

News from Copenhagen

In Vienna, President Muttonen speaks on sustainable peace



Addressing a conference in Vienna last week, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) said that all tracks of diplomacy – official discussions, informal dialogue, and people-to-people contact – are needed to build long-term peace. Parliamentarians are in a unique position to facilitate dialogue, she said, noting that PA meetings often provide opportunities for informal conversations, and that through their diplomatic efforts, parliamentarians can establish important lines of communication for confidence-building.

“Increased contact between civil society actors is a powerful way to reduce tensions and promote co-operation,” said President Muttonen.

The Vienna conference, entitled “Perspectives for Sustainable Peace in Europe: The UN Vision, the Role of Parliamentarians and Civil Society,” was organized by the Universal Peace Federation and the newly established International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace. The event is commemorating Thursday’s United Nations International Day of Peace and focused on exploring the role that parliamentarians can play in securing peace for Europe and its wider neighborhood.

Muttonen spoke at a session focused on peace-building in Europe, Eurasia and the Western Balkans. She highlighted efforts to establish multi-ethnic police forces and the unique cultural exchange programmes taking place in South East Europe to build trust between diverse ethnic communities.

Andorra Autumn Meeting to address new security challenges, new tasks



Speaker of the Parliament of Andorra Vincenç Mateu Zamora, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen and the Prime Minister of Andorra Antoni Martí Petit will address the inaugural session of the 2017 Autumn Meeting in Andorra on 3 October.

Taking place at the Centre de Congressos d’Andorra la Vella and being held under the theme “Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks,” the Autumn Meeting will consist of a Mediterranean Forum, Standing Committee Meeting, and Parliamentary

Conference. The three sessions of the Parliamentary Conference on 3-5 October will deal with cybersecurity, climate change and education.

Other speakers at the Autumn Meeting will include:

- Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice, Home and Social Affairs of Andorra
- Rasa Ostrauskaite, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats
- Silvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra
- Henrik Villadsen, Director, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Draft programmes and general information are available at www.oscepa.org.

OSCE PA Special Representatives on Mediterranean Affairs, Mediation visit Vienna

The OSCE PA’s Vienna Liaison Office has hosted and supported two Assembly Special Representatives this week – Finnish parliamentarian Ilkka Kanerva, OSCE PA President Emeritus and OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediation, and French parliamentarian Pascal Allizard, OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

Senator Allizard met with a number of ambassadors to the OSCE from the Mediterranean region and visited the OSCE Headquarters to gain an overview of the Mediterranean activities of the OSCE. Allizard discussed priorities in the Mediterranean dimension including migration, terrorism and the fight against trafficking in drugs and human beings. The goal of Allizard’s visit was to identify potential activities and priorities for the PA to focus on for the coming year.

Kanerva has held meetings today with the Director of the Office of the Secretary General, Ambassador Paul Bekkers, and the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Marcel Pesko. Meetings have also been held with the Mediation Support Officer, Meeri-Maria Jaarva, and Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process, Ambassador Wolf-Dietrich Heim.



Kanerva’s discussions have focused on how parliamentarians can support OSCE conflict mediation processes and priority areas of work for the OSCE.