

PA participates in Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

In a speech at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Matteo Mecacci, Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, pointed to OSCE expertise in election processes, rule of law, migration, and human rights as areas that need attention in countries now in transition following the Arab Spring.

Calling for the release of all prisoners of conscience, Mecacci mentioned the Parliamentary Assembly's Working Group on Belarus and the fact that its members have been unable to visit Minsk for the past year. He cited overcrowded prisons as a symptom of judicial systems in need of reform throughout the OSCE region and ripe for more international dialogue to improve practices. "This is an area where the OSCE could develop new ways to permanently monitor the judicial and the prison systems of our countries," he said.

Mecacci also mentioned cases in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the United States on a variety of human rights issues, including press freedom, freedom to assemble, fair elections and the death penalty.

Dutch parliamentarian Coskun Coruz, Rapporteur of the Third Committee, addressed the working session on the rule of law Wednesday. He emphasized the role of the OSCE PA in fostering parliamentary oversight.

He referred to past OSCE decisions on the human dimen-



Matteo Mecacci speaks at the HDIM in Warsaw.

sion and highlighted the work his parliament has done on the case of Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky as an example of how parliaments can promote rule of law.

He regretted the closure of the OSCE field operations in Georgia and Belarus, arguing that field presences should have three-year mandates. OSCE field work should include all three dimensions, he said, with particular focus on monitoring compliance of participating States in the rule of law.

"It is not enough to pass good laws," Coruz said. "Laws must be realized in the system, to contribute to transparency and public trust."

Mr. Mecacci and Mr. Coruz were accompanied by Programme Director Anna Chernova from the International Secretariat and Arjen Westerhoff from the Dutch Parliament.

Fall Meetings to focus on regional development in South-East Europe

More than 200 parliamentary representatives from 50 OSCE countries and Mediterranean Partner States will participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Tenth Fall Meetings in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 7-10 October 2011.

Hosted by the Croatian Parliament, the meetings will include a parliamentary conference under the theme of *Regional Development in South-East Europe: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects* and a Mediterranean Forum.

Featured speakers will include OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou (Greece), OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Croatian President Ivo Josipovic, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Luka Bebic, and Head of the PA's Croatian Delegation Tonino Picula.

All sessions will take place at the Dubrovnik Palace Hotel and are open to the media.

Delegations from Algeria, Israel, Jordan and Morocco are also expected to participate, primarily in the sessions of the

Mediterranean Forum, which will deal with the topics of freedom, security and justice in the Mediterranean region.

A special presentation on "The Role of the OSCE in Conflict Resolution: Nagorno-Karabakh" will be moderated by the newly appointed Special Representative on the South Caucasus Joao Soares. Keynote speakers for the presentation include Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

The conference on regional development in South-East Europe will include discussions on economic co-operation, Euro-Atlantic integration, and promoting long-term stability in South-East Europe. Participants also include representatives of the European Parliament, the delegation of the European Union to Croatia, heads of OSCE Missions in the region and regional business and academic leaders.

The full programme for the Fall Meetings is available at www.oscepa.org.

