

# News from Copenhagen

## Parliamentary Assembly leadership meets in Copenhagen



President Wolfgang Grossruck and Secretary General Spencer Oliver

The leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly, including the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform, met on 14-15 April in Copenhagen to finalize preparations for the 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Special Envoy of the OSCE

Chairman-in-Office, participated in the Bureau meeting and reported on the work of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship.

OSCE PA Treasurer Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) gave his report and proposed the budget for the Assembly for the next fiscal year. Battelli reported that the PA had received a positive audit from an outside independent professional auditor and had remained within budget for the 20th year in a row. After a frozen budget for four straight years, Battelli indicated that a small increase would be necessary during the coming year in order to maintain the present level of activities. The Bureau approved the proposed budget.

The Bureau was addressed by Rules Committee Chairman Joao Soares of Portugal, who presented the Committee's recommendations to improve the PA's working methods, including a proposed reduction in the number of supplementary items to be considered each year, as well as clarifying procedures for the future election of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General.

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform, François-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium), reported on the work of the committee during the past two months. He also proposed a substantive OSCE reform resolution for consideration in Istanbul. The proposal was received positively by the Transparency Committee and in the Bureau meeting. He also reported on his efforts to resolve the problems that the PA has been having with the ODIHR during election observation missions.

Following lengthy discussions in the Transparency Committee, de Donnea recommended that the 1997 Co-operation Agreement be revived for the election observation missions in Bulgaria and Albania and that, during this period, the PA should evaluate the co-operation with the ODIHR, including the positive assurances by ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic to fully observe the provisions of the 1997 Agreement. President Wolfgang Grossruck and Secretary General Spencer Oliver supported the recommendations and the Bureau agreed without opposition.

The reports and draft resolutions of the three general committees were presented to the Bureau for discussion and consideration. Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania) presented the report and draft resolution for the First Committee. Ann Phelan (Ireland) presented the report and draft resolution for the Third Committee. In the absence of Christos Stylianides (Cyprus) who has joined the government of Cyprus, the report and draft resolution for the Second Committee were presented by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares. The Bureau approved the appointment of Doris Barnett (Germany) to serve as rapporteur, who will present the report and draft resolution at the Annual Session. Based on the generally positive response and a few recommendations, the documents will be finalized by 22 April for translation and distribution to all delegations by 17 May.

Emin Onen, Head of the Turkish Delegation, gave a presentation on the status of the ongoing preparations for the Annual Session. President Grossruck and the members of the Bureau expressed their appreciation for the excellent preparations.

The Head of the Montenegrin Delegation and Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapic, briefed the Bureau on preparations already underway for the Fall Meetings which will take place in Budva on 13-15 October. Grossruck thanked Krivokapic for his willingness to host the Assembly on relatively short notice, and indicated that he and colleagues had participated in a preparatory visit to Budva on 8-10 April, and were impressed by the facilities and seaside location chosen for the meetings. This will be the second time that Montenegro has hosted the Fall Meetings.



Makis Voridis (Greece), Emin Onen (Turkey) and Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro) chat on the margins of the Bureau meeting.



The Assembly's Bureau met in the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) on 15 April 2013.