

News from Copenhagen

President Efthymiou in Vilnius and Moscow to discuss future OSCE work



Petros Efthymiou and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov



President Efthymiou addressing the Lithuanian Seimas

In Vilnius on 18 and 19 October, OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou held high-level talks regarding the 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship, before continuing to Moscow this week to for an official visit focusing on upcoming work of the OSCE.

Mr. Efthymiou, accompanied by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, met with the President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė; Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis; and Speaker of the Seimas Irena Degutiene; and the OSCE PA Delegation Headed by Vilja Aleknaite-Abramikiene, among other senior officials.

Discussions focused primarily on Lithuania's preparations to take over the OSCE Chairmanship in 2011. President Efthymiou emphasized the importance of raising the level of political dialogue in the OSCE, including through high-level participation in the upcoming Astana Summit. In this regard,

he encouraged consideration of OSCE PA input including the recent report produced by the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability. The President also encouraged the appointment of people with a high-level political profile to senior positions in the OSCE.

On Tuesday, the President addressed a special session of the Seimas of Lithuania, dedicated to commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

In Moscow on 20 October, the delegation met with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, as well as with the Speaker of the Duma, Borys Gryzlov. They discussed preparations for the Astana Summit and OSCE election observation activities. The President welcomed the active engagement in the Assembly by Russian Members of Parliament.

Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker and Chara Papazoudi from the Greek Parliament accompanied the delegation.

Vice-President Grossruck visits Baku, addresses Review Conference in Vienna

PA Vice-President Wolfgang Grossruck, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission to the 2010 general elections in Azerbaijan, visited the country on a pre-assessment mission from 14 to 18 October.

He met with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, the Speaker of the Parliament (Milli Mejlis) Ogtay Asadov, and the Deputy Speaker and leader of the PA Delegation of Azerbaijan, Bahar Muradova, as well as with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Minister of Emergency Situations Kamaladdin Heydarov and the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Mazahir Panahov. He also met with representatives of political parties and NGOs, as well as staff from the OSCE Office in Baku and the ODIHR long-term observation mission.

Mr. Grossruck welcomed any steps to be taken in order to address issues observed during registration and the beginning of the election campaign.

The delegation included PA Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle from the Vienna Liaison Office and Lukas Mussi from the Austrian Nationalrat.

In Vienna on 18 October, Mr. Grossruck addressed the opening of the second segment of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference, calling upon the diplomatic representatives of the

participating States to follow up on recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly. He also urged the OSCE to revise its structures and working methods in order to strengthen democratic processes in its multilateral decision-making.

In particular, he reiterated calls for the Parliamentary Assembly to be consulted on the selection of the Secretary General and the Director of the ODIHR. He also reiterated the OSCE PA's expectation that in the future the external auditing of the OSCE will be more professional, truly independent and involve the Parliamentary Assembly.

In conclusion, he urged the participants of the Review Conference to make use of the deliberations in the next days to examine the OSCE's structures and working methods in light of the necessity to strengthen transparency and accountability within the Organization.



Vice-President Grossruck and Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament Ogtay Asadov