

Belgium's Defense Minister visits Secretariat

Pieter De Crem, Belgium's Minister of Defense and former member of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, paid a visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 30 September.

Mr. De Crem met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and the two Deputy Secretaries General, Tina Schoen and Gustavo Pallares, to discuss the OSCE and the work ahead for the Organization and its Parliamentary Assembly, particularly the need to revive the CFE Treaty and to discuss the proposals for a new European security architecture within the OSCE.

Mr. De Crem, Minister of Defense since December 2007, was an active member of the Parliamentary Assembly for several years, serving as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and as a Rapporteur for the First Committee.



Belgian Defense Minister Pieter De Crem and Secretary General Spencer Oliver

Mecacci visits Secretariat, goes on to Warsaw



Matteo Mecacci

Matteo Mecacci (Italy), the newly elected Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly's Third General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen this week.

Holding talks with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and staff, Mr. Mecacci discussed

future tasks, in particular possible topics for his report and resolution for next year's Annual Session in Oslo.

Mr. Mecacci, who was elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Vilnius, has been a member of the Italian Parliament since 2008, where he serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

Following his visit, Mr. Mecacci proceeded to the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, accompanied by Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker, where they will be joined by the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden).

Tina Schoen participates in OSCE meeting on South Caucasus

Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen participated in last week's meeting in Yerevan of the regional Heads of OSCE Missions for the South Caucasus.

The current Greek and the incoming Kazakh Chairmanships made presentations, and the Heads of OSCE Offices in Baku and Yerevan provided overviews of their activities and discussed priorities for 2010. At the 24-25 September meeting, OSCE Institutions and various Departments in the OSCE Secretariat shared information about their activities in the region and discussed with other invited international organizations how to improve co-operation on the ground.

The Office of the OSCE Chair-in-Office's Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabkh conflict also made a presentation on the activities of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group.

OSCE PA staff make preparatory visit to Oslo

A team from the Assembly's International Secretariat visited Oslo on 28 and 29 September in preparation for next year's Annual Session. The Nineteenth Annual Session of the Assembly will be held in the Norwegian capital from 6 to 10 July 2010 hosted by the Stortinget (Parliament of Norway).

Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhayev, Administrative Director Kurt Lerras and Conference Coordinator Odile Lelarge visited the possible premises for the Session and different hotels. They met with individuals responsible for organizing the Session including Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA Morten Hoeglund and officials of the International Secretariat of the Stortinget.