

Migliori talks democratic progress, environment in visit to Mongolia



Riccardo Migliori meets with President Tsakhia Elbegdorj.



Tonino Picula addresses Foreign Minister Luvsanvandan Bold.



President Migliori meets Speaker Zandaakhuu Enkhbold.

Mongolia, the OSCE's newest participating State, has made admirable progress but should remain vigilant about sustaining its environmental resources, President Riccardo Migliori said this week in the capital Ulanbataar.

Migliori is the first president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to visit Mongolia, which formally joined the OSCE as the 57th member last December.

"Twenty years of democratic, pluralistic elections are paying off for the people of Mongolia," Migliori said. "Increasingly independent media, more participation from women in politics, and visible economic growth in the capital is all helping transform this vast country for the better."

President Migliori, joined by OSCE PA Vice-President Tonino Picula, met Wednesday with Zandaakhuu Enkhbold, Chairman of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia and President of Mongolia Tsakhia Elbegdorj on the first of a three-day visit. They also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Luvsanvandan Bold and Migeddorj Batchimeg,

Chairwoman of Mongolian delegation to the OSCE PA. Ms. Batchimeg is one of nine women now serving in the Mongolian Parliament.

Mongolia, land-locked between China and Russia, has actively sought stronger ties with multilateral organizations including the OSCE. "Mongolia should make full use of the OSCE's expertise in promoting democracy, human rights, environmental protection and security by becoming active and engaged in the organization," Migliori said.

The mining sector has led to increased foreign investment and economic growth in the country, and Mongolia is compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a concept endorsed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to ensure citizens are able to know what revenue their government makes from public land sales.

OSCE PA Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella and Secretary of the Croatian Delegation Milovan Petkovic accompanied Migliori and Picula on the visit.

Battelli appointed to lead election observation in Albania



Roberto Battelli

Assembly President Riccardo Migliori has appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli last week to head the Parliamentary Assembly's election observation mission to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Albania on 23 June.

"The elections in Albania are crucial for the future of the country," Migliori wrote in his appointment letter on 8 March. "I am confident that the observation mission will benefit greatly from your expertise from Slovenian politics, your dedicated work in the Balkans throughout the years and your experience from leading previous OSCE PA election observation missions." Pre-electoral observation teams are expected to visit the country several times before the June elections.

Battelli, a member of parliament from Slovenia, has been observing elections in South East Europe for two decades, participating in 19 missions in the region since 1994. He has led five OSCE PA election observation missions, most recently to Montenegro's parliamentary elections last October.

The election observation mission to Albania will be the seventh time the PA has observed elections in the country since 1996. OSCE PA Special Representative Andreas Nothelle, who has travelled more than ten times to Albania over the past decade, will serve as Co-ordinator of the mission, having served in the same capacity in 2005 and 2009.

Neil Simon will serve as press spokesman for the mission, while Iryna Sabashuk will serve as logistics co-ordinator. The OSCE PA's research fellows in Copenhagen and Vienna are closely following developments related to the election and will prepare briefing materials for the observers.

Battelli and Nothelle will also be present for Montenegro's presidential election on 7 April.