

News from Copenhagen

President Migliori addresses Parliament of Montenegro, OSCE PA Autumn Meetings to be held in Budva



President Migliori with Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapic in Montenegro.



Budva, Montenegro, host of the 2013 Autumn Meetings.

OSCE PA President Riccardo Migliori addressed the Parliament of Montenegro last week for the opening of its spring session in Cetinje. Migliori applauded the progress made in Montenegro with respect to democratic institutions and the good work the OSCE has done to help Montenegro on its path toward European integration.

President Migliori was in Montenegro as a guest of Speaker Ranko Krivokapic, Head of the Montenegrin Delegation to the OSCE PA. President Migliori met Thursday with Speaker Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Government of Montenegro Milo Dukanovic, and President of Montenegro Filip Vujanovic. He also visited the office of the OSCE Mission to Podgorica.

In prepared remarks to the Assembly Friday, Migliori spoke about the evolution of Montenegro since independence, calling Montenegro an example of the reinforcement of democratic institutions.

He also spoke about the role of the OSCE in the wider region of South East Europe, where the Organization has

helped to foster peace and stability.

The OSCE has expended more funds in the Balkans than in any other area, including the largest OSCE missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. OSCE PA Treasurer Roberto Battelli, who accompanied the president, has served as the Special Representative for South East Europe for several years and has paid frequent visits to the parliaments and OSCE missions in the area. Battelli, along with Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella, has also been involved in the deployment of several OSCE PA election observation missions in the region.

During the visit, it was decided that the PA's 2013 Autumn Meetings will be held in Montenegro. President Migliori indicated that the Assembly has accepted the invitation of the Montenegrin Parliament to host the Autumn Meetings on 13-15 October in Budva.

The Montenegrin Parliament previously hosted the OSCE PA Autumn Meetings in Sveti-Stefan in 2005.

OSCE PA hosts NATO PA, PACE Secretaries General



Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO PA, meet with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver.

Secretaries General from the Council of Europe, NATO, and OSCE Parliamentary Assemblies met last week in Copenhagen for a day of consultations aimed at strengthening the co-operation between the assemblies made up of national parliamentarians.

At the invitation of OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Wojciech Sawicki, Secretary General of the Council of

Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, came to Copenhagen for talks at the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA.

In their first joint meeting, the leaders discussed ways they could intensify co-operation between their respective Assemblies, whose members collectively represent more than one billion citizens across the Northern Hemisphere.

The secretaries general exchanged views and ideas ranging from election monitoring to administration and budgeting matters and agreed it would be worthwhile to convene again with staff counterparts to share best practices in organizing parliamentary conferences and events in the field.

Oliver, Sawicki and Hobbs discussed sharing calendars of activities to prevent scheduling conflicts, comparing administrative procedures, reducing overlapping events and establishing points of contact in their respective secretariats.