

News from Copenhagen

Soares to lead Transparency Committee, Bowness new Rules of Procedure Chair, Smith reappointed Special Representative on Human Trafficking



Soares

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva has named Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) to Chair the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE, Lord Peter Bowness (MP, United Kingdom) to Chair the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure and Christopher Smith (MP, USA)

to continue his mandate as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues -- the first of several key appointments to Committees and Special Representative posts that Kanerva will be making in the coming weeks.



Smith

The OSCE PA President also named leading parliamentarians Gordana Comic (MP, Serbia) and Christine Egerszegi-Obrist (MP, Switzerland) to the Transparency and Reform Committee.

Soares is a former PA President and is currently the Deputy Head of Portugal's



Bowness

Delegation to the OSCE PA. He also chairs the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 project. The Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE works to strengthen interaction between parliamentarians and governments to encourage more transparency within the Organization and other reforms to make it operate more effectively and efficiently.

Lord Bowness has been a member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007. Members of the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure are appointed by the PA President to consider proposed rules changes and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Smith, the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA and the Co-Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, was first appointed Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues in 2004. He has been reappointed to the post by every subsequent OSCE PA President.

Special Rep. briefs governmental side on outcomes of Baku Session



Delegates vote at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku.

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, the Special Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly to the OSCE, presented the outcomes of the PA's recently concluded Annual Session in Baku during an informal meeting chaired by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship on 22 July in Vienna. Nothelle briefed delegates from participating States on the highlights of the Baku Declaration, which was adopted by a wide margin of parliamentarians on 2 July, the final day of the PA's 23rd Annual Session. The Declaration contains policy recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, the environment and human rights. OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver had previously forwarded the Declaration to the Foreign Ministers of all participating States.

Nothelle briefed those in attendance on the 14 supplementary resolutions included as an annex to the Declaration, as well

as on the results of the election of new members to the PA's Bureau, including the election of Finland's Ilkka Kanerva, a former OSCE Chairman-in-Office, as President of the Assembly. An item of interest was the PA's complaint about the serious violations of the OSCE Code of Conduct for Staff by an ODIHR employee during the May election observation mission in Ukraine.

In concluding, Nothelle expressed his hope that the presentation had illustrated the many good ideas and concerns that the PA has put forward in the Baku Declaration and accompanying resolutions and underlined that the Baku Session had also demonstrated that the PA is able to create a "mediation-friendly environment." Nothelle also requested that participating States closely review the Declaration in preparation for President Kanerva's first appearance before the Permanent Council.