

News from Copenhagen

PA's Second Committee Officers discuss climate change, technology at OSCE EEF

Roza Aknazarova (MP, Kyrgyzstan) and Nilza Sena (MP, Portugal), the Chair and Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, respectively, took part in the Second Preparatory Meeting of the OSCE's 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum held in Montreux, Switzerland, on 20-21 May 2014.

Addressing the meeting's first session, Aknazarova outlined recommendations for the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension stemming from the 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul last year and the February 2014 Winter Meeting in Vienna. Specifically, she referred to the need for paying due attention to climate change and natural disaster risks, reporting also on the PA's Winter Meeting debate on "Co-operation in Water Management in the OSCE Area."

"What is very important and timely is to discuss at this meeting OSCE tools to reduce and prevent the risk of natural disasters and climate change at the local level," she said.

Second Committee Vice-Chair Sena stressed that the challenge of population protection reflects one of the fundamental duties of both state and interstate actors,



emphasizing the role of technology in this regard.

"Technology-based responses to several high profile disasters demonstrate how technology can be especially practical for the purposes of locating and protecting those affected, both internally and with regards to cross-border movement," Sena said.

The Economic and Environmental Forum is the main annual event in the OSCE's Second Dimension. The findings from this week's Second Preparatory Meeting will help inform the Forum's Concluding Meeting in Prague on 10-12 September 2014. Aknazarova and Sena were accompanied in Montreux by OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhiev.

VP Kanerva announces participation of Finnish think tank in Helsinki +40 Project

OSCE PA Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) announced Wednesday that the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) is joining the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project, an initiative bringing together security and human rights experts, politicians and academia to evaluate the OSCE's past and chart concrete lines of action for the future.

The Project's final colloquium will be held in Helsinki in July 2015, in parallel with the Assembly's 24th Annual Session. Consisting of seminars at the Russian International Affairs Council in Moscow, the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm, the Project will culminate in a final colloquium organized by the FIIA on the

site of the signing of the OSCE's founding document, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

Kanerva, who co-chairs the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project, said: "I believe in the value of this project for the future of the OSCE and am happy to see the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, headed by Dr. Teija Tiilikainen, join it. On behalf of my colleagues in the Finnish Parliament, we look forward to hosting the Helsinki +40 Final Colloquium and wish this ambitious endeavor all success."

A renowned research institute in international relations with a history of more than 50 years, the FIIA works closely with the Finnish Parliament and leading experts focusing primarily on issues related to greater Europe.

PA makes pre-election visit to Lviv, finalizes preparations for Ukraine observation

In the latest in a series of high-level visits to Ukraine ahead of the presidential election on 25 May, senior members of the OSCE PA met in Lviv last week with a wide range of interlocutors, emphasizing the importance of holding a fair vote in line with OSCE election-related commitments.

On 15-16 May, OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) and Isabel Pozuelo (MP, Spain) held meetings with representatives of the local and regional authorities, OSCE long-term observers deployed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

OSCE PA Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle and PA Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk supported the visit

to Lviv. Also, on 19 May, in Berlin, Amb. Nothelle and Hans-Georg Wellmann (MP, Germany) briefed German members of parliament about the OSCE PA's election observation mission to Ukraine. Vice-President Barnett chaired the meeting, which included a briefing by ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic about ODIHR's election observation work.

The OSCE election observation mission to Ukraine will include more than 100 OSCE parliamentarians from 29 countries. Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission, which will consist of some 1,000 observers seconded by OSCE participating States.