

VP Migliori to lead Tunisian election observation



Vice-President Riccardo Migliori speaks at the Annual Session in Belgrade.

President Petros Efthymiou has appointed OSCE PA Vice-President Riccardo Migliori (Italy) to lead the Assembly's election observation mission for the Tunisian elections, which will take place on 23 October.

Mr. Migliori has accepted this assignment with

enthusiasm and has told President Efthymiou that he regards it "as a great honour and responsibility, particularly in view of the recent developments in North Africa."

Mr. Migliori has participated in numerous election observation missions during the past several years since becoming Head of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA.

Under his leadership, the Italian Delegation has become the most active within the OSCE PA, participating in virtually all PA activities, as well as hosting the Fall Meetings in Palermo and two OSCE seminars in Rome and in Bolzano.

President Efthymiou expressed his confidence in Mr. Migliori, saying that "Riccardo Migliori is well-qualified to lead this important mission, which will be the first substantial PA election observation mission in a Mediterranean Partner State. I am pleased he has accepted this assignment and look forward to hearing his report at the next meeting of the Bureau."

The Tunisian election observation mission will be managed by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle with assistance from his colleagues Roberto Montella and Marc Carillet from the Vienna Liaison Office, and support from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen.

International Secretariat begins follow-up work on Belgrade Session

The International Secretariat this week began distribution of the Belgrade Declaration and final report on the 20th Annual Session to ensure the many recommendations by OSCE parliamentarians are conveyed to all OSCE countries.

The Assembly's adoption of the Belgrade Declaration and 24 additional resolutions contains focused proposals and calls

for action by the participating States, their parliaments and the OSCE itself.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver this week forwarded the relevant documents from the Belgrade meeting to OSCE Foreign Ministers, Speakers of Parliaments, and Heads of OSCE PA Delegations for their consideration.



"The Declaration gives us a clear way forward to make sure the OSCE is not just the world's largest regional security organization but the most efficient and effective organization," Mr. Oliver said.

In formally distributing the Declaration, the OSCE PA Secretariat welcomes feedback on the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendations and specifically requests comments about national follow-up activities.

In addition, the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, briefed OSCE

delegations and representatives of Partner States regarding the Declaration and the Belgrade Session.

Amb. Nothelle's meetings will follow up on his report this week, which described how the OSCE has repeatedly declined to post OSCE PA press releases on the OSCE website during the Annual Session.

News items about a "private" ambassadorial excursion to Moldova and minibus donations were prominently featured on the OSCE web site during the Belgrade meeting, but the gathering of hundreds of parliamentarians dealing with OSCE issues remained invisible on the organization's home page due in part to the OSCE's refusal to publish PA press releases there.

The Assembly has consistently asked that its press releases be included with those of other institutions on the OSCE home page. In meetings with President Petros Efthymiou in Belgrade, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier promised to improve this situation.

