

Di Nino, Efthymiou to lead OSCE election observation missions in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova

Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are getting ready for OSCE election observation missions, comprised of the PA and ODIHR, to Kyrgyzstan and Moldova in the next two weeks.

Led by two OSCE Special Co-ordinators Senator Consiglio Di Nino (Canada) and Petros Efthymiou (Greece), both experienced election observers, a total of over 50 parliamentarians are scheduled to observe the elections on 23 July in Kyrgyzstan and 29 July in Moldova.

The appointments by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, followed President Joao Soares' appointments of Senator Di Nino and Mr. Efthymiou to lead the Assembly's election observation missions to Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, respectively. As Special Co-ordinators, they will lead all OSCE short-term observers and deliver the preliminary post-election statements at press conferences in Bishkek and Chisinau on the day after each election.



Consiglio Di Nino observing parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan, August 2007

Senator Di Nino, head of Canada's Delegation to the OSCE PA and newly elected chair of its First Committee, has played a leading role in several observation missions in the past. In 2007, he led the Assembly's observation mission to Kazakhstan where he also served as the OSCE Special Co-ordinator. Mr. Di Nino has been a member of the Senate of Canada since 1990 and is currently Chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Petros Efthymiou also served as OSCE Special Co-ordinator to the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 5 April. A former journalist and editor, he was elected Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at this year's Annual Session in Vilnius, after having chaired the Assembly's Second Committee. He is a former Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and has been a member of the Greek parliament since 2004. He has also been a member of the European Parliament.



Petros Efthymiou observing parliamentary elections in Moldova, April 2009

New officers elected to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

As President Joao Soares (Portugal) was unanimously re-elected to lead the Parliamentary Assembly for a second one-year term, three new Vice-Presidents, a new Treasurer, and new Committee officers were elected at the 18th Annual Session in Vilnius.

The three new Vice-Presidents are: Petros Efthymiou (Greece), Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), and Isabel Pozuelo (Spain), while Ben Cardin (United States) was re-elected as Vice-President.

Mr. Efthymiou has served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Second General Committee. A former Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, he has had a distinguished career in both print and broadcast journalism. He has been a member of the Greek parliament since 2004.

Mr. Gardetto was elected Vice-President after having served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the First General Committee. He has been a Member of the National Council of Monaco since 2003 and is Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Ms. Pozuelo heads the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA. She has been a member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies since 1996, having served as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Healthcare and

Consumer Affairs Committee.

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) was elected as the new Treasurer, succeeding Hans Raidel (Germany). A member of Slovenia's parliament since 1990 and of the OSCE PA since 1992, Mr. Battelli has served on the Sub-committees on Rules of Procedure and on Transparency and Accountability. He is currently the Assembly's Special Representative on South East Europe.

The officers of the three General Committees are:

Consiglio Di Nino (Canada) was elected new Chair of the First General Committee after having served as Vice-Chair. New Vice-Chair is Canan Kalsin (Turkey), while Riccardo Migliori (Italy) was re-elected as Rapporteur.

In the Second General Committee, new Chair is Roland Blum (France), after having served as Vice-Chair. Ivor Callely (Ireland) was elected Vice-Chair after having served as Rapporteur and Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) was elected new Rapporteur.

After having served as Vice-Chair and Interim Chair, Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) was elected new Chair of the Third General Committee. Robert Aderholt (United States) and Matteo Mecacci (Italy) were elected new Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, respectively.