

Leonid Ivanchenko Addresses OSCE Economic Forum in Prague

This year's OSCE Economic Forum, held from 23-27 May in Prague, focused on examining the economic aspects of migration. The Forum brought together experts from international organizations, national institutions, as well as NGOs and the academic community to exchange views on various topics related to the issue. Consideration was also given in more general terms to the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. PA President Alcee L. Hastings appointed Mr. Leonid Ivanchenko (Russian Federation), Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Second Committee, to represent the Assembly at the meeting.

In his address to the Forum, Mr. Ivanchenko gave an overview of the work of the Assembly on issues pertaining to the OSCE Second Dimension. He highlighted the importance the PA attaches to the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in transition countries and the particular role of women in the development of economic strategies. He also pointed to the relationship between economic and ecologic hardship and the root causes for terrorism and organized crime. Finally, Mr. Ivanchenko emphasized the need for regional co-operation on environmental issues, referring to the PA's recent Tromsø Conference on the environmental and security challenges faced by the northern regions of the OSCE. The representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Boris Frlec, who chaired the meeting, replied that the OSCE counted on the assistance

and advice of the Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Ivanchenko also met with the parting Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Marcin Świącicki as well as with former PA Vice-President and member of the PA's Expert Group on Reform, Dr. Rita Süßmuth (Germany), who also delivered a keynote address on the integration of migrants.

Ambassador Nothelle from the International Secretariat accompanied Mr. Ivanchenko during the Forum.



Moldova Team visits Moscow

On 25 May, three Members of the OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), Chair of the Team, Mr. Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), and Ms. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium) traveled to Moscow. The goal of the visit was to meet with Russian parliamentarians and government officials involved in the negotiations on the status of Transdniestria. Discussions focused on the situation in Moldova, the prospects for a renewal of the negotiation process, as well as exchanging views on how the Parliamentary Team on Moldova may be able to assist in that process. These subjects will be further discussed during a visit of the Team to Chisinau and Tiraspol from 15-17 June.

During the visit to Moscow, the Team met with Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of the Duma Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Andrei Kokoshin, Chairman of the Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, as well as with Mr. Oleg Belouz, Director of the First European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Valery Nesterushkin, Chief Russian Negotiator for the Regulation of the Transdniestrian Issue.

The parliamentary delegation was accompanied by Ms. Françoise Themelin, advisor to Ms. Lizin, and Programme Officer Paul LeGendre from the International Secretariat.

Secretariat pays preparatory visit to Montenegro

Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and Presidential Advisor Gustavo Pallarés paid a visit to Montenegro from 24-27 May in order to begin preparations and visit the premises for the Assembly's Autumn meetings to be held in October 2005 in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro. They held meetings in Podgorica with Mr. Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Delegation of Serbia-Montenegro to the Assembly. It was agreed that the theme for the Autumn Conference will be: *'Democracy and Good Governance in Multi-Ethnic Societies as a Basis for Stability and Security'*.

In the Montenegrin capital, Mr. Evseyev and Mr. Pallarés also met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Miroslav Ivanišević, and with the Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr. Miodrag Vuković. They also met with Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Head of the OSCE Podgorica Office.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 2005 Autumn Meetings (Conference, Meeting of the Standing Committee, and Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean) will be held from 7 to 10 October in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro. General information about the meetings, and hotel and registration forms will be sent to all delegations by mid-June.