

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA prepares for second round of voting in Ukraine

The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is busy finalizing preparations for the observation mission to the second round of the Ukraine election on 7 February.

The OSCE PA delegation and all OSCE short-term observers will continue to be led by Assembly President Joao Soares (Portugal), who was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE at a press conference scheduled to take place in Kyiv on 8 February.

As in the first round, the OSCE mission, comprising the PA and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), will co-operate with other parliamentary assemblies observing the second round. Sixty observers from the PA have registered for the second round and will be deployed in the six regions that were observed in the first round.

In the first round, over 800 short term observers were deployed as part of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM). The observers represented 47 of the 56 OSCE participating States and reported overwhelmingly positively on the election.

“This was a good and competitive election and very promising for the future of Ukraine’s democracy,” said President Soares following the election.

Observers noted that candidates were able to campaign freely and that a pluralistic media offered voters a variety of information about the candidates.

Christmas-Moeller to lead Tajik election observation



Pia Christmas-Moeller and Joao Soares at a post-election press conference in Washington, D.C., November 2008

OSCE PA President Joao Soares has appointed Danish parliamentarian and Assembly Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller to lead the PA’s election observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan on 28 February.

Ms. Christmas-Moeller has headed several election observation missions in the past, including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’s parliamentary and presidential elections in June 2008 and March 2009, respectively. For the U.S. election in 2008, she served as deputy head of mission.

Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria) and Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) will serve as deputy heads of the mission. The OSCE PA observed the presidential election in Tajikistan in November 2006.

Members of Parliament interested in participating in the observation mission to Tajikistan need to register by 8 February.

Dutch OSCE PA Delegation visits Vienna and Copenhagen



Kathleen Ferrier is received by the PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle

The OSCE PA’s new Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier (the Netherlands) paid a working visit to the Assembly’s Liaison Office in Vienna on 25 January.

Her programme included meetings with the Dutch Permanent Mission to the OSCE in Vienna, OSCE’s Economic

and Environmental Affairs Co-ordinator, Goran Svilanovic, and Andreas Halbach, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration. The latter meeting took place in the Vienna Liaison Office of the OSCE PA, where she also received a thorough briefing by the head of the office, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle.

On Friday, 29 January, Dutch Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will visit the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. In addition to Ms. Ferrier, the following Members will participate in the visit: Coskun Coruz, Head of Delegation, Pauline Meurs, Harry van Bommel, and Arjen Westerhoff, Secretary of Delegation.

Topics on Friday’s agenda include a general overview of the International Secretariat and how it works; election observation; Ms. Ferrier’s goals as new Special Representative on Migration; the Assembly’s involvement in the Corfu process; and the establishment of a legal personality for the OSCE.