

News from Copenhagen

PA Secretary General meets with Secretaries General of NATO PA, PACE and EP



Left to right: OSCE PA Sec. Gen. Spencer Oliver, European Parliament Sec. Gen. Klaus Welle, NATO PA Sec. Gen. David Hobbs and PACE Sec. Gen. Wojciech Sawicki (courtesy NATO/PA)

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General Spencer Oliver met his counterparts from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Brussels on 9-10 January for discussions that focused on enhancing co-operation in the field of election observation.

“Our parliamentarians are determined to build upon the track record we’ve established of solid co-operation on election observation with our counterparts at the NATO PA and PACE. We are now working to ensure that our co-ordination is the very best it can be, which will make the quality of our observation missions that much stronger,” Oliver said at NATO PA headquarters.

The meeting was the third in a series of trilateral meetings

between Oliver, PACE Secretary General Wojciech Sawicki and NATO PA Secretary General David Hobbs. The PA hosted an initial meeting in Copenhagen in February 2013 and a second meeting was hosted by PACE in Strasbourg in June.

The Secretaries General also discussed co-operation on communications initiatives and shared best practices on organizational and budgetary matters.

Secretary General of the European Parliament Klaus Welle joined the meeting in Brussels for the first time.

A working lunch focused on election monitoring and in particular, the need for improved co-operation between the bodies in light of the October 2013 presidential election in Azerbaijan, including with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Preparations underway for Swiss Chairmanship, 13th Winter Meeting



Hofburg Centre in Vienna

OSCE PA representatives, including President Ranko Krivokapic and Secretary General Spencer Oliver, are participating this week in the opening of the OSCE Swiss Chairmanship. The President and Secretary General will attend a working breakfast with the

new Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, prior to the Opening Event on 16 January. The PA will also take part in the Annual Meeting of the Chairmanship and the Secretariat with the Heads of Field Operations and Institutions.

On 17 January, PA representatives will participate in the annual Regional Heads of Field Operations and Institutions Working Group sessions. Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella is expected to cover the session on the South Caucasus, with Special Representative Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Francesco Paganini covering South Eastern Europe, Programme Director Anna Chernova

covering Central Asia and Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet covering Eastern Europe. Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Communications Director Richard Solash are also expected to participate in the meetings.

Preparations are also underway for the OSCE PA’s 13th Winter Meeting, to be held at the Hofburg Centre in Vienna on 13-14 February.

Heads of OSCE Institutions have been invited to address relevant meetings of the General Committees, including the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee.

The Winter Meeting will be comprised of meetings of the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations, each General Committee, and joint sessions of the three committees. The topic for the special debate, to be held on 14 February, is “Rise of Extremism, Radicalism and Xenophobia: Challenges for the OSCE Region.”

General information and registration forms for the Winter Meeting are available at www.oscepa.org.