

News from Copenhagen

Ad Hoc Committee Chair Lombardi speaks at special PC meeting on migration

Presenting the OSCE PA's work concerning the refugee and migrant crisis at a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on Wednesday, Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) laid out the Assembly's plan of action going forward, which includes monitoring the situation on the ground and developing policy recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States.

The meeting was convened by the OSCE German Chairmanship to discuss the report by Amb. Claude Wild, Chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows. Participants discussed the importance of improving global migration governance and how the OSCE can lend its contribution to promoting regional implementation of a global migration governance architecture. Other than Lombardi's presentation, Wednesday's meeting included a comprehensive report by Amb. Wild.

Lombardi noted that the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, which he chairs, has been active in three main areas, by organizing field visits, strengthening co-operation with the OSCE and other international actors, and promoting discussions on the migration crisis within the OSCE PA.



"The migration and refugee crisis remains high on the agenda of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as highlighted by the importance accorded to this issue in the Tbilisi Declaration adopted on 5 July," Lombardi said.

Stressing the need for better communication strategies between governments and the public, Lombardi said that while media plays a role in shaping public opinion on migration, "political forces bear an equally important responsibility."

He also reported on recent field work on the issue, highlighted the PA's contribution to the meeting of the OSCE Informal Working Group on 27 June, and noted that the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met officially for the first time during the Annual Session in Tbilisi on 3 July.

PA briefs OSCE governmental side on Tbilisi Declaration, participates in Chairmanship event

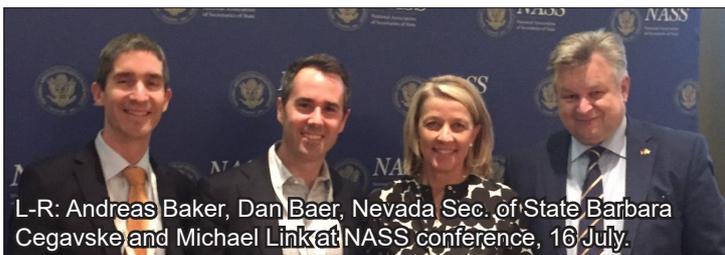
On Monday, the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, offered an informal briefing to OSCE delegations on the results of the PA's Annual Session in Tbilisi, providing a comprehensive overview of the Tbilisi Declaration and other resolutions adopted.

Also, on Tuesday, Amb. Nothelle, together with Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office Marc Carillet and Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani, met with Amb. Paul Bekkers, the Director of OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier's office, to discuss possible follow-up on the PA's recommendations agreed to in Tbilisi. Pagani on 11 July also presented the key outcomes of the Tbilisi Session at the Policy Group meeting of Heads of OSCE Departments and the Secretary General of the OSCE Secretariat.

On Thursday, Amb. Nothelle will formally present the Declaration to the Permanent Council, followed by a question and answer session. On 13 July, Nothelle participated in a conference of the Max Planck Society in Berlin sponsored by the German Chairmanship, which had the aim of providing new impetus to the debate on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE.



PA, ODIHR and U.S. Ambassador participate in U.S. Secretaries of State conference on elections



L-R: Andreas Baker, Dan Baer, Nevada Sec. of State Barbara Cegavske and Michael Link at NASS conference, 16 July.

At the National Association of Secretaries of State summer conference last week in Nashville, Tennessee, Chief of the OSCE PA's Executive Office Andreas Baker participated

alongside OSCE/ODIHR Director Michael Link and United States Ambassador to the OSCE Dan Baer in a workshop on 16 July entitled "Setting the Stage for November 2016: International Observers from OSCE."

The workshop included discussion of the purpose and modalities of OSCE election observation, with participants noting previous observation missions in the United States. The meeting served as an opportunity to speak with officials at the state level responsible for administering elections in the United States, in preparation for an expected OSCE PA election observation mission this November.