

President Soares leads OSCE PA visit to Moldova



President Soares meets CEC Chairman Eugeniu Stirbu

OSCE PA President Joao Soares is on an official visit to Moldova from 9 to 12 February, holding high-level government and parliamentary meetings in both Chisinau and Tiraspol. The OSCE PA delegation includes Pierluigi Mantini, Italy, Canan Kalsin, Turkey, and Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

The delegation met with Marian Lupu, the Speaker of Parliament; Grigore Petrenco, head of the Moldovan Delegation to the OSCE PA; senior government officials in

Chisinau, including Eugeniu Stirbu, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, and representatives of political parties and civil society. In Tiraspol, the delegation met with, among others, the Chairman of the Transnistrian Supreme Soviet, Evgeny Shevchuk, and the deputy Transnistrian leader, Aleksander Korolev

The visit provides an opportunity for the OSCE PA to prepare its observation mission to the upcoming 5 April parliamentary elections in Moldova. The delegation underlined the importance of an open and transparent electoral process.

The visit is also aimed at enhancing Assembly work in Moldova, including through the Ad Hoc Parliamentary Team on Moldova, which has worked to promote dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the Moldovan population. Resolving the status of Transnistria has been a particular priority of the Parliamentary Team.

The visit was organized with the support of the Parliament of Moldova and the OSCE Mission to Moldova. The delegation is working closely with the OSCE Mission, headed by Ambassador Philip Remler.

The OSCE PA delegation is supported by Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat, and by Nuno Paixao and Giuseppe Maggio from the Portuguese and Italian Parliaments, respectively.

Goran Lennmarker visits Armenia and Georgia

President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker, both OSCE PA Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict and Special Envoy on the Conflict in Georgia, met in Armenia 9-10 February with the President of the country, the Speaker of Parliament, the Foreign Minister, the Delegation to the OSCE PA, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs committee and representatives of the opposition.

In his meetings, Mr. Lennmarker expressed the urgency of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. A solution would in his view greatly benefit not only the region of the Caucasus, but security in Europe.

He emphasized the special importance of international co-operation during times of economic crisis and pointed to the benefits that Armenia could gain from the Eastern Partnership with the European Union. He also underlined that this partnership is an offer and that it is up to Armenia to choose its own future. He further discussed the role that parliamentarians can play in conflict solution.



Goran Lennmarker sits down with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan

Mr. Lennmarker's trip includes visits to all three countries in the South Caucasus. It started on Monday, 9 February in Armenia's capital Yerevan and continued on 11 February with talks in Georgia, where he visited with the OSCE Mission in Tbilisi and met with OSCE military observers. The trip finishes up in Baku, Azerbaijan at the end of the week, 13-14 February. Mr. Lennmarker is accompanied on the trip by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn.