

Chairman-in-Office appoints Nevzat Yalcintas to lead OSCE election observers in Montenegro



The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht has appointed PA Vice-President Nevzat Yalcintas as his Special Co-ordinator for the election observation mission being deployed to the referendum in Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro, on 21 May.

As Special Co-ordinator, Professor Yalcintas, from

Turkey, will lead the short-term observers and deliver the preliminary post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE in conjunction with other appropriate officials. Along with Jerry Grafstein (Canada), who has been asked by PA President Hastings and Professor Yalcintas to serve as Deputy Head of the mission, he will lead the OSCE PA delegation of about 70 participants.

The PA observers will receive extensive briefings in the days prior to the elections, and will then be deployed throughout Montenegro to observe the voting. The OSCE PA expects to work in close co-operation with the OSCE-ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

President Hastings visits Spain and Portugal

On 20 and 21 April President Alcee L. Hastings visited Madrid and Lisbon. In both capitals President Hastings was hosted by the respective Heads of OSCE PA Delegations: Javier Torres Vela in Spain and Joao Soares in Lisbon. The President met with the Spanish and Portuguese national Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and discussed current issues in the Assembly, including election observation, Mediterranean dialogue and the prospects for the Brussels Annual Session in July. In Lisbon President Hastings also met with Portuguese Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral, and with Parliamentary Speaker Jaime Gama. Mr. Gama was Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE for several months during the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2002.

President Hastings was accompanied by Vanessa Griddine, legislative counsel to the President and Gustavo Pallarés from the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen.



Head of the Portuguese Delegation Joao Soares and OSCE PA President Alcee L. Hastings.



Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallares, President Alcee L. Hastings and Head of the Spanish Delegation Javier Torres Vela.

OSCE PA participates in meeting of the Islamic Conference Parliamentary Union

Professor Nevzat Yalcintas, Vice-President of the Assembly, participated in the Fourth Session of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (PUOIC) held in Istanbul on 12 and 13 April. On behalf of the OSCE PA, Vice-President Yalcintas addressed the Conference and expressed the willingness of the OSCE PA to further strengthen ties with the Islamic World. The Istanbul Declaration adopted at the Conference calls for, amongst other issues, a nuclear free Middle East and denounces all association of Islam with violence.