

News from Copenhagen

Parliamentarians to debate transnational crime and corruption in Palermo

Over 200 OSCE Parliamentarians from 50 OSCE countries are expected to participate in the Ninth OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Fall Meetings taking place Palermo, Sicily, from 8-11 October 2010. The previous Fall Meetings were held in Athens, Greece.

Hosted by the Sicilian Regional Assembly, the Fall Meetings include meetings of the Assembly's Mediterranean Forum and Standing Committee and a Conference on "The Fight against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption."

Featured speakers will include OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou (Greece), OSCE PA Vice-President and head of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, Riccardo Migliori, as well as Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan's Minister of Foreign Affairs and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut.

The main speakers from Italy are Francesco Cascio, President of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, and the Presidents of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate, Gianfranco Fini and Renato Schifani as well as several Cabinet ministers.

All sessions will take place at the Sicilian Regional Assembly at Palazzo dei Normanni in Palermo.

Delegates from the parliaments of Israel, Algeria and Morocco are also expected to participate, primarily in the sessions of the Mediterranean Forum, which will deal with

economic, cultural, and environmental co-operation in the Mediterranean area.

In the session focusing on co-operation in economic and infrastructure sectors in the Mediterranean basin, Altero Matteoli, Italian Minister for Infrastructure and Transportation, and Agostino Miozzo, Director of the Volunteer, Institutional and International Relations Office, Italian Civil Protection Department, are expected to speak.

The conference on organized crime and corruption will include discussions on human trafficking, a look at the ten years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the fight against corruption. Participants include representatives of the National Anti-Mafia Bureau, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Transparency International, and Interpol.

The focus of the conference continues the Assembly's theme for 2010, "Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption." At this year's Annual Session in Oslo, the Assembly adopted resolutions and recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States related to the various dimensions of this topic.

The work in Palermo will continue this focus, providing an opportunity for follow-up and the ongoing exchange of best practices.



Battelli to lead OSCE short-term observers in Bosnia and Herzegovina

To lead the short-term OSCE observer mission to the 3 October general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakhstan's Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kanat Saudabayev, has appointed Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) as OSCE Special Co-ordinator. He will deliver the post-election statement in Sarajevo on 4 October.

Mr. Battelli, who serves as Treasurer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and as Special Representative on South East Europe, will also head the OSCE PA delegation.

In preparation for the elections, Mr. Battelli, together with then President Joao Soares, participated in an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 23 to 27 March. During this four-day visit, the PA delegation was briefed on the overall political and economic situation in the Federation of Bosnia

and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. Mr. Battelli visited Sarajevo again on 21-22 June.

The OSCE PA has observed elections in BiH in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

The OSCE mission, comprising the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE/ODIHR, is carried out in conformity with a Co-operation Agreement from 1997, and works closely with parliamentary colleagues from the Council of Europe, NATO and the European Parliament.

In addition to the more than 30 parliamentary observers, the OSCE intends to deploy 300 short-term observers on Election Day. The mission is supported by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Programme Officer Roberto Montella from the PA's Vienna Liaison Office and by Research/Publications Officer Nat Parry and Research Fellow Laura-Marie Töpfer from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen.