

Remarks of 3rd Committee Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia) at the OSCE
PA's 13th Winter Meeting in Vienna, 13 February 2014

Ideas for the 3rd Committee Report and Resolution at the Annual Session in Baku:

- We have discussed a range of topics over the years in this Committee.
- At this year's Annual Session in Baku, I would like to focus my report and resolution as Rapporteur of this Committee on the issue of migration.
- Of course, I will also cover a range of Human Dimension issues traditionally discussed in this Committee, like OSCE reform and field missions, role of civil society, rule of law and other related Human Dimension topics.
- But in particular, I would like to have a discussion on the attitude toward immigrants and migrants generally in the OSCE region.
- From labor migrants from Tajikistan, hosted by Russia, and migration trends East of Vienna, to the worrying situation West of Vienna, where recent legislation and regulations in many European countries have restricted or denied access for labor migrants, as well as undermined the institution of asylum.
- The referendum in Switzerland being the latest example of overly restrictive migration management.
- I have particular concerns for women and youth among migrants, which increases potential for victimization, including human trafficking.
- Considering migrants as a threat is unacceptable from the point of basic principles that OSCE is founded upon.
- OSCE should and must react in recommending a different perspective for treatment and regulations dealing with migrants in the years to come that would go along with tolerance, understanding and accepting differences among cultures, as well as a deeper understanding of the added value that migrants give to host countries.
- Looking at the OSCE region, more generally, it is obvious that social, political and economic processes in Ukraine, in some of the countries of Central Asia and recently in Bosnia and Herzegovina will not have less migrants in the future, but on the contrary more and final decision must not be to shut all doors for them or let them suffer or die. The situation with migrants from North Africa coming to Europe is deplorable and we must work together to develop better and more welcoming policies for migrants from different regions of the OSCE.
- Resolving those problems will demand financial resources, but more than that our demand must be changing the perspective that already exists in developed countries, perspective that is strengthened and boosted by prejudice and stereotyping.
- I'm glad we are having a debate on the rise of extremism and xenophobia here tomorrow, because I believe this topic greatly contributes to negative migration policies across Europe.
- We should establish better cooperation with other international organizations with the aim to manage the issue in the future and we should work to have expert assessments, about the trends and developments that might decrease (or increase) the number of people that for different reasons leave their homes and start the life of a migrant.
- I look forward to discussing these proposals with you in the coming days and weeks ahead of our Bureau in Copenhagen in April.