

News from Copenhagen

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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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More than 200 MPs to attend Madrid Conference

From 3-4 October, in the Spanish Parliament in Madrid, more than 200 parliamentarians from 45 OSCE participating States will take part in the two-day OSCE PA Conference on the Mediterranean, which will be chaired by President Bruce George. The Conference, consisting of a series of presentations and discussions focussing on ensuring peace, democracy and prosperity in the Mediterranean region, will provide an opportunity for discussion and sharing of ideas between members of parliament and prominent international experts.

Organized at the invitation of the Spanish Parliament, the Conference will be addressed by prominent officials including the Speaker of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, Mrs. Luisa Fernanda Rudi Úbeda, the Speaker of the Spanish Senate Mrs. Esperanza Aguirre Gil de Biedma, the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament Mr. Anton Tabone, and senior Spanish government officials.

The Conference will also be addressed by senior OSCE officials and expert speakers including OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis, the Director of the International Organisation for Migration, Department of External Relations, Mr. Peter Schatzer and the President of the Instituto Affari Internazionali, Mr. Stefano Silvestri.



Preceding the Conference, there will be a meeting of the Assembly's Standing Committee of heads of parliamentary delegations on 2 October. The Standing Committee will discuss the general activities of the Assembly and follow up on the Assembly's Berlin Declaration on the international fight against terrorism.

Pieter De Crem to lead Monitoring of Elections in BiH

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Bruce George has appointed Mr. Pieter De Crem, MP (Belgium) to lead the OSCE PA delegation monitoring the parliamentary elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) on 5 October. The delegation so far includes more than twenty parliamentarians from 13 OSCE participating States. These will be the first elections administered by the authorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina, concluding more than six years of OSCE management of elections through its Mission to Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Co-operation between Secretariats of the Parliamentary Institutions

OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen, attended a Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) in Strasbourg from 23-24 September. In conjunction with the Council of Europe Session Mr. Väänänen had meetings with representatives of the Secretariats of PACE and the European Parliament and participated in the preparatory meeting of the Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact. The Conference will take place in Tirana from 14-16 October. Representatives of the three Secretariats also discussed their co-operation in monitoring the parliamentary elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5 October. Mr. Väänänen also met with representatives of the Venice Commission, discussing the work of the Council for Democratic Elections. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participates in the meetings of the Council, which is preparing a document dealing with a code of good practice in electoral matters for the PACE.

OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

On 18 September, Paul LeGendre, Programme Officer, took part in the Special Session of the OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Election Standards. Mr. LeGendre participated in discussions on various international initiatives, including those undertaken within the framework of the OSCE, to develop more comprehensive documents on election standards.

OSCE iFC visit to Georgia

From 15-19 September 2002 Programme Officer Tina Schøn participated in the visit of the OSCE informal Financial Committee (iFC) to Georgia. The main purpose of the visit was for the iFC and the Mission to discuss management issues, reforms within the Mission and future projects. The Programme of the visit included an administrative briefing and a situation description by Mission Members, a visit to the Border Monitoring Operation, a visit to the Tskhinvali field office of the Mission as well as meetings with experts and the Personal Representative of the Georgian President on National Security and Conflict Resolution.

Upcoming Events

- **2-4 October 2002**
Standing Committee Meeting and Parliamentary Conference on Security in the Mediterranean, Madrid
- **5 October 2002**
Parliamentary Election in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- **5-7 December 2002**
PA Bureau Meeting and OSCE Ministerial Council, Porto
- **20-21 February 2003**
PA Winter Meeting, Vienna