

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA President Muttonen addresses OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna



Christine Muttonen (second from left) addresses the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 27 October 2016.

In OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria)'s first address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 27 October, she highlighted the organization's potential, but noted the need for more constructive dialogue and confidence-building to achieve this potential.

"Dialogue means the ability to put yourself into the shoes of another, at least from time to time. I hope that we can all contribute to a constructive discussion. De-escalation is a communal effort and should take place in all our meeting rooms, the governmental ones as well as in parliamentary

conferences," she said.

The President raised concerns over the erosion of safeguards against the militarization of international politics, including the dangers of a new arms race, and pointed out that the OSCE is a useful forum to overcome crises in the security architecture. Muttonen further highlighted recommendations of the PA's Declaration adopted in Tbilisi last July, including calls for adapting the regulatory framework on arms control and confidence-building, and improving human rights across the OSCE area. She also reiterated the PA's call for a high-level OSCE co-ordinating body or thematic field mission on migration.

While at OSCE headquarters in Vienna last week, Muttonen also held a number of bilateral meetings, and together with Ambassador Andreas Nothelle hosted an event with representatives of the OSCE Secretariat and OSCE Institutions alongside the permanent representatives of participating States to mark the Parliamentary Assembly's 25th anniversary.

PA observes election in Moldova



Arta Dade (MP, Albania), alongside Geir Joergen Bekkevold (MP, Norway), delivers post-election statement in Chisinau, 31 October 2016.

Moldova's first direct presidential election in 20 years on 30 October provided opportunity for voters to express their preference for a new head of state, said a preliminary statement delivered by Arta Dade, Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission, on Monday.

"We were impressed to see the citizens of Moldova participate in the electoral process yesterday. This is proof that Moldovans want an active voice in significant decisions in their country," said Dade. "While the voters were provided with real choices in a competitive campaign, some negative aspects of the process, if not addressed, could further undermine voters' trust that their voices are being heard."

"Moldova has once more proven its commitment to democratic values and administered the election in a professional manner. Unfortunately, I was concerned to see that the elderly and people with disabilities had to face substantial challenges to express their right to vote," said Geir Joergen Bekkevold, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation.

The OSCE PA's 34-member delegation mission was supported by Marc Carillet, Loic Poulain and Farimah Daftary from the International Secretariat.

PA observes second round in Georgia



Secretary General Roberto Montella, Arhe Hamednaca (MP, Sweden) and Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain) at ISFED office, 30 October 2016.

"Yesterday's second round reconfirmed that Georgia's 2016 parliamentary elections enabled candidates to campaign freely and voters to make informed choices about their options," said Ignacio Sanchez Amor, the Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission. "Full regulation of second round voting is lacking in the law, and attention must be paid to legal investigation and complaints procedures, but I was pleased to see that election day was smooth and professionally run."

The 30 October parliamentary runoffs in Georgia were competitive and administered in a manner that respected the rights of candidates and voters, and voting on election day was assessed positively, said a preliminary statement delivered by Special Co-ordinator Ignacio Sanchez Amor Monday. However, issues remain related to lacking a legal framework for second round elections and complaints related to first round results, the international observers concluded.

The eight-member delegation from the OSCE PA worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR, PACE, and the EP. It was supported by Secretary General Roberto Montella and Chief of the Executive Office Andreas Baker from the Secretariat.