

Preparations underway for 2011 Fall Meetings



Spencer Oliver, Luka Bebic, Tonino Picula and Gustavo Pallares



Dubrovnik, Croatia

On the invitation of the Croatian Parliament, the Assembly's 2011 Fall Meetings will be held in Dubrovnik from 7 to 10 October 2011. In preparation for the meetings, Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares visited Croatia from 9 to 11 December.

Hosted by the Head of the Croatian Delegation to the Assembly Tonino Picula and Secretary of Delegation Milovan Petkovic, Spencer Oliver and Gustavo Pallares met with the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebic in Zagreb, and also with the Head of the OSCE Office in Croatia, Ambassador Enrique Horcajada.

In Dubrovnik, the OSCE PA representatives met with the

local authorities, including the President of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, Ivan Prce, and with representatives from the City Council. They also visited the premises where the meetings will be held and the hotels selected for participants. Spencer Oliver said that the OSCE PA looks forward to holding its 2011 Fall Meetings in the unique surroundings of Dubrovnik, and after visiting the premises and learning about the logistical arrangement, expressed his conviction that the meeting will be a popular venue and a great success.

The Fall Meetings will include a parliamentary conference on a theme to be decided, a Mediterranean Forum and a meeting of the Standing Committee.

OSCE PA Secretariat moving headquarters



The Parliamentary Assembly's new headquarters

After 18 years of operation at 1 Rådhusstræde in Copenhagen, the headquarters of the Assembly's International Secretariat will move to new offices next month. The Danish Parliament has generously provided the Assembly new fully modernized headquarters in a great location in central Copenhagen.

The buildings, located on Tordenskjoldsgade, are the property of the Danish Folketing and will host living quarters for Members of Parliament in the upper floors. The International Secretariat will have a whole floor in two connected buildings. The new address and other relevant details will be communicated to all delegations in mid-January, and an official opening will take place in conjunction with the PA's Bureau Meeting in April.

Lloyd leading short-term observers in Belarus

Tony Lloyd arrived in Minsk on Wednesday to lead the OSCE short-term observer mission for the Belarusian presidential election on 19 December.

"I am very pleased to be in Belarus for this important election," Mr. Lloyd said, "and like everyone else I am hoping to witness a genuinely democratic election which allows the citizens of Belarus to have their say in the future of their country."

Appointed Special Co-ordinator of the mission by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, Mr. Lloyd is also serving as Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's delegation of more than 50 parliamentarians.

Mr. Lloyd has a busy schedule leading up to election day, meeting with Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergey Martynov as well as with the Belarusian delegation to the OSCE PA and the OSCE Office in Minsk on Thursday.

On Friday, he will be joined by OSCE PA Vice-President and Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who is serving as Deputy Head of the OSCE PA's election observation mission.