

# News from Copenhagen

## In Warsaw, Krivokapic and Oliver meet with Polish officials, ODIHR



On an official visit to Poland on 4-6 September, President Ranko Krivokapic and Secretary General Spencer Oliver held meetings in Warsaw with the Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Ewa Kopacz; the Marshal of the Senate of Poland, Bogdan Borusewicz; the Undersecretary of State of Poland Boguslaw Winid; and Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs Agnieszka Pomaska.

While in Warsaw Krivokapic and Oliver also had a working dinner with ODIHR's Director Janez Lenarcic and visited the ODIHR's headquarters, meeting with the office's senior staff.

During his meetings, the president underlined that the OSCE PA plays a significant role in the ongoing reform process in the build-up to Helsinki +40 and noted that the Assembly's 24th Annual Session will be held in Helsinki in 2015 to commemorate the anniversary. He stressed that the OSCE PA has repeatedly made recommendations to improve the working methods and practices of the OSCE, to strengthen the organization's legal framework, and to enhance the effectiveness of OSCE activities in the field. He also indicated that one of the OSCE PA's principle objectives is to enhance trust, transparency and accountability within the OSCE institutions. This should be done by providing oversight of the budget and other activities by the decision-making bodies and the executive structures, as well as by

an in-depth parliamentary debate that engages the highest national political authorities.

The president also underlined the importance of increasing the funds for the OSCE PA activities, in particular by providing additional resources for election monitoring activities.

In the meeting with ODIHR Director Lenarcic, Krivokapic and Oliver reiterated the important role that parliamentarians play in leading OSCE election observation missions. It was noted that the PA expects ODIHR to support its leadership in election observation missions and underlined that the OSCE PA/ODIHR co-operation adds value to OSCE election observation activities. However, this co-operation must be based on an honest implementation of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement, it was stressed.

Reference was also made to the unanimous decision made at the PA's Standing Committee meeting at the Istanbul Annual Session to reinstate the Co-operation Agreement. The decision was conditional on all parties involved, including the Parliamentary Assembly, the ODIHR and other partner assemblies participating in the election observation mission, be involved in the early drafting of the preliminary post-election statement.

Krivokapic and Oliver were accompanied on the visit by Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella.

## Visit to Helsinki focuses on preparations for the PA's 2015 Annual Session



OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhayev are visiting Helsinki this week in preparation for the OSCE PA's 24th Annual Session in 2015.

They have met with Secretary General of the Finnish Parliament Seppo Tiitinen, OSCE PA Vice-President and

Head of the Finnish Delegation Ilkka Kanerva, Director of International Affairs of the Parliament Katriina Kuusinen, Director of Administration of the Parliament Pertti Rauho and Secretary of the Finnish Delegation Gunilla Carlander.

They discussed issues related to the holding of the Annual Session in Helsinki including specific dates and arrangements for the Session.

Oliver and Dzakhayev also visited Finlandia Hall where the Helsinki Final Act was signed in 1975, which is expected to be the venue of the Annual Session during the OSCE's 40th anniversary year. They discussed with its staff the logistics of holding the Annual Session and other practical matters, including the probable dates of 6-10 July 2015.