

News from Copenhagen

Grossruck assumes presidency of the PA, visits International Secretariat



Assembly President Wolfgang Grossruck, with advisor Lukas Mussi, goes over proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure with OSCE PA Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhayev.

OSCE PA President Wolfgang Grossruck launched the first week of his presidency with a visit Tuesday to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen.

President Grossruck met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and staff to discuss PA business, including vacancies in the Bureau, proposed changes to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, upcoming election observation missions, possible presidential visits to several OSCE national parliaments, and participation in various meetings and conferences that will take place in the next three months.

In a day of meetings, Grossruck and advisor Lukas Mussi, talked with Secretariat staff about logistical aspects to make the most effective use of time and staff resources.

Grossruck, a Member of the Austrian Parliament and the Assembly's most senior vice-president, became the acting president of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 15 March to fill a vacancy created by President Riccardo Migliori's departure from the Italian Parliament.

Grossruck will serve as acting president through 3 July 2013, the end of the Assembly's Annual Session. First elected vice-president in 2008 and a member of the Assembly since 1996, Grossruck is one of the most experienced election

observers in the OSCE region. He has participated in 32 election observation missions, and has led three, to Albania in 2009, Azerbaijan in 2010 and Romania in 2012.

In Copenhagen, he called election observation one of the main aims of the PA's work. "A lot of member states are grateful for the job we do," he said. "We are as parliamentarians not coming as teachers or advisors, we are coming as friends and to help the several countries to give them our experience and to suggest what should be changed and made better in the future."

Grossruck will conduct his first business meeting as president on 15 April, when the Bureau convenes for its annual spring meeting in Copenhagen. As a member of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE, Grossruck also expects to discuss the work of the committee with its chair, Francois-Xavier De Donnea, (Belgium), in the near future.

The president also plans to travel to Montenegro with Special Representative for South East Europe Roberto Battelli to coincide with the country's elections next month and to assist preparations for the 2013 Fall Meetings in Budva.



Wolfgang Grossruck, Lukas Mussi and Secretariat staff discuss upcoming election observation missions and PA meetings.