

## Mongolia to host OSCE PA's 14th Autumn Meeting next week

Nearly 200 lawmakers from across the OSCE's 57 participating States will gather in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15-18 September for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 2015 Autumn Meeting.

The Meeting will focus on continuing and emerging security concerns for the OSCE area and the role of parliamentarians in fostering co-operation to address those concerns. Hosted by the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, the Meeting is the final major gathering of the Assembly this year. Mongolian Parliament Chairman Enkhbold Zandaakhuu and Mongolian President Elbegdorj Tsakhia are scheduled to address the Assembly during the opening session on 16 September.

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), members of the Mongolian Delegation to the Assembly and officials from the United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be among other keynote speakers.

The Autumn Meeting will also feature a special roundtable event on Central Asia with the Heads of OSCE field operations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Parliamentarians from several OSCE Partner for Co-operation States will also be in attendance.

Topics to be addressed in presentations and parliamentary debate include: counter-terrorism, human trafficking, food and



water security, the development of democratic institutions, human rights and freedom of the media. During open debate sessions, parliamentarians are also expected to discuss the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis affecting Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Newly elected Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) will present her first report to the Standing Committee, while outgoing Secretary General Spencer Oliver will be delivering his final address to the Standing Committee.

Mongolia, the most recent country to become an OSCE participating State (in 2012), will be hosting an OSCE PA meeting for the first time. It is the 14th Autumn Meeting held by the OSCE PA since 2002.



## Leaders appointed for election observation in Kyrgyzstan and Belarus



Christine Muttonen



Kent Harstedt



Jim Walsh

Upon the nomination of OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic, has appointed OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) and Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden) to lead two upcoming election observation missions. Muttonen will be leading short-term OSCE election observers to the 4 October parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan and Harstedt will lead the short-term observer mission to the 11 October presidential election in Belarus.

President Kanerva has also appointed Irish Senator Jim Walsh as Head of the OSCE PA's delegation for the observation mission in Belarus, and Czech MP Ivana Dobesova, Vice-Chair of the Third Committee, as Head of

the OSCE PA mission for Kyrgyzstan. The OSCE PA observation missions expect to work closely with observers from the OSCE/ODIHR, PACE and the European Parliament.

Muttonen and Harstedt have previously served as Special Co-ordinators of election observation missions to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, respectively. The designations issued by the Chairperson-in-Office to lead the upcoming missions are issued in accordance with the 1997 Co-operation Agreement, as endorsed by Ministerial Decision 19/06.



Ivana Dobesova

### OSCE PA election observation deadline reminder

Delegations are advised that the deadline for registering to observe both the upcoming elections in Kyrgyzstan and in Belarus is Friday, **11 September**. Completed registration forms should be sent to [eom@oscepa.dk](mailto:eom@oscepa.dk).