

Kulkuloglu calls for strengthened co-operation among parliamentary bodies

Speaking at the Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw on 12 May, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (MP, Turkey) told a gathering of international human rights experts that more co-operation and regular channels of communication between parliamentary bodies are needed to meet today's challenges.

Kulkuloglu, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, highlighted the OSCE PA's implementation of regular meetings between its secretary general and the secretaries general of the NATO PA and PACE as a mechanism that could be emulated or expanded for the whole OSCE.

"The PA has sought to cultivate partnerships with regional organizations – namely the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the European Parliament; the NATO PA; the Commonwealth of Independent States PA; and especially the PA of the Council of Europe (PACE) – whose distinct strengths complement our own," Kulkuloglu said, noting that the PA regularly participates in OSCE/ODIHR's Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. More formalized and more frequent communication between the OSCE's institutions would also



Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu addresses the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw on 12 May.

improve the organization's efficiency, Kulkuloglu said.

The OSCE PA Vice-Chair also participated in a discussion on co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations in the context of the Ukraine crisis, noting that in the human dimension, the PA co-ordinates with partner organizations in areas including election observation, electoral reform, civil liberties, rule of law and media freedom.

Bringing together more than 100 representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society, the three-day event was organized by ODIHR in co-operation with the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship. Vice-Chair Kulkuloglu was supported in his visit to Warsaw by OSCE PA Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet.

OSCE PA Helsinki +40 Project Advisory Board meeting at the Swedish Parliament

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) held its first Helsinki +40 Project Advisory Board Meeting at the Swedish Parliament on 8 May. Focused on the overall project design and the progress of work, the meeting included a discussion of the Stockholm seminar concept, and concluded with a presentation of the report on "Threat Perceptions in the OSCE Area," prepared by the OSCE Network of think tanks.

During the discussion it was underlined that the objective of the project is to evaluate the strengths of the Helsinki Process and develop recommendations to improve the OSCE, as well as to deepen the engagement of prominent members of parliament from the OSCE area. The project is also designed to bring together the views of prominent think tanks and the experience of elected politicians, as well as to provide the younger generation an idea of Helsinki Process' heritage.

Participants included Goran Lenmarker, Chair of SIPRI; Ian Anthony, Director of SIPRI's European Security Programme; Dr. Lars-Erik Lundin, President of the OSCE Network in

Sweden; Dr. Frank Evers, Deputy Head of the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE); Kari Mottola, visiting scholar at the University of Helsinki; Dr. Ivan Timofeev, Programme Director of the Russian International Affairs Council; and Dr. Fred Tanner representing the OSCE Chairmanship. OSCE PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas, Deputy Head of the Swedish Delegation Kent Harstedt, Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina also participated in the meeting.

The participants agreed on the need to postpone the Helsinki +40 Project seminar at the German Marshall Fund until later in the year due to complications caused by the Ukraine crisis, including the fact that a possible second round of the presidential election will likely take place on 15 June. The representative of RIAC indicated that the Russian think tank accepted to host the first leg of the project in Moscow in Autumn 2014. The recommendation for postponement was supported by the leadership of the three think tanks as well as by the OSCE PA's project leadership.



Left to right: Spencer Oliver, Walburga Habsburg Douglas, Goran Lenmarker and Ivan Timofeev