

## Tonino Picula to lead election observation mission to Moldova

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister and Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, has appointed Tonino Picula as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE Short-Term Observer Mission to the early parliamentary elections in Moldova on 28 November. In accordance with the Co-operation Agreement between the OSCE PA and the OSCE/ODIHR from 1997, he will deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference in Chisinau on 29 November.

Mr. Picula, Head of the Croatian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Rapporteur of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, has also been appointed by President Petros Efthymiou to head the OSCE PA's delegation of over 40 observers. An experienced election observer, Mr. Picula served as Croatia's Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2000-2003 and is currently the Vice-Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament.

"Given your experience in politics and elections," President Efthymiou wrote in his appointment letter, "I am confident that the Mission will benefit greatly from your expertise." Mr.



Tonino Picula at the recent Fall Meetings in Palermo

Efthymiou led the previous election observation mission to Moldova, in July 2009.

The early Moldovan elections are being conducted following the dissolution of the parliament elected on 29 July 2009 by presidential decree.

The OSCE's election observation mission will assess the elections for their conformity with the OSCE commitments as stated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, to which Moldova has subscribed.

## TURKPA staff visit International Secretariat

Delegates from the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) paid a working visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 15 and 16 November, meeting with OSCE PA staff including Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretaries General Tina Schoen and Gustavo Pallares. TURKPA Deputy Secretaries General Mels Semgaliyev and Kurshad Melih Sariarslan were thoroughly briefed on all aspects of the Secretariat's work, especially the management of co-operation with other international organizations and effective co-ordination between the Members of Parliament and the Secretariat.

In meetings with Gustavo Pallares and Administrative Director Kurt Lerras, discussions focused on the work that goes into budget management and control mechanisms. Senior Counselor Semyon Dzakhaev and Conference Co-ordinator Odile Lelarge briefed the TURKPA staff on the preparation

and organization of conferences. Spencer Oliver talked about the history of the OSCE PA and its relations with other international parliamentary assemblies.

The visit also included a meeting with Jan-Erik Enestam, Director of the Nordic Council. On Tuesday, Mr. Semgaliyev and Mr. Sariarslan met with the OSCE PA research fellows and Research/Publications Officer Nat Parry.

In addition to the two Deputy Secretaries General, the TURKPA delegation included Abbas Babayev, Secretary for Legal Affairs and Translation Services, Alasgar Aghayev, Secretary for Financial and Administrative Issues, and Tural Taghiyev, Assistant to the Secretary General.

Established in 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries consists of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Republic of Turkey. Its headquarters are in Baku.



Mels Semgaliyev and Kurshad Melih Sariarslan with the 2010 OSCE PA research team