

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA election observers deploying to Moldova, Georgia and United States



Arta Dade



Geir Joergen Bekkevold

The OSCE PA's busy schedule of election observation continues this week as observers begin to arrive in Moldova for the 30 October presidential election. Head of the Albanian Delegation and Chair of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova Arta Dade has been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, and will deliver the post-election statement in this capacity at a press conference in Chisinau on 31 October. Norwegian Head of Delegation Geir Joergen Bekkevold will lead the delegation of OSCE PA observers to the elections.

Also this week, a small delegation of OSCE PA

observers will travel to Georgia for the second round of the parliamentary elections. The runoff election is scheduled for 30 October. The first round was assessed as competitive and well-administered with fundamental freedoms generally respected. Observers noted, however, that the otherwise calm campaign atmosphere was impacted by allegations of unlawful campaigning and some incidents of violence.

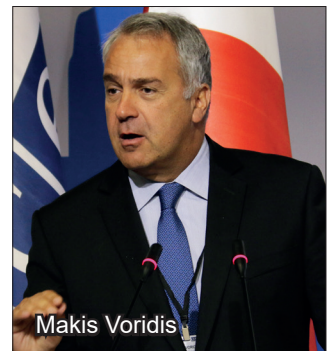
Some 120 OSCE PA observers – the largest-ever OSCE PA delegation for an election observation mission – will also begin travelling to the United States for the 8 November general elections. PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) has been appointed Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, and will deliver the post-election statement at a press conference in Washington on 9 November. Makis Voridis (MP, Greece) will serve as Head of the OSCE PA's delegation.

After two days of briefings in Washington, the observers will deploy to a number of states around the country for election day observation. The mission will mark the sixth time the PA has observed the vote in the U.S. since 2004.

In a recent op-ed published at CNN.com, Muttonen noted the value of OSCE election observation in the United States and stressed her hope that "our presence and expertise can bring some added transparency and shine additional light on the true state of the U.S. electoral system."



Christine Muttonen



Makis Voridis

Secretary General and Finance Officer visit OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna



Roberto Montella (third from right) and Predrag Radjenovic (right) with staff of the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and the PA's new Finance Officer, Predrag Radjenovic, visited Vienna last week, meeting with staff of the PA's Liaison Office and officials from the United States Helsinki Commission, including Senior Senate Staff Representative Amb. David Killion. Montella reiterated the PA's appreciation for the active engagement of the U.S. Delegation in the Assembly and the leadership of the Helsinki Commission on a number of issues, including human rights. Discussions were also held on the preparations of the OSCE PA's election observation mission to the United States for next month's general elections. Montella also briefed

Helsinki Commission staff on the International Secretariat's internal reform process, including the implementation of staff and financial rules and regulations.

In meetings with Liaison Office staff, including Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office Marc Carillet, and Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani, Montella and Radjenovic discussed new accounting practices being introduced at the Secretariat. Radjenovic, who joined the staff of the International Secretariat last month, described his ongoing efforts to streamline the organization's finances, as well as facilitate the efficient preparation of the organization's annual budget.

Discussions also focused on the work that the Liaison Office is conducting in preparation for PA President Christine Muttonen's address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 27 October and the reception being co-hosted later that evening by the President and Amb. Nothelle.

While in Vienna, Montella also met with several Permanent Representatives to the OSCE for wide-ranging discussions.