

Syria, trafficking, media freedom and adoptions debated in plenary



Emin Onen, Head of Turkey's Delegation, presents his resolution on Syria.

Four supplementary items were considered in Tuesday's plenary session: "Trafficking Victim Watchfulness: Planes, Trains, Buses and Hotels," "The Humanitarian Crisis in Syria," "Intercountry Adoptions," and "Freedom of the Media."

The resolution on human trafficking, which calls on OSCE participating States to adopt legislation to ensure that transportation professionals are properly trained to identify trafficking victims, was warmly received and adopted unanimously with three amendments.

The resolution on Syria provided for a spirited debate involving 14 interventions. Urging the international community to take decisive action to fulfill its responsibilities to safeguard international peace and to provide urgent financial support to the host countries of refugees, the resolution passed as amended with one vote against and 12 abstentions.

The resolution "Intercountry Adoptions" urges participating States to resolve disputes related to intercountry adoptions in a humanitarian spirit in the interest of children already in adoption processes. It passed with broad support and no

amendments.

The supplementary item on freedom of the media reaffirms the crucial importance of freedom of speech, press and information and calls for participating States to ensure the right to freely establish independent media. It further calls on the OSCE to take necessary steps to facilitate the release of all imprisoned journalists.

During the debate, members emphasized the importance of including social media in the discussion on media freedom and highlighted cases of journalists who have lost their lives in carrying out their profession. The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly with no amendments.

Ranko Krivokapic, Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament, presented an invitation for members to participate in the Budva Fall Meetings this October. Speaker of the Georgian Parliament David Usupashvili addressed the plenary, underlining the importance of the OSCE's work for Georgia and the broader Caucasus region.

Programme ~ Wednesday, 3 July

09.30 – 12.30 Plenary Session - *Anadolu Auditorium*

12.30 *Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE PA*

First and Third Committees complete work and elect new officers



Makis Vroidis, Pia Kauma and Azay Guliyev

The First Committee held two final sessions Tuesday, debating five supplementary items and electing new officers. The committee adopted a resolution on the Transnistrian settlement process with no amendments and on cyber security with one amendment. In the debate on cyber security parliamentarians stressed in particular the importance of balancing privacy and security.

Debating a supplementary item on



Gordana Comic, Isabel Santos and Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu

the Arctic, delegates emphasized the importance of both economic growth and environmental sustainability in the Arctic region. With three amendments, the item was agreed

to. A resolution reiterating the Assembly's calls to close the prison at Guantanamo was adopted unamended.

The resolution "The Situation in the Middle East and its Effect on the OSCE Area" was adopted with six amendments.

The First Committee elected Makis Vroidis (Greece) as chair of the committee, Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) vice-chair and Pia Kauma (Finland) rapporteur.

The Third Committee concluded its work Tuesday with the consideration of four supplementary items. Following lively debates, the draft resolutions "Belarus," "Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE Region" and "Strengthening the Role of Education in Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination" were adopted as amended. The supplementary item "Citizenship Issues" was defeated.

The meeting closed with the election of committee officers. Isabel Santos (Portugal), former vice-chair of committee, was elected to chair the committee. Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey) was elected vice-chair and Gordana Comic (Serbia) rapporteur. On Monday, the Second Committee elected Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) chair, Nilza Sena vice-chair and Roger Williams (United Kingdom) rapporteur.