

News from Copenhagen

New Danish Head of Delegation Visits Headquarters

Troels Christensen, the new Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA, visited the Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen on 16 January. Mr. Christensen was briefed on the work of the Assembly by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretaries General Tina Schoen and Gustavo Pallares and other staff. In particular, they discussed the upcoming Winter Meeting in Vienna, the Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen, and the Annual Session in Astana, as well as election observation and other Assembly activities.

Mr. Christensen was also given a tour of the International Secretariat premises, which are provided by the Danish Parliament.

Mr. Christensen was accompanied by Secretary of Delegation Jacob Stahl Otte, Co-Secretary of Delegation Charlotte Faber, and Advisor Mogens Pedersen.



Mr. Christensen was given a full tour of the International Secretariat

OSCE PA Staff at OSCE Season Opening in Vienna

In Vienna on 10 and 11 January, senior staff from the International Secretariat participated in this year's first Permanent Council meeting and the Annual Heads of Mission Meeting, opening the 2008 season of the OSCE. The new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva, presented the priorities of the Chairmanship for 2008. Minister Kanerva stressed that, as former Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, he highly values the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE. The Minister welcomed the support of the Assembly, which in his view complements well the activities of the OSCE governmental structures and helps draw the attention of the participating States to topical issues.

Under the slogan 'continuity, coherence and co-operation' the Chairman-in-Office stressed that Finland will seek to strengthen the status of the OSCE as a regional security organization with an emphasis on enhancing stability and predictability as well as human rights. Special emphasis will be put on anti-trafficking, promoting gender equality and promoting tolerance. On the topic of election observation,

Minister Kanerva expressed his expectation that the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR will co-operate closely in accordance with the 1997 Co-operation Agreement.

The Heads of OSCE field activities discussed their work for the coming year, including both political and administrative matters. The OSCE PA representatives participated actively in these discussions as well as in the meetings of the four Regional Working Groups which debated priorities and working plans for each geographical region covered by OSCE field presences. The PA representatives stressed the interest of the Assembly to remain engaged, pushing for implementation of democratic values and continued parliamentary dialogue. The Assembly's work programme was presented and participants discussed ways to expand the co-operation with OSCE field presences. Several Heads of Missions expressed appreciation for the work of the OSCE PA and put forward ideas for new initiatives for co-operation. Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen, Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, Programme Office Anna Chernova as well as Liaison Officer Marc Carrillet participated in the meetings.

Reminders

Armenian Presidential Election

All Members interested in observing the upcoming Presidential election in Armenia are kindly requested to submit their completed forms to the International Secretariat by 7 February 2008.

Winter Meeting Registration

All delegations are kindly reminded that the deadline for registration for the Winter Meeting is next week. Delegations are kindly requested to submit their completed forms to the International Secretariat by 22 January 2008.

Kyiv Declaration Follow-Up

All delegations that have not yet submitted responses to the International Secretariat's questionnaire of 31 October regarding follow-up actions taken based on the OSCE PA Kyiv Declaration are kindly requested to consider the questions and respond in due time.