

President Efthymiou in Moldova promotes co-operation between Chisinau and Tiraspol

OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou called last week for a resumption of official negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol following high-level meetings in Moldova. The visit is the first of a series of visits that Mr. Efthymiou will conduct in the coming weeks to areas of protracted conflict aimed at contributing a parliamentary perspective to conflict resolution processes.

“There are some signals that the negotiation process may move forward later this year,” said President Efthymiou. “I look forward to taking what we learn from this visit into our discussion of the situation in Moldova at our Annual Session in Belgrade.”

The OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova, chaired by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), has been actively engaged with both sides to promote dialogue including through a meeting in Stockholm later this year.

“While there are many contacts in the area of economy and security, there is a need to expand contacts in the political field,” Mr. Efthymiou said. “I fully support the work of our Parliamentary Team to help build contacts between the parliament of Moldova and the Transnistrian Supreme Soviet. In this context, I welcome the willingness of all those I spoke to here in Moldova to participate in the meeting in Stockholm.”

In his meetings in Chisinau and Tiraspol, the President emphasized the need for a speedy resumption of the formal 5+2 negotiations. He reiterated that the OSCE, with its institutional



experience and strong field advantage, will continue to play a crucial role in Moldova. President Efthymiou also welcomed the release of Ernest Vardanyan on 5 May, noting that such moves help to build confidence between the sides.

President Efthymiou met in Chisinau with Speaker of Parliament and Acting President Marian Lupu, Deputy Prime Minister Eugen Carpov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Iurie Leanca, First Deputy Speaker Vlad Plahotniuc, Chair of the Communist Party Vladimir Voronin, and civil society representatives. In Tiraspol, he met with Transnistrian Leader Igor Smirnov, Supreme Soviet Speaker Anatol Kaminski, and Chief Negotiator Vladimir Yastrebnik. President Efthymiou was fully briefed by the OSCE Mission to Moldova. He was accompanied by Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker, Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Secretary of the Hellenic Delegation Chara Papazoudi.

Ambassador and author Markku Reimaa visits International Secretariat

Markku Reimaa, Finland's ambassador for the CSCE from 1986 to 1989, visited the OSCE PA's International Secretariat last week. Meeting with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and the PA's team of research fellows, Ambassador Reimaa discussed Finland's role in launching the Helsinki Process and establishing the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the predecessor to the OSCE.

Ambassador Reimaa has been involved in the OSCE process since the early 1970s, and has authored a book called *Helsinki Catch*, which details the development of the CSCE process from the late 1960s to the early 1990s.

He credited the Helsinki Process with hastening the collapse of communism and ending the Cold War, noting that the inclusion of the human dimension in the Helsinki discussions was particularly important. Ambassador Reimaa argued that the collapse of communism was due to a great extent from the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.



Annual Session Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for the 20th Annual Session, to be held in Belgrade on 6-10 July:

- Registration and Supplementary Items: **1 June**
- Amendments to the three General Committee Draft Resolutions: **22 June**
- Amendments to Supplementary Items: **29 June**

For further information, please visit www.oscepa.org.