

# News from Copenhagen

## Krivokapic meets with U.S. delegates and German Marshall Fund



President of the German Marshall Fund  
Craig Kennedy and OSCE PA President  
Ranko Krivokapic

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ranko Krivokapic was in Washington last week, where he met with members of the OSCE PA's U.S. delegation and senior staff of the German Marshall Fund (GMF).

In a meeting with Craig Kennedy,

President of the GMF, and Ivan Vejvoda, GMF's Vice President for Programmes, President Krivokapic discussed the finalization of the agreement on the forthcoming Helsinki +40 seminar scheduled for June 2014. Mr. Kennedy expressed his pleasure that GMF will be hosting the first of the Helsinki +40 seminars and will have the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the Helsinki +40 process.

The June seminar will gather many distinguished speakers with a background in international politics as well as members of the U.S. Congress and Senate. Reform of the OSCE has been one of the key debates in OSCE PA dialogue process and the aim of these seminars will be the transformation of all useful input into a concrete guideline on the future of the organization.

In Washington, Krivokapic also met with U.S. Congressmen Alcee Hastings, former OSCE PA President and current Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, and OSCE PA Vice-President Robert Aderholt. The main topics of discussion were the upcoming meetings of the Assembly in Vienna and Baku.

They also talked about possible OSCE PA election observation missions this year and the current political situation in Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this issue, Mr. Krivokapic reiterated his view that all acts of violence should be condemned and that the PA should advocate for peaceful negotiations and dialogue between all stakeholders.

## Parliamentarians to meet at OSCE headquarters in Vienna

More than 260 parliamentarians from 58 countries are gathering this week for the OSCE PA's 13th Winter Meeting, to be held 13-14 February at the Hofburg Centre in Vienna.

The special debate on 14 February will be held in two parts under the themes, "The Rise of Extremism, Radicalism and Xenophobia: Challenges for the OSCE Region," and "The Current Situation in Ukraine."

The first joint session of the three general committees will be addressed by OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic; the President of the National Council of Austria, Barbara Prammer; the Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament of Afghanistan, Abdul Raouf Ibrahim; and OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The second joint session of the general committees will include a report by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, followed by a question and answer session; as well as a report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on

Gender Issues, Dr. Hedy Fry, followed by a debate.

In the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, PA Members will hold a debate on parliamentary control of armed forces. In the economic and environmental committee parliamentarians will debate co-operation on water management in the OSCE area. The PA's human dimension committee will focus on rule of law, hearing from OSCE institutions and invited guest speakers on human rights cases from several OSCE participating States.

On Thursday, 13 February, the Austrian Parliament will host a reception for all participants of the Winter Meeting.



A delegate checks in at the registration desk for the Winter Meeting.

## PA participates in workshop on women's political participation in the OSCE area

On 6-7 February, the OSCE PA participated in a workshop on women's political participation, hosted by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in their Warsaw headquarters.

Moderating a session on women in parliaments, the OSCE PA's Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet from the Vienna Liaison Office noted the importance that the Assembly attaches to gender equality, highlighting the role of the PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues, Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada), who has been tasked with monitoring gender

balance in the OSCE and promoting discussion on gender mainstreaming within the organization.

Participants welcomed the fact that with nine women out of 20, female representation in the PA's Bureau has now reached 45 per cent.

Marc Carillet will be supporting Special Representative Fry in her future activities. He will also act as the gender focal point in the International Secretariat. Dr. Fry will report to the joint session of the general committees of the Winter Meeting on Friday afternoon.