

News from Copenhagen

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Presidential visits to Belgrade and Sarajevo

Mr. Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE PA, visited Belgrade from 19-20 June. His programme included meetings with President Vojislav Kostunica and Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, Mr. Dragoljub Micunovic and Mr. Srdja Bozovic as well as Ms. Vesna Perovic, Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro. Mr. Severin also met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Zarko Korac and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Goran Svilanovic.

The discussions dealt with a large number of issues, including OSCE's co-operation with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the present process of constitutional changes, regional co-operation and Yugoslavia's reintegration into the European structures.

From Belgrade President Severin continued to Sarajevo, where his meetings included Mr. Zivko Radisic, Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, Mr. Nikola Spiric and Mr. Mariofil Ljubic as well as the President of the Federation of BiH and Vice-President of Republica Srpska.

The discussions in Sarajevo, to a large extent, focused on the same issues as in Belgrade. However, in Bosnia & Herzegovina the President emphasized the need to work for reconciliation. In this connection two points were highlighted: the forthcoming parliamentary election and reforms in education.

OSCE Troika

President Adrian Severin attended the meeting of the OSCE Troika in Lisbon on 26 June. The meeting was chaired by Mr. António Martins da Cruz, Foreign Minister of Portugal and Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. Other participants included Mr. Jozias van Aartsen, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands and Mr. Mihnea Motock, Secretary of State of Romania.

The agenda included the fight against terrorism, reform of the OSCE and regional issues. The Troika also discussed the reinforcement of co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In this connection the Chairman-in-Office and the President informed the Troika about the negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding, concerning the co-operation between the Governmental and Parliamentary branches of the OSCE.

Romanian MP represents OSCE PA in OSCE-Thailand Conference

From 20-21 June, Mr. Mihai Stanisoara, the Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA, travelled to Thailand to take part in the "OSCE-Thailand Conference on the Human Dimension of Security." Mr. Stanisoara addressed the Conference on the role of parliamentarians in protecting human rights while ensuring security.



11th Annual Session in Berlin

At the passing of the deadline for amendments to the Draft Resolutions the International Secretariat had received 56 amendments to the First Committee Draft Resolution, 20 amendments to the Second Committee Draft Resolution and 38 amendments to the Third Committee Draft Resolution.

Permanent Council

President Adrian Severin addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 27 June. In his address the President dealt with a number of issues, including the relations between the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE, the development of the OSCE and Belarus. (The statement is available at the Secretariat).

In their responses to the President, several Members of the Permanent Council expressed their appreciation of President Severin's work during his two years of Presidency, and to the Assembly in general. Attention was given to the Assembly's work in connection with the situation in Belarus.

Lisbon Meeting on Terrorism

On Wednesday 12 June Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participated in the High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Combat of Terrorism organized by the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE. President Severin chaired the Session of the Conference devoted to co-operation among international and regional organizations. In his address Mr. Severin stated that "international co-operation is vital for the success of any actions. Terrorist networks have no borders and defy any state sovereignty, therefore our co-operation should also be borderless". While in Lisbon President Severin held a meeting with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Portuguese Foreign Minister António Martins da Cruz. Mr. Severin briefed the CiO about the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly including the upcoming 11th Annual Session.

On Thursday 13 June President Severin held meetings in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies hosted by Mrs. Isabel Tocino, Head of the Spanish Delegation to the Assembly. He also met with Mrs. Soledad Becerril, Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and with the Spanish Delegation. During these meetings the parliamentary Conference on security in the Mediterranean - to be held in Madrid on 3 and 4 October - was discussed.