

News from Copenhagen

Parliamentarians to gather in Dublin for Economic Conference



Ivor Callely, Head of the Irish Delegation to the OSCE PA, is hosting the conference

Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will gather for the Sixth Economic Conference in Dublin from 27 to 29 May 2009. The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for discussion and an exchange of views on economic issues between OSCE parliamentarians and prominent officials and experts.

This year's theme is "The World Financial Crisis." Hosted by the Parliament of Ireland, the conference will discuss issues such as the effects of the world financial crisis in the OSCE area, free trade vs. protectionism, financial regulations and good governance, and the social consequences of the crisis – particularly regarding migration.

The speakers and experts at the conference include representatives of the Irish Government and Parliament, economists and academics from the host country as well as from the OSCE and from the Russian Federation.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly organizes an Economic Conference every two years. In 2007, Andorra was the host under the theme "Strengthening Stability and Co-operation through International Trade." Previous economic conferences were held in Tromsø, Norway; Bern, Switzerland; Nantes, France; and Monaco.

Senator Callely and Ben Dunne from the Irish Parliament briefed the Bureau Meeting in Lisbon on the preparations for the Conference. Delegations interested in participating are asked to register as soon as possible at www.oscepa.org.

OSCE PA to observe parliamentary elections in Albania

President Joao Soares has decided that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will deploy a mission to observe the parliamentary elections in Albania on 28 June 2009, and has appointed OSCE PA Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria) to lead the mission. In conformity with the 1997 Co-operation Agreement, Mr. Soares has requested that Chairperson-in-Office Dora Bakoyannis appoint Mr. Grossruck as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term observers and to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE.

Wolfgang Grossruck has been a member of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE PA since 1996. He was elected Vice-President of the Assembly in July 2006 and was re-elected at the 2008 Annual Session in Astana. He has also served as Rapporteur of the First General Committee Political Affairs and Security and has frequently participated in election observation missions.

Albania last held parliamentary elections on 3 July 2005. The OSCE PA observed the elections, which were "competitive and the people were provided with a diversity of information," according to the post-election statement.

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Special Representative of the OSCE PA in Vienna, will be co-ordinating the upcoming observation mission. Parliamentarians should contact the Vienna Liaison Office if they wish to participate.



Wolfgang Grossruck observing the 2007 Russian parliamentary elections