

General Committees debate Reports and Draft Resolutions

Chaired by Committee Vice-Chair Susanne Bratli (Norway), the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security opened Friday morning with the Follow-Up Report on last year's Belgrade Declaration, dealing with developments over the past 12 months in the politico-security dimension. The Vice-Chair reported on advancements in updating the 1999 Vienna Document, but noted the lack of progress in re-establishing OSCE presences in Belarus and Georgia.

First Committee Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania) presented her report, "The OSCE: Region of Change." Twenty amendments to Aleknaite Abramikiene's draft resolution, including an oral amendment, were considered on Friday. Nine were agreed to, ten defeated and one withdrawn. Voting on amendments continues Saturday.

Committee Chair Matteo Mecacci (Italy) opened the meeting of the Third Committee and gave the floor to Vice-Chair Alain Neri (France) to present his Follow-Up Report on the Belgrade Declaration.

The Third Committee considered four supplementary items, on extraordinary rendition, fugitives, election observation and Belarus. The resolution on rendition was amended and adopted following a debate. The resolution on "Improving Election Observation in OSCE Participating States" provided for a lively debate by parliamentarians from the Russian Federation, Sweden, Albania, Ukraine and Italy among others. The resolution was amended and adopted.

Amendments to the supplementary item on Belarus will be considered on Saturday. The Committee will also take up on Saturday the rapporteur's resolution and report.

The first session of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment was opened by Committee Chair Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine), who gave the floor to Rapporteur Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom).

Presenting his report, Lloyd welcomed the recent shift in the economic debate stressing a greater need for green growth. Thirteen parliamentarians debated the report, generally agreeing that the rapporteur's findings address a relevant issue for all OSCE participating States. Members welcomed the proposed measures to encourage green investment and greater labour mobility, and underlined the central role politicians play in defining their national economic policies. The draft resolution and amendments are scheduled to be debated Saturday morning.



Challenges of the Arab Spring in focus at Mediterranean Forum



Chaired by Assembly Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto, Friday's Mediterranean Forum included participation from Libyan delegates Mohamed Abdulaziz, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Libya, and Khaled Ghellali, Spokesperson for the Libyan National

Democratic Alliance.

Abdulaziz described the most pressing concerns his country faces, including border security, absorption of 'freedom fighters' into the national government, containing internal tensions, advancing judicial co-operation with neighbouring countries and ensuring free and fair elections.

Also addressing the Mediterranean Forum were Amb. Ihor Prokopchuk, Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe, and Francesco Amorusoi, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

Panelists noted the opportunity for greater inter-organizational and cross-regional co-operation, stressing the wealth of relevant experience on these matters shared by the OSCE, Council of Europe and PAM. In the debate, delegates encouraged OSCE participating States to support democratic processes in the region and expressed concern about the volatile security situation in Syria.

Programme ~ Saturday, 7 July

09.30 – 11.00	First Committee - Prince Pierre
09.30 – 11.00	Second Committee - Camille Blanc
11.30 – 13.00	Third Committee - Prince Pierre
11.30 – 13.00	Second Committee - Camille Blanc
13.00 – 14.30	Gender Lunch - Le Guelfe
14.30 – 16.00	Third Committee - Prince Pierre
16.30 – 18.00	First Committee - Prince Pierre