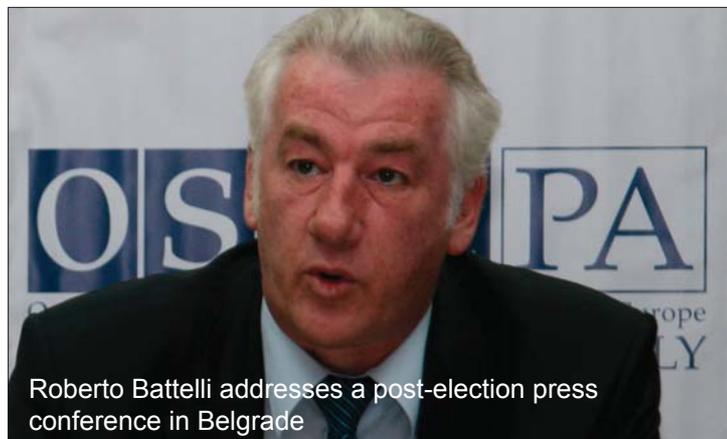


## Battelli: Serbia's elections 'free and fair'

"The Serbian elections were a display of a mature democracy in action. We found some minor technical faults and some aspects of the campaign were worrisome, but the elections were carried out in a most impressive fashion with substantial voter turnout and efficiency and calmness of the voting. I would like to congratulate Serbia for this", said Roberto Battelli, Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and head of the OSCE PA delegation.

In its joint post-election preliminary statement, the International Election Observation Mission, comprising the OSCE PA, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and the OSCE/ODIHR's Limited Election Observation Mission, said that the elections were "vigorously contested" and "conducted in an overall professional manner, allowing the country's voters to choose freely among a wide range of political options."

In response to a question at the 12 May joint press conference whether the elections could be considered "free and fair," Mr. Battelli responded, "yes, in my view they were free and fair."



Roberto Battelli addresses a post-election press conference in Belgrade

Close to 90 international observers monitored the election, including 30 short-term observers from PACE, 24 from OSCE PA, and 35 long-term observers from OSCE/ODIHR. The mission did not observe the local elections. Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, head of the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova supported the OSCE PA mission.

## Special Representative on Migration addresses Helsinki Commission field hearing



Hilda Solis, Special Representative on Migration, and Alcee Hastings, President Emeritus of the OSCE PA

In its efforts to promote dialogue on issues related to global migration, the U.S. Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) held a hearing in Los Angeles, California on 9 May entitled "Los Angeles: The Regional Impacts and Opportunities of Migration." Addressing the hearing was Hilda L. Solis, the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Migration, who emphasized how much nations throughout the OSCE area can learn from the Los Angeles experience.

"Part of my mandate as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Migration," Ms. Solis said, "is to provide the OSCE and Member Delegations to the OSCE PA with policy recommendations to address migration issues. I have seen no other city in my experience that is more fitting to start that dialogue than Los Angeles." The city's advocacy and service organizations that work to meet the needs of its diverse migrant communities are a good example to follow, Ms. Solis noted. "The work these organizations and coalitions perform on the local, state, and national level has been critical to increasing civic participation and economic growth and should serve as a model for the OSCE and Partner States throughout the world," she said.

Joining Ms. Solis at the hearing was Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings and U.S. Congresswoman Diane Watson. Ms. Solis will present a full report of the hearing at the OSCE PA Annual Session, to be held from 29 June to 3 July in Astana, Kazakhstan.

## Deadlines approaching for the Annual Session in Astana

We kindly remind all Delegations that deadlines are approaching for the Seventeenth Annual Session to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 29 June to 3 July. Please make a note of the following dates.

- Deadline for registration of Delegates: 1 June
- Deadline for presenting Supplementary Items: 8 June
- Deadline for Amendments to the Draft Resolutions: 15 June
- Deadline for Amendments for Supplementary Items: 22 June

Our website, [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org), has additional practical information on registration and hotel accommodations.