

News from Copenhagen

President Krivokapic visits International Secretariat in Copenhagen

Ranko Krivokapic paid his first working visit to the OSCE PA headquarters as Assembly president Wednesday, meeting with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and staff. The meetings in Copenhagen focused on the Assembly's ongoing work, with particular attention on next month's Autumn Meeting in Budva and the OSCE PA's upcoming election observation mission to Georgia.

Other topics touched on by the president included his desire to increase the level of co-operation between the three general committees of the Parliamentary Assembly and their counterparts in the OSCE Permanent Council, as well as enhancing the level of engagement of PA Special Representatives.

He also discussed the need to follow up on the Istanbul Declaration's recommendations on OSCE reform adopted by the Assembly at the 22nd Annual Session, and the importance



of promoting the OSCE's Helsinki +40 process in advance of the organization's 40th anniversary in 2015.

A nine-time elected parliamentarian, Krivokapic has been president of the Montenegrin Parliament since 2003 and has served previously in the parliaments of Yugoslavia from 1993 to 1997 and the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro from 2003 to 2006.

Following the visit to Copenhagen, the president and Secretary General Oliver traveled to Warsaw.

Soares and Kanerva appointed to lead election observers in Georgia

On the recommendation of OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara on Wednesday appointed Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) to serve as OSCE Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE observer mission to the 27 October presidential election in Georgia. This mission will include the OSCE PA delegation as well as the OSCE short-term observers seconded by OSCE participating States.

Last month, Finnish parliamentarian Ilkka Kanerva was appointed by President Krivokapic to lead the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's delegation to observe the election.

Kanerva, former Foreign Minister of Finland and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, currently serves as Head of Finland's

Delegation to the OSCE PA. He's been a Member of Parliament since 1975 and has served as Minister of Transport, Minister of Labour Deputy Prime Minister and First Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Soares, a former OSCE PA president, most recently served as OSCE Special Co-ordinator for last year's election observation mission to the United States, and as head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's delegation to the Albanian parliamentary elections in June 2013. He has been the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South Caucasus since July 2011, conducting an official visit to the region in that capacity last spring.

The PA has observed nine elections in Georgia since 1995.

DSG Schoen participates in OSCE regional meeting in Georgia

Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen participated in the regional meeting of heads of OSCE field operations in the South Caucasus, held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 3-4 September. The meeting, chaired by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, included updates by the Heads of Offices in Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as a report on the work of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Schoen reported on results of the Assembly's 2013 Annual Session pertaining to the South Caucasus, and talked about preparations for the upcoming OSCE PA election observation mission to Georgia for the 27 October presidential election, as well as the planned 2014 Annual Session in Baku.

During her visit to Tbilisi, Schoen also met with representatives of the Central Election Commission and discussed ongoing preparations, including accreditation procedures for the OSCE PA observers in Georgia.

OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Mariani visits region

OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Thierry Mariani (France) conducted a comprehensive visit to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan from 20 to 27 August. In Dushanbe, Mariani was briefed by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.

He also addressed the UN High-Level International Conference on Water Co-operation, meeting with high-level officials, as well as with political parties and members of civil society. The Tajikistan visit was supported by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, in close co-operation with the Embassy of France.

In Bishkek, Mariani was briefed by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on the OSCE's wide range of activities in the country. The Special Representative met with government officials, as well as parliamentarians, including the very active Kyrgyzstan Delegation to the OSCE PA. The visit was supported by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.