

News from Copenhagen

President Muttonen addresses Permanent Council, visits The Hague

Assembly President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna last week, urging all OSCE institutions to work closely together and share their strengths in order to meet current challenges. “In these times, we need not less, but more exchange and dialogue,” she said.

Muttonen welcomed the Permanent Council’s efforts to transform fundamental security issues into structured dialogue and noted that the PA’s diversity of opinions, open forums and its democratic decision-making processes help facilitate the development of new and sometimes unconventional ideas. She urged the OSCE’s governmental side to review the PA’s recommendations ahead of December’s Ministerial Council.

Following her address to the Permanent Council, President Muttonen travelled to The Hague, Netherlands,



where she held meetings at the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the Dutch Senate, and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Meeting with the HCNM, Amb. Lamberto Zannier, the ICC’s first Vice-President, Joyce Aluoch, and with the President of the Senate of the Netherlands, Ankie Broekers-Knol, Muttonen discussed avenues for co-operation and dialogue.

PA members speak on migration at OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Palermo



Senior members of the OSCE PA were in Palermo this week exploring issues related to the impact of migration in the Mediterranean region. On Tuesday, Vice-President Marietta Tidei (Italy), Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) addressed the OSCE’s 2017 Mediterranean Conference, at which OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella also participated.

Speaking at the high-level political segment of the Mediterranean Conference, Vice-President Tidei highlighted

the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on migration, which she noted is one of the most urgent challenges on the international agenda today.

Also addressing the Mediterranean Conference on Tuesday, Lombardi presented the PA’s recently issued report, “Ensuring a Coherent, Shared and Responsible Governance of Migration and Refugee Flows,” and urged participants to look beyond the immediate migration-related challenges facing the Mediterranean region and towards the economic and social opportunities presented by migration in the longer term.

Allizard spoke at the session on countering smuggling and trafficking in human beings, noting the challenge is on one hand to protect vulnerable migrants from exploitation along migration routes and in countries of destination, and on the other to more effectively fight transnational criminal networks. The conference was organized by the Italian Chairmanship of the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partnership.

OSCE PA delegation’s visit to Morocco focuses on counter-terrorism efforts

A delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly concluded a two-day visit to Morocco last Friday. The delegation met with religious leaders, participated in a seminar on countering violent extremism in the OSCE region, and held a series of meetings with parliamentary and government leaders in Rabat.

Speaking at a seminar on the topic of youth recruitment by extremist organizations, Stephane Crusniere, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, commended Morocco for investing in youth as part of its strategy to counter violent extremism and radicalization.

The high-level OSCE PA delegation met with Hakim Benchamach, President of the House of Councilors; Lahbib El Malki, President of the House of Representatives; Nouredine

Boutaib, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Interior; Vincent Landel, Archbishop of Rabat; and Abdessalam Lazaar, Director of Mohammed VI Institute for the training of Imams. In meetings, PA members touched on issues including foreign terrorist fighters, religious tolerance and dialogue, human rights, education policy, and rural development.

