

Bruce George appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office to lead OSCE election observers in Kazakhstan



The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, has appointed Mr. Bruce George, President Emeritus of the OSCE PA, as his Special Co-ordinator for the December 4 presidential elections in Kazakhstan. As OSCE Special Co-ordinator, Mr. George will deliver the preliminary findings and conclusions on behalf of the International Election Observation Mission at a press conference on December 5 in conjunction with other officials.

Mr. George, who has extensive experience in observing elections in the OSCE area, will lead the OSCE PA delegation on election day. Members will be deployed around the country to observe the sealing of ballot boxes in the morning, conduct during the day, and the counting of ballots in the evening.

The Assembly will work in close co-operation with the OSCE-ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the European Parliament. All Members who are interested in participating in the observation mission to Kazakhstan are requested to return their registration information to Paul LeGendre at the International Secretariat by November 17.

Roberto Battelli represents PA in Stability Pact workshop in Belgrade

The Head of the Slovenian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Roberto Battelli, chaired the first working session of a *Parliamentary Workshop on Education for Democratic Citizenship*, organized by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly within the framework of its Chairmanship over the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South East Europe. The meeting took place on November 7 and 8 in Belgrade.

The Workshop brought together around 60 politicians and experts from a number of Participating States, with special emphasis on representatives from the region. In his opening statement on behalf of the OSCE PA, Mr. Battelli reported that,

while not dealing specifically with education, the Assembly has devoted a great deal of attention to the issues being dealt with in the Workshop in its resolutions in recent years. He emphasized the integral role of education in helping to create a vibrant democratic society in which all citizens respect fundamental human rights.

The discussions in Belgrade focused on issues such as teacher training and retraining, text books, teaching of history and different curricula, but also on issues such as access by civil society to politics and to educational institutions. Mr. Battelli was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's Liaison Office in Vienna.

Expanded Bureau to meet in Ljubljana

In conjunction with the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Ljubljana on December 5-6 under the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE, the Assembly's Expanded Bureau will convene in the afternoon of December 4. Bringing together the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Officers of the Three General Committees, participants will hear updates from the President, Treasurer and Secretary General on the work of the Assembly. The Expanded Bureau will also discuss upcoming work, including the theme for the 15th Annual Session, to be held in Brussels in July 2006. In addition, Members will be briefed on preparations for the Ministerial Council from the leadership of the Organization.

President Hastings will also participate in and address the Ministerial Council, informing the Foreign Ministers of the work and priorities of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Ministerial Council is expected to consider a number of key OSCE issues such as trafficking in human beings, managing migration, and organized crime, as well as important internal matters such as the Organization's Rules of Procedure and the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2008.

Former OSCE Chairman-in-Office joins OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Solomon Passy, formerly the Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in 2004, has joined the Bulgarian delegation to the OSCE PA. During his Chairmanship of the Organization, Mr. Passy placed a clear priority on the implementation of existing OSCE commitments.

As Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Passy strongly supported OSCE PA activities, encouraging involvement by the PA in the work of the OSCE and particularly in the ongoing transformation and reform process of the Organization.

Mr. Passy, who is now the Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Bulgarian Parliament, hopes to play an active role in the work of the Assembly.

