

Krivokapic meets with Georgian, Serbian officials



OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic met the State minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia Alexi Petriashvili on 16 July in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Krivokapic and Petriashvili discussed the 27 October presidential election in Georgia, which Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze has formally invited the OSCE PA to observe.

During an official visit to Serbia 11-12 July as a guest of Serbian Speaker of Parliament Nebojsa Stefanovic, the PA President met with the Delegation of Republic of Serbia to the OSCE PA and head of OSCE Mission in Serbia Peter Burkhard.

Krivokapic and Burkhard discussed co-operation between OSCE PA and OSCE field missions, focusing on the involvement of members of parliament in OSCE mission activities, for which the OSCE is well recognized in the Western Balkan region.

Istanbul Declaration sent to Foreign Ministers, Speakers

The Istanbul Declaration adopted at the Annual Session on 3 July was formally distributed on Thursday 11 July to all Speakers of Parliament and Foreign Ministers in the OSCE region.

With parliaments and government offices closing for several weeks in the summer months, July is an opportune time for delegations to meet with key members of their foreign ministries to promote aspects of the Istanbul Declaration.

The Declaration specifically proposes that the OSCE PA should be “formally entitled to oversee all OSCE institutions, policies and practices.”

Parliamentarians also voted overwhelmingly to propose

that “after appropriate consultations, the OSCE PA should approve the budget and confirm the Secretary General of the OSCE by a weighted majority vote.”

Other enhanced parliamentary oversight roles are also outlined in the document which contains numerous policy recommendations for the OSCE and national governments to enact related to security, human rights and environmental co-operation.

To increase the ease with which delegates, diplomats, organizations and the public can search for keywords in the document, this year the Declaration has been put online in a more user-friendly HTML format.

Bureau to meet in Budva ahead of Autumn Meeting

Plans are underway for the 2013 Autumn Meeting to be held in Budva, Montenegro under the chairmanship of newly elected PA President Ranko Krivokapic.

The newly elected Bureau will meet on 12 October before the formal opening of the larger meeting which will run through 15 October.

Hosted by the parliament of Montenegro under the theme “Addressing Transnational Threats and Protecting Human Rights: The Role of the OSCE”, the long working weekend will also include a Mediterranean Forum and Standing Committee meeting on 13 October. The meeting will take place at the Hotel Splendid Conference Resort.

This will be the second time the Autumn Meeting has been in Montenegro. In 2005 parliamentarians gathered in Sveti-Stefan for a meeting that focused on good governance in multi-ethnic societies

Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella will visit Montenegro next week to consult with President

Krivokapic on the programme for the coming year and co-ordination between Podgorica and the Assembly’s offices in Vienna and Copenhagen. The president has already received invitations for official visits to several countries.

Registration forms for the Autumn Meeting are available online at www.oscepa.org.

