

# News from Copenhagen

## President Muttonen visits London, welcomes British engagement with OSCE



Assembly President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) wrapped up a two-day visit to the United Kingdom on Wednesday by emphasizing the need for utilizing all the tools offered by the OSCE, including its Parliamentary Assembly, in strengthening ties across the OSCE area. The 24-25 January visit was intended to promote bilateral co-operation and identify priority areas in the work of the PA that are of particular relevance to the United Kingdom. In meetings with House of Lords Speaker Peter Norman Fowler and members of the UK's delegation to the PA, Muttonen discussed opportunities for greater co-operation and highlighted the valuable contributions of the British delegation to the PA.

Welcoming the involvement of the UK in the Assembly,

Muttonen noted in particular OSCE PA Vice-President Lord Peter Bowness's important work as Chair of the OSCE PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure, Lord Alf Dubs's participation in the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, and the UK's commitment to election observation, including the active participation of Baroness Jennifer Hilton, who has observed elections in some two dozen countries since 1999. She also offered thanks for the support that the UK Parliament provides in procedural matters at PA meetings.

In her meeting with Lord Fowler, Muttonen praised the engagement of the PA's UK delegation and described her main priorities as President. She commended the work of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and its field presences, which she said play a vital role in the Organization's efforts on the ground. She also noted that the PA provides a democratic footing to the OSCE, offering fresh ideas through open inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Muttonen was accompanied by PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy SG Gustavo Pallares, and Senior Adviser Lukas Mussi from the Austrian Parliament.

## Kanerva visits Moscow for presentation of OSCE/ODIHR's final report on Russian elections

Representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA were in Moscow last week to present ODIHR's final report on the 18 September 2016 parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation. OSCE PA President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), who served as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission to the September elections, joined the ODIHR visit to discuss the report's findings and recommendations with representatives of state authorities, election administration, civil society and the international community. He noted improved transparency in the election administration and expressed hope that authorities will undertake additional reforms ahead of a presidential election expected in 2018.

The OSCE/ODIHR visit was headed by ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link and Jan Petersen, who served as Head of the OSCE/ODIHR's long-term observation mission to



the September elections. ODIHR's report recommends, inter alia, simplifying the legal framework with respect to candidate registration, campaigning and media coverage. It also underlines that election administration should be guided by law and principles of transparency and impartiality.

Kanerva was accompanied by OSCE PA Chief of the Executive Office Andreas Baker and Maija Valivaara, Special Advisor from the Finnish Parliament.

## Nilza Sena represents PA at OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna



OSCE PA Second Committee Chair Nilza Sena (MP, Portugal) represented the Assembly at the first Preparatory Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna this week, speaking on the topics of women in entrepreneurship, gender equality and poverty reduction. Sena emphasized the importance in this regard of

removing obstacles that prevent women's full participation in business.

"Women achieve Master's and PhD degrees. Women are capable and enterprising so why aren't more women in equal positions in entrepreneurship?" Sena asked. "This is a hidden treasure which remains yet unexploited and which would benefit all." She participated in the EEF's third session, "Economic Participation for Strengthening Security." The EEF is the main meeting within the OSCE economic and environmental dimension.