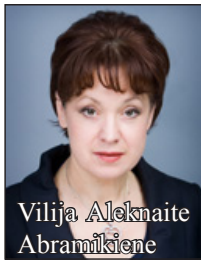


News from Copenhagen

OSCE parliamentarians to observe presidential election in Turkey



Vilija Aleknaite
Abramikiene

OSCE parliamentarians will travel to Turkey next week to observe the country's upcoming presidential election and provide leadership for the OSCE's short-term observer mission. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter has designated Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (MP, Lithuania) as Special Co-ordinator of the mission to observe the 10 August vote. OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva appointed Asa Lindestam (MP, Sweden) to serve as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation, which includes more than 20 parliamentarians from 15 OSCE participating States. OSCE PA Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Senior Political Adviser Roberto Montella and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk will staff the mission.



Asa Lindestam

"This vote will be a milestone in Turkey's history as its first direct presidential election. We hope that its conduct will demonstrate Turkey's adherence to democratic commitments, which must be fully respected during this period..." Aleknaite Abramikiene said.

Members of the Delegation will travel to polling stations in several regions of Turkey, working closely with long-term observers from the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission and in co-ordination with colleagues from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The mission will assess the election against democratic commitments contained in the OSCE's 1990 Copenhagen Document.

Special Co-ordinator Aleknaite Abramikiene has served as a Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since 2013. Asa Lindestam is the Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Political Affairs and Security and has participated in numerous election observation missions in recent years.

Since 1993, more than 5,000 OSCE parliamentarians and staff have observed more than 130 elections in over 30 countries.

President Kanerva announces Special Representative reappointments



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva has reappointed eight Special Representatives to their posts, extending the mandates of Michel Voisin (MP, France), the Special Representative for Afghanistan; Thierry Mariani (MP, France), the Special Representative for Central Asia; Nikolay Kovalev (MP, Russia), the Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism; Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain), the Special Representative on OSCE Border Issues; Dr. Hedy Fry (MP, Canada), the Special Representative on Gender Issues; Joao Soares (MP, Portugal), the Special Representative on the South Caucasus; Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia), the Special Representative on South East Europe; and Petur Blondal (MP, Iceland), the Special Representative on the OSCE Budget. The reappointments follow President Kanerva's extension last week of the mandate of Christopher Smith, the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA, as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues.

As Special Representative for Afghanistan, Michel Voisin will continue to report on developments in Afghanistan, particularly on efforts to promote democratization and the development of civil society.

Thierry Mariani will continue his work to encourage active participation by parliamentarians from Central Asia in the work of the PA, promote regional co-operation and

engage with Central Asian parliaments and civil society.

Nikolay Kovalev's mandate includes following the international situation regarding the fight against terrorism and promoting discussion on the topic within the PA.

Ignacio Sanchez Amor continues his work to raise awareness in the PA regarding border-related issues and promotes co-operation in and among border regions in the OSCE area, including through frequent field visits.

Hedy Fry, Special Representative on Gender Issues since 2010, follows the gender situation within the overall OSCE and the PA and issues an annual Gender Balance Report.

As Special Representative on South Caucasus, Joao Soares will continue his focus on the overall political situation in the region and efforts to promote dialogue and confidence-building in the societies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Roberto Battelli, as Special Representative on South East Europe, promotes dialogue in order to encourage reconciliation and rehabilitation in South East Europe, in particular in the Western Balkans, and to make a contribution to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

Special Representative on the OSCE Budget Petur Blondal gathers information and follows budgetary developments in the OSCE governmental structures and acts as a focal point for PA recommendations related to the OSCE budget.