

News from Copenhagen

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Vice-President Barbara Haering Attends OSCE Troika



Barbara Haering (Switzerland), Vice-President of the OSCE PA, participated in the OSCE Troika meeting in Vienna on 16 January 2004, along with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman-in-Office, Solomon Passy, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria. Other participants included Dimitrij Rupel, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, Ambassador Daan Everts, representing the Foreign Minister of Netherlands, Secretary General Jan Kubis and the Heads of the OSCE governmental Institutions.

During the meeting, Vice-President Haering informed the Troika about the PA's forthcoming Winter Meeting and the Annual Session and hoped that the leadership of the Governmental OSCE would participate actively on both occasions.

She also informed the Troika about the PA's activities in Georgia and Moldova and confirmed the Assembly's continuing commitment to support the OSCE's efforts in both countries.

On 15 January, PA Secretary-General Oliver and Ambassador Nothelle represented the PA at the first 2004 meeting of the Permanent Council where the new Chairman-in-Office presented his ideas for the Bulgarian Chairmanship.

Heads of Mission Meeting

On 15-16 January 2004, Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Programme Officers Paul LeGendre and Tina Schøn participated in the Annual OSCE Heads of Mission Meeting, which took place in Vienna.

Mr. Väänänen delivered a report, clarifying the priorities of the OSCE PA in the various geographical areas covered by the OSCE Missions. He also listed the upcoming activities and main meetings of the Assembly.

In the report, Deputy Secretary General Väänänen stressed the need for close co-ordination. *"We must always make sure that in any particular country there is only one OSCE policy, pursued both by the OSCE Chairmanship and the Missions and also by the OSCE Parliamentarians. Therefore it is essential that the good co-operation between the OSCE Chairmanship and the PA Presidency will continue and that the PA's relevant bodies and the Missions cooperate and communicate effectively."*

During the meeting, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Solomon Passy outlined the political priorities for the coming year, stressing the role of OSCE Missions and in particular the topic of education.

OSCE PA Fall Meetings in Greece

On 14 and 15 January 2004 Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallarés visited Greece to begin preparations for the Assembly's 2004 Fall Meetings to be held on the Greek island of Rhodes from 29 September to 2 October.

The Assembly's Fall Meetings will include a meeting of the Standing Committee, a one-day Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings, and the Second OSCE PA Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean.

In Rhodes the members of the Secretariat were accompanied by the Secretary of the Greek Delegation, Ms. Nayia Miliou, and discussed issues pertaining to the organization and arrangements of the 2004 Fall Meetings. Further information on these meetings will be forwarded shortly to all Delegations.

Parliamentary Elections in Georgia

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will observe the upcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia on 28 March 2004. Members, who are interested in participating in this Election Observation Mission, are kindly requested to register with the International Secretariat no later than Thursday, 18 March 2004. For more information, please contact Programme Officer Tina Schøn.