

Lenmarker and Moratinos Meet in Madrid



President Lenmarker and Minister Moratinos

PA President Goran Lenmarker and Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos, Foreign Minister of Spain, held an intensive meeting in Madrid on July 19 to discuss improving co-operation between the PA and the ODIHR. Also present were PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and ODIHR

Director Christian Strohal, who was accompanied by two of his assistants.

The meeting lasted nearly five hours, including a working dinner, and addressed the full range of election observation issues and the need for improved co-operation in this field between the two OSCE Institutions. It was agreed that the 1997 Co-operation Agreement would be respected and that communications between Copenhagen and Warsaw will be improved.

It is also understood that the full flow of information, including all data and spot reports from ODIHR long term election observers will be fully shared in a timely manner with the PA election observation team. On the basis of this information, the ODIHR and PA staff representatives will engage in early joint drafting of the preliminary post-election statement, which will be delivered on the day after the election by the Special Co-ordinator appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

Blondal Visits OSCE Presence in Albania

Dr. Petur H. Blondal (Iceland), the PA Special Representative on the OSCE budget since 2006, visited Albania from 9 to 12 July to examine the work of an OSCE presence in the field and assess how financial and human resources of the organization are being utilized. The point of reference for Dr. Blondal's examination was the mission's fight against trafficking in human beings.

During the visit, Dr. Blondal met with OSCE and Albanian officials, with Juliana Exha, National Anti-Trafficking Officer, serving as main co-ordinator. Among the people he met were the Head of Presence, Ambassador Pavel Vacek; the Chief Fund Administrator, Dari Vanhanen; the Head of the Project Office Co-ordination Unit, Ayesha Saran; two members of the Albanian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Aldo Bumci and Arta Dade; as well as local OSCE partners including Pellumb Nako, Director of the Albanian Border and Migration Police, and local NGO partners.

During the trip, which was organized by the OSCE Presence staff in Albania and the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office, Dr. Blondal also visited the city of Vlora to meet with the OSCE and ODIHR project team on anti-trafficking there, with representatives from a shelter for trafficked women, and with the Head of Civil Society Development Centre, Aleksander Mita.

Previously in his capacity as the PA Special Representative on the OSCE budget, Dr. Blondal has met with the OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut; the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, which serves as the external auditor of the OSCE; and observed a meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the OSCE Program Outline for the OSCE budget in Vienna.

Di Nino to Lead Observers in Kazakhstan

The Vice-Chair of the Assembly's First General Committee and Head of the Canadian Delegation to the PA, Senator Consiglio Di Nino, has been appointed by President Lenmarker to lead the OSCE PA delegation to observe the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan, 18 August. The OSCE Chair-in-Office, Minister Moratinos, has informed President Lenmarker that he intends to appoint Di Nino as his Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE short-term observers. Senator Di Nino, who has played a leading role in several OSCE PA observation missions in the past, will also deliver the preliminary post-election statement on the day after the elections.



The OSCE PA delegation is expected to observe polling in several regions of the country, including in both Astana and Almaty. Mr. Di Nino will be accompanied by a number of senior Members of the Assembly including: Vice-President Barbara Haering (Switzerland), Treasurer Hans Raidel (Germany), Special Representative on the OSCE Budget Petur Blondal (Iceland), Head of the Swiss Delegation Christian Miesch, and Head of the Norwegian Delegation Morten Hoeglund. All Members interested in participating in the observation mission are requested to contact the International Secretariat by 3 August 2007.

The delegation will be accompanied by senior staff from the International Secretariat including Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Director of Communications Klas Bergman and Programme Officer Anna Chernova.