

OSCE PA leadership meets in Lisbon



Jaime Gama addresses the Bureau

Ivor Callely, Head of Ireland's Delegation, informed the Bureau of the preparations for the Economic Conference in Dublin 27-29 May, where the topic of discussion will be the current world financial crisis.

The Treasurer of the OSCE PA, Hans Raidel, informed the Bureau of the Assembly's excellent financial condition and declared that there is no need for

The 2009 OSCE PA Spring Bureau Meeting took place in Lisbon on 18 and 19 April. The Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Jaime Gama, welcomed all participants to Lisbon and said he continues to believe that the Assembly plays a vital role within the OSCE. The Spring Bureau Meeting, which traditionally takes place in Denmark – the host country of the Assembly's International Secretariat – is a regular meeting of the Assembly's elected leadership. This year it also included several Heads of Delegation, Special Representatives and heads of Ad Hoc Committees.

The main purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the Assembly's upcoming Annual Session, which this year will take place in Vilnius from 29 June to 3 July, and to assess the important issues of concern to the Assembly. President Soares and Secretary General Spencer Oliver also reported on their activities since the Assembly's Winter Meeting.

The Head of Lithuania's Delegation to the OSCE PA, Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene, outlined the preparations for the Session, the theme of which is "The OSCE: Addressing New Security Challenges."

a budget increase this year. His budget proposal for next year was approved by the Bureau, which recommended that the Standing Committee adopt it in Vilnius.

The Rapporteurs of the Assembly's three General Committees, Riccardo Migliori, Ivor Callely, and Natalia Karpovich, gave presentations of their draft reports and draft resolutions for the upcoming Annual Session. A debate followed each presentation, with Members offering feedback and suggestions for improvements.

The Assembly's Special Representatives, on the Mediterranean – Alcee Hastings, on Afghanistan – Michel Voisin, on Nagorno-Karabakh – Goran Lennmarker, and on South East Europe – Roberto Battelli, all gave presentations focusing on their recent activities. In addition, Morten Hoeglund informed the Bureau of the recent seminar on labor migration held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The Bureau Meeting also discussed election observation after President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker and Secretary General Oliver informed the Bureau of the recent meeting in Athens which discussed continuing problems with OSCE/ODIHR during observation missions.

Sub-Committee examines proposed changes to Rules of Procedure

Chaired by Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller, the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure met in Lisbon on 19 April. Appointed by President Joao Soares in February, the Sub-Committee examined a number of proposals for amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker, Special Representatives Alcee Hastings and Roberto Battelli, and Aleksander Kozlovskiy, Head of the Russian Delegation, participated in the meeting, which was also attended by President Soares as an ex-officio Member.

The Sub-Committee expects to meet again during the 27-29 May Economic Conference in Dublin to prepare proposals prior to the next meeting of the Standing Committee in Vilnius in June.



Joao Soares speaks with Pia Christmas-Moeller prior to the Sub-Committee meeting