

News from Copenhagen

Parliamentarians call for constructive political process in Kyrgyzstan



At the end of a visit to Bishkek on 16 and 17 May, a group of senior OSCE parliamentarians led by President Soares called upon the provisional government and people of Kyrgyzstan to work together to ensure security, stability, and democracy for their country.

The PA delegation held meetings in the Kyrgyz capital with the leader of the provisional government, Roza Otunbaeva, political party representatives, and representatives of civil society and the international community. The delegation also hosted a 'roundtable' discussion that focused on exchanging experiences across the OSCE area in developing political

systems and their applicability in Kyrgyzstan.

"The quick action by the provisional government to remedy errors of the past through creating a new constitution is important. Now it is up to all of the people of Kyrgyzstan to maintain a constructive dialogue among political forces and civil society as this process moves forward," said Mr. Soares.

The delegation was briefed on the challenges facing the country, in particular the economic problems caused by the closure of borders with neighbouring countries. Members expressed willingness to work to overcome these difficulties, and noted that they were willing to support the provisional government in a process of political reconciliation.

The OSCE PA delegation to Bishkek included the PA's Special Envoy on Kyrgyzstan Adil Akhmetov, Vice-Presidents Kimmo Kiljunen and Pia Christmas-Moeller, Third Committee Rapporteur Matteo Mecacci, Head of the Russian Delegation Aleksander Kozlovskiy, Italian MP Claudio D'Amico and OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The visit was supported by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum successfully concludes in Almaty

The Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, organized by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, took place in Almaty on 14 and 15 May, involving nearly 90 MPs from 35 OSCE participating States and Mediterranean partner countries, as well as parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Qatar.

Under the theme, "The OSCE Eurasian Dimension," the Forum's high points were two special sessions with lively discussions on Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Key speakers at the special session on regional security, Afghanistan and combating terrorism and drug trafficking, included former Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, the First Deputy President of the Afghan National Assembly's House of Representatives, Mirwais Yasini, and the OSCE PA



Special Representative on Afghanistan, Michel Voisin.

In the special session on Kyrgyzstan, "The Crisis in Kyrgyzstan and its Implications for Parliamentary Democracy," the panelists included Zhanibek Karibzhanov, Special Envoy of the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship on Kyrgyzstan, Adil Akhmetov, OSCE PA

Special Envoy on Kyrgyzstan, and the Kyrgyz Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Zhanysh Rustenbekov.

The Forum's other sessions discussed economic and political development in Eurasia and religious tolerance, human trafficking, labour migration and gender equality. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, and the OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, also addressed the Forum.

OSCE PA's Mecacci meets imprisoned human rights activist Yevgeny Zhovtis

Matteo Mecacci, Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, met last week with Kazakh human rights advocate Yevgeny Zhovtis, serving a four-year sentence in a prison colony in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

Mr. Zhovtis, director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, was sentenced to four years in prison following a fatal traffic accident last year. Domestic legal experts and international observers at the trial reported numerous procedural violations, and questioned

whether he was given adequate ability to mount a defence.

"Mr. Zhovtis was in good condition but disappointed in the Supreme Court's refusal to recognize the lack of fairness in the legal proceedings. Unfortunately, I have to conclude that institutions can fail to deliver a fair and proportionate judgment in a situation that to independent observers does not entail criminal responsibility," said Mr. Mecacci.

Unfortunately, the Kazakh Chairmanship instructed the OSCE press office in Vienna not to publish the OSCE PA press release about Mr. Mecacci's visit on the OSCE website.