005 OSCE Mediterranean Seminar held in Rabat, Morocco on 8 and 9 September.

The annual seminar was devoted to the role of the OSCE and its Mediterranean partners in migration and integration policies. The seminar brought together senior officials from the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries and other international organizations to discuss migration and integration policies within the context of relations in the Mediterranean region. The Seminar concluded with the adoption of a set of recommendations and suggestions on issues such as the economic impacts of migration, and the human and cultural dimensions of migration. A set of guiding principles for an OSCE role in migration and integration was also agreed upon by the participants in the Seminar.