

# REPORT

## OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 15TH AUTUMN MEETING SKOPJE

30 SEPTEMBER TO 2 OCTOBER 2016



*Strengthening Confidence-Building Measures and Good  
Governance in the OSCE Region*



# REPORT ON THE 2016 AUTUMN MEETING OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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## Summary



Parliamentarians gathered for session three of the Parliamentary Conference, 2 October 2016.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly holds an Autumn Meeting every year to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on important topics related to OSCE values and commitments. Previous Autumn Meetings have been held in Mongolia, Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Canada, Slovenia, Malta, and Spain.

Some 170 parliamentarians from 49 OSCE participating States gathered in Skopje from 30 September to 2 October for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 15th Autumn Meeting. Consisting of a Mediterranean Forum, Parliamentary Conference, and a meeting of the Standing Committee, the Autumn Meeting provided an opportunity for parliamentarians from across the OSCE region to discuss the theme of "Strengthening Confidence-Building Measures and Good Governance in the OSCE Region," and the role of parliamentarians in fostering co-operation to address ongoing and emerging crises in the OSCE area.

The host parliament's President and Vice-President, Trajko Veljanoski and Renata Deskoska, respectively, and OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) opened the Parliamentary Conference with speeches touching on regional and international issues.

Other speakers during the three-day meeting included:

- Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General
- Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden, OSCE Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator
- Antonijo Miloshoski, Vice-President of the Parliament and Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee
- Oliver Spasovski, Minister of Internal Affairs
- Vladimir Gligorov, Professor at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies
- Filippo Lombardi, Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration
- Gianluca Rocco, Sub-regional Co-ordinator

for the Western Balkans of the International Organization for Migration

OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Michel Voisin (MP, France) chaired the Mediterranean Forum on 30 September. Addressing the promotion of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, the meeting included presentations by Ambassador Clemens Kojca, the Chairman of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and Malin Larsson-Grave from the European Asylum Support Office. Parliamentarians from more than

a dozen countries offered comments and addressed questions on the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis, conflicts in the Mediterranean region, and the threat of violent extremism.

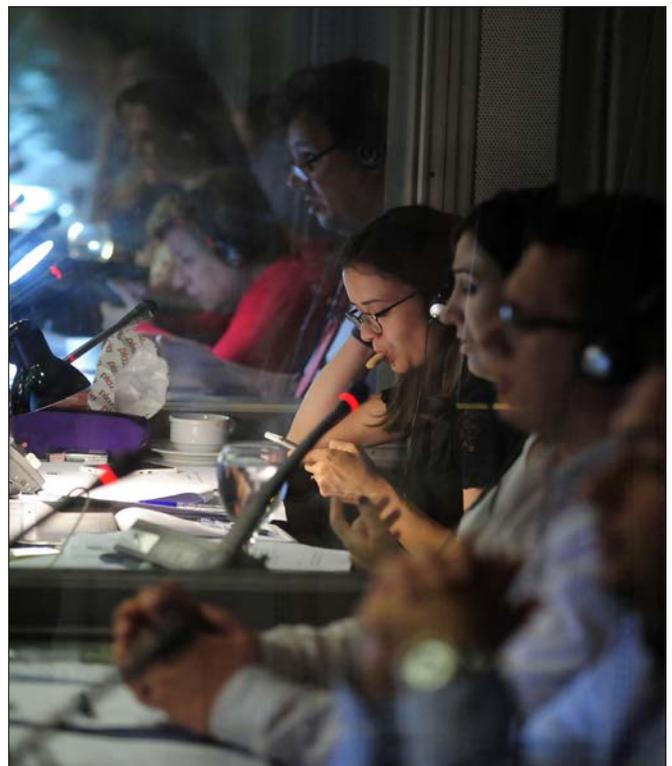
Session two of the Parliamentary Conference on 1 October featured a

roundtable event with heads of OSCE field operations in South East Europe, who discussed issues related to the theme "Developing Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in South East Europe: The Role of the OSCE." In opening the session, OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev noted that promoting economic growth should be seen as part of the overall response to challenges such as migration, noting the importance of good governance in this regard.

The final session of the Autumn Meeting was held under the theme of "Improving Human Rights-Based Governance of International Migration," with participation of dozens of parliamentarians engaging in a wide-ranging discussion and exchanging ideas on political responses to the refugee and migrant crisis.

*"We must widen our perspective and see the world not only from our national point of view but also through the eyes of our neighbors, partners and even opponents."*

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly  
President Christine Muttonen





## Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Trajko Veljanoski welcomes participants to the Skopje Autumn Meeting, 30 September.

President of Parliament Trajko Veljanoski, Parliament Vice President Renata Deskoska and OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen opened the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 2016 Autumn Meeting on 30 September, addressing the achievements of the OSCE in South East Europe, the refugee and migrant crisis, importance of European solidarity, and the nexus of human rights and security. President Muttonen also highlighted the remarkable progress achieved by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the 25 years since its independence.

### **Christine Muttonen, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**



Christine Muttonen

In her opening statement, President Muttonen introduced the conference’s theme “Strengthening Confidence-Building Measures and Good Governance in the OSCE Region.” She stressed the need

to promote dialogue and compromise among OSCE countries to increase international cooperation and confidence and reminded the audience that “a European security architecture that doesn’t work for all of us does not in fact work for any of us.”

Turning to the refugee and migrant crisis, she remarked that OSCE participating States had so

far failed to formulate a satisfactory collective response. She stressed the need to jointly reconcile the interests of security and stability with migrants’ human rights and to tackle the root causes of migration in countries of origin.

Further, she highlighted the achievements of the OSCE in South East Europe such as legal reform, electoral best practices, police training and the facilitation of multi-ethnic dialogue.

The President previewed some of the topics to be addressed at the conference, including the development of democratic institutions and human rights in South East Europe, as well as the work of the OSCE field operations.

President Muttonen also spoke about the OSCE PA working visit to Turkey in connection with the July 2016 coup attempt. She underlined the importance for the OSCE to continue dialogue with countries in crisis and reiterated support for Turkish democracy while stressing Turkey’s international commitments especially regarding human rights.

### **Trajko Veljanoski, President of Parliament**

The President of Parliament welcomed the participants and stressed that over the past quarter century, the OSCE, and the PA in particular, had confirmed the central importance of parliamentary



Trajko Veljanoski

## Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Delegates applaud a welcoming speech at the opening session on 30 September 2016.

diplomacy for stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the wider region.

Turning to his country's name dispute with Greece, Veljanoski noted that the issue has hampered Skopje's participation in international organizations such as NATO and the European Union. He also voiced cautious optimism saying that the two countries had initiated dialogue with a view to building mutual trust and resolving the issue.

Further, Veljanoski highlighted that the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis is not just an issue for countries in the Mediterranean region but an issue for the whole of Europe. He pointed to the strong efforts Skopje has been undertaking to provide refugees with welfare and dignity. He expressed his hope that the conference would result in a more effective and unified response to the crisis.

### **Renata Deskoska, Deputy President of Parliament and Head of Delegation to the OSCE PA**



Renata Deskoska

Deputy President Deskoska noted that fundamental OSCE values and principles were facing serious challenges. She highlighted that recent phenomena such as the refugee and migrant crisis, the economic crisis

and the threat of terrorism and were leading to the emergence of undemocratic tendencies in the region and a decline of European cohesion. Against this backdrop, she said that "the concern for regional security should not be to the detriment of the concern for the quality of democracy and the respect for human rights" in OSCE participating States. She called on participants to discuss challenges to good governance in the OSCE region.

Further, she turned to domestic issues her country is facing today and stressed the importance of the conference "as a motivation to return on the right path, the path of respect of human rights, free and fair elections and recovery of democratic principles of governance."



Kristian Vigenin, the OSCE PA's Special Representative on the South Caucasus, listens to a speech on 30 September 2016.





## Parliamentary Conference: Session One



Azay Guliyev chairs session one of the Parliamentary Conference on 30 September.

The first session of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 30 September under the theme “Strengthening Good Governance and Confidence-Building Measures,” was chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan). He opened the session by highlighting the importance of good governance, citing Azerbaijan’s policy in the Caspian Sea to illustrate how this could be combined with sustainable development.

**Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden,  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic  
and Environmental Activities**

In his keynote presentation Yigitguden noted that promoting good governance is key to stimulating a positive business and investment climate. Nevertheless, he said, it requires governments to adopt comprehensive and long-term strategies that aim to create national frameworks of economic policies, institutions and legislation, as well as transparent and fair public procurement systems. He highlighted the prominence that the 2016 German and incoming 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanships attach to good governance and strengthening economic connectivity.

In 2016 his office had organized three meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum, with the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting scheduled for 17-18 October in Vienna. He highlighted the preparatory work done ahead of the December Ministerial Council in Hamburg and particularly the draft decision on “Good governance and economic connectivity in the OSCE area.” He further outlined activities conducted by

the Office on combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

**Vladimir Gligorov, Senior  
Economist, The Vienna Institute for  
International Economic Studies**

Vladimir Gligorov stated that his work is based on the Balkan Barometer, a survey of business and private individuals. He noted that recently there had been a crisis of legitimacy in South East Europe, and Europe as a whole. Internationally there is a renegotiation of the legitimacy of political structures in Europe and security has been premised on the government’s ability to provide increasing levels of welfare. Furthermore, the rule of law has been compromised in recent years. The refugee crisis is a case in point, since human rights have been sidelined in favour of expediency, he said. Hard evidence is the detrimental effect on economic development: the 15 to 40 per cent unemployment rate that has been true for almost three decades.

**Debate**

Session one concluded with a general debate in which Members addressed a range of issues including migration and labour market integration, the economic reality in the South Caucasus, and the correlation between gender equality and good governance. It was assessed by some that nations have failed to distribute welfare to everyone and to provide well-being to the most vulnerable groups; emphasizing the importance of education and equal opportunity especially in order to prevent the rise of violent extremism.

## Parliamentary Conference: Session Two



Roberto Battelli chairs session two on 1 October.

The second session was chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) on 1 October. Opening the debate under the theme “Developing Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in South East Europe: The Role of the OSCE,” Battelli emphasized the potential contributions of inter-parliamentary co-operation to address regional challenges. Together with the OSCE, parliaments with their broad knowledge base are able to engage in best practice sharing activities, which address problems that transcend the borders in the region, Special Representative Battelli said.

### **Nikola Poposki, Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Foreign Minister Poposki recalled the ongoing experience of his country in working with the OSCE on capacity-building exercises and supporting their reform process over many years. He pointed out that countries should see the work with the field operations as a joint undertaking, which occurs in a co-operative manner and benefits the host country in their development. Working with the OSCE Mission to Skopje has led to an improvement in democratic policing, the rule of law, anti-discrimination, combating hate speech and integrating all communities into society. Poposki closed his presentation by stating that parliamentarians remain responsible for the adoption of national legislation relevant to the three dimensions of the OSCE, and that lawmakers can offer solutions that can contribute to national processes and further

democratization of the OSCE region, including election observation.

### **South East Europe Roundtable**

Representatives of the OSCE field operations in Albania, Skopje, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Kosovo, delivered presentations on the current state of engagement of their offices. They emphasized their work on a variety of topics, ranging from media freedom, fostering social cohesion and political participation of minorities, to conflict resolution, police reform and increasing transparency. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Parliamentary Assembly for the ongoing co-operation and the decision to hold the 2016 Autumn Meeting in South East Europe, which provides parliamentarians an opportunity to learn more about the OSCE in the region.

During the discussion, parliamentarians recognized the important role of the OSCE field operations in promoting OSCE values and supporting their host countries in fulfilling their commitments. In particular, the efforts in the field of ensuring the protection and rights of minorities were commended by a number of parliamentarians. MPs noted that the region faced a great challenge by the large influx of migrants and refugees on the Balkan route and stressed that the rights of minorities remain vital for a stable society. Responding to the questions of the parliamentarians, the roundtable participants stressed their engagement in the field of de-radicalization and prevention of extremism, gender mainstreaming and co-operation with the EU and their respective field operations on the ground.

## Parliamentary Conference: Session Three



Isabel Santos chairs session three of the Parliamentary Conference on 2 October.

OSCE PA Vice-President Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal) opened session three by expressing satisfaction that the focus of the session would be on the human rights perspective of migration. As Santos underlined, while there are security and economic aspects to migration, there is also a responsibility to focus on the humanitarian aspects and on finding ways to help people.

**Oliver Spasovski,  
Interior Minister of the former  
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Minister Spasovski highlighted the need for mutual co-operation and intensification of the search for a joint co-ordinated response to the challenge of migration. He noted that his country was determined to participate in such a joint response, especially given the possibility of an even greater wave of migration in the future.

Almost 700,000 migrants transited through the territory of his country in 2015, he pointed out, and by mid-February 2016, this number had grown by another 80,000. The Ministry of Interior had initiated a number of legislative changes, he said, such as legal changes in order to accelerate administrative proceedings and harmonizing domestic legislation with EU requirements. These steps allowed migrants to transit through the country legally or to submit a formal asylum request.

Spasovski highlighted the collaborative efforts of his government, together with the UNHCR, OSCE and other organizations, to improve medical and humanitarian assistance to migrants. Efforts were also made to improve

the safety of migrants and to combat trafficking in human beings. He furthermore welcomed the joint efforts that had been undertaken with neighbouring countries, and stressed that the migration issue must be tackled multilaterally with the OSCE taking a leading role.

**Gianluca Rocco,  
Sub-regional Co-ordinator for the  
Western Balkans of the International  
Organization for Migration**

Gianluca Rocco focused on challenges facing the international community in responding to the refugee and migrant crisis as well as the critical role that parliamentarians play in meeting these challenges. He outlined three key points: 1) the multifaceted challenges faced by the international community; 2) the IOM's response as outlined in the Migration Governance Framework; and 3) the New York Declaration on the Way Forward.

The main challenges Rocco outlined included the demographic challenge of migration, given aging populations and the need for a widening of the labour market and the interplay of population dynamics between different regions. He also highlighted the diversity challenge, and the need for governments to come to terms with changing ethnic and social dynamics in their societies, as well as the need to guide public discourse on migration away from a focus on negative aspects. He concluded his remarks by stressing that migration is a human reality to be managed, rather than a problem to be solved, and that creative thinking is required to develop a comprehensive approach to the governance of migration.

## Parliamentary Conference: Session Three & Closing Session

### **Filippo Lombardi, Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration**

In his remarks, Filippo Lombardi (MP, Switzerland) outlined the recent work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, including its field visits to Calais and Sicily. He also expressed hope that the committee would be able to expand its work by investigating conditions along the Eastern Mediterranean migratory route, despite the obstacles it had faced in recent months. He went on to highlight the committee's role in keeping migration at the top of the agenda of the OSCE PA and in the capitals of OSCE participating States.

He welcomed co-operation on the migration issue with other OSCE bodies, and ahead of the presentation of the committee's final report at the 2017 OSCE PA Annual Session in Minsk, he offered several of its initial observations, including that migration is also a matter of security, and the dire need for more resources if the challenge of managing migration is to be met.

He also emphasized that the purpose of migration policies should not be to empty countries of origin of their young and dynamic male population. He concluded by highlighting the joint responsibility of OSCE participating States to make migration routes safer.

### **Debate**

In the discussion, parliamentarians emphasized instead the need for co-operation, solidarity and responsibility-sharing so that the Mediterranean countries do not have to handle the crisis alone. It was also noted that Turkey is currently hosting 2.7 million Syrians, which according to the UNHCR, makes it the largest refugee-hosting country in the world. Although the flows had decreased along the Western Balkan route, Members noted, this route was far from closed. Parliamentarians also discussed the insufficient access to medical services and education at the European Union-designated "hotspots" and the risk of a "lost generation."

Some parliamentarians also noted that, in the face of rising xenophobic and Islamophobic tendencies, the benefits which migrants bring

to their host countries should be emphasized and integration policies prioritized. A number of Members reiterated the need to differentiate between economic migrants and refugees in order to overcome the current confusion. The need for a coherent policy in the OSCE area was also stressed. The discussions also addressed situations of vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors and women, who are often preyed upon by criminals.

In his concluding remarks, Lombardi stressed that the issue was not just how to manage refugee flows but also how to address the root causes and underlined the importance of supporting economic development and stability in countries of origin. Similarly, he emphasized the need to effectively combat trafficking and criminal networks, especially in migrant camps. Finally, he called for facilitating the integration of migrants in host countries, with a special focus on the labour market, as well as for combating radicalization in all its forms and in particular terrorist infiltration.

All three interlocutors agreed that greater investments were needed in the countries of origin and the need to find solutions to the root causes of migration flows.

### **Closing Session**

OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen concluded the Parliamentary Conference by extending her gratitude to the host parliament for holding such an important event.

Recapping the main focal points of the meeting, including its discussions on confidence-building measures, development of sustainable approaches to the refugee and migrant crisis, and the optimization of the OSCE's good governance strategies, the President noted the concrete successes of the meeting in advancing parliamentary dialogue. She also mentioned the insightful reports of representatives from all six of the OSCE's field operations in the region and called on the meeting's participants to work on the implementation of the conclusions in their home countries.

President Muttonen closed with a quote by Mother Theresa, who was born in Skopje: "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."





## Mediterranean Forum



Michel Voisin chairs the Mediterranean Forum on 30 September.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Michel Voisin (MP, France) chaired the Mediterranean Forum on 30 September, opening the meeting by noting the importance of ongoing engagement with the OSCE Partner States and introducing the session's keynote speakers.

**Clemens Koja,  
Chairman of the OSCE Contact  
Group with the Mediterranean  
Partners for Co-operation**

Amb. Koja discussed the activities of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2016 related to the dialogue and inclusivity in the OSCE, challenges of migration on both sides of the Mediterranean, interreligious dialogue, the contribution of civil society to social cohesion, and violent extremism with an emphasis on prevention of youth radicalization.



He also informed the Parliamentary Assembly about the October 2016 OSCE Annual Mediterranean Conference in Vienna on the topic “Youth north and south of the Mediterranean: facing security challenges and enhancing opportunities.” Talking about the Annual Mediterranean Conference, he particularly emphasized the importance of participation of youth representatives.

**Antonijo Miloshoski,  
Vice-President of the Parliament  
and Chair of the Foreign  
Policy Committee**

Antonijo Miloshoski spoke about the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's experience in dealing with refugees in 1999 after the Kosovo-Serbia war escalated. He described a lack of capacity and political will of the European Union to cope with the current refugee and migrant crisis, as well as lack of a coherent response among EU Member States. He further emphasized the importance of respecting international law, which if applied would help stabilize the situation, he said.

Miloshoski mentioned the main migratory routes into the EU, including through his country, and emphasized the complexity of the challenge and underlined the main factors for sustainability regarding the crisis. There is a need for an improved mutual strategy among the countries on the Western Balkans route, he said, noting that as an international challenge it requires a multilateral response.

## Mediterranean Forum

### Malin Larsson-Grave, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

Malin Larsson-Grave discussed the tasks and mandate of the EASO, which works to support the EU's implementation of the Common European Asylum System and aims to ensure that individual asylum cases are dealt with in a coherent way by all Member States. She also shared relevant data on asylum seekers, pointing out the increasing number of asylum applications, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

She elaborated on the different types of support provided by the EASO, including permanent support through common asylum training, special support through capacity-building and relocation, emergency support through solidarity for the Member States under the particular pressures to repair or rebuild asylum and reception systems, and information and analysis support through information sharing and data merging.

Larsson-Grave discussed the issue of relocation, for example from Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus, and highlighted the mobility partnership between the EU and Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco, and described a project between the Western Balkan countries and Turkey that was launched in March 2016 to enhance migration-related co-operation.

### Addresses by the Heads of Parliamentary Delegations from the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co- operation and Guests

Hachemi Djiar (MP, Algeria) called on OSCE parliamentarians to formulate a global vision of the Mediterranean as a space for exchanges, not of division, and to question what he described as short-sighted policies of their governments. Abdelrahim Barham (Palestinian Legislative Council) underlined the centrality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to all security issues affecting the Mediterranean region, urging a just resolution of this conflict.

During the debate, delegations from Greece,



Turkish delegation at the Mediterranean Forum

Italy, Finland, Canada, Ukraine, Armenia, Russian Federation, Cyprus, Turkey, Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden took the floor to voice opinions about issues impacting the Mediterranean region such as human trafficking, education, youth radicalization and the refugee and migrant crisis.

The root causes of migration and the refugee crisis must be tackled, said a number of delegates, noting that the crisis is a global phenomenon with security, economic and humanitarian implications that require a comprehensive response.

Migration was identified as among the most pressing challenges facing the world, with parliamentarians noting that there is a need to address such fundamental questions as why there is so much instability, poverty and hunger compelling people to leave their homes in search of a better life. Members stressed that the unique challenges of refugees coming from war zones must be met, and that a common approach is needed in dealing with a criminal activities such as human trafficking and smuggling.

Strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE region and beyond was also identified as a priority, with members noting that addressing refugee and migrant flows requires a multifaceted, multilateral response. Members also raised questions over the European Union's "Dublin Regulation," which determines the EU Member State responsible to examine an application for asylum seekers claiming international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Larsson-Grave responded to the questions on the Dublin system by noting that discussions are taking place to consider EU Member States' capacities for processing asylum claims.





## Standing Committee Meeting



President Christine Muttonen chairs the Standing Committee meeting on 1 October.

The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, Autumn Meeting and Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget and appoints the Secretary General.

OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) opened the Standing Committee meeting on 1 October with a report on her activities since being elected at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi. She highlighted the high-level OSCE PA visit that she led to Turkey in the aftermath of the 15 July coup attempt, during which the PA expressed its solidarity with the Turkish people and discussed recent developments with the government.

The President also informed the Standing Committee that she had attended the 1 September informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Potsdam which focused on developing best practices for international dialogue against the backdrop of the current security situation in the OSCE region. Further, Muttonen reported on the OSCE/ODIHR's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw and the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments in Strasbourg, both of which she addressed with speeches calling for a more balanced, co-operative approach to addressing common challenges.

She also announced her upcoming speech at the OSCE Permanent Council on 27 October and thanked the staff of the International Secretariat for their work, expressing her support for the ongoing internal reforms. Finally, the President outlined her priorities for the months to come, which included strengthening parliamentary contributions to OSCE mediation work, the establishment of new channels of dialogue in Central Asia and the region beyond, as well as a focus on de-radicalization, gender and youth.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier reported on the activities of the OSCE's governmental side. Zannier highlighted the need for the Organization to develop new tools and to co-operate with both state and non-state actors to face recent challenges such as migration and the crisis in and around Ukraine. He

also stressed the importance of good relations among the OSCE's institutions and presented the OSCE's draft budget for FY2017.

Parliamentary Assembly Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) reported on the PA's healthy and stable budgetary status and welcomed OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella's efforts to further increase the transparency of the PA's finances. She also lauded improvements of relations among the PA and the OSCE's executive structures and encouraged national delegations to consider hosting future OSCE PA meetings.

Secretary General Montella thanked the host parliament for holding the 2016 Autumn Meeting and described a number of internal reforms he was pursuing on administrative and financial matters. Further, he reported on the OSCE PA's continuing efforts to strengthen relationships with partners in the OSCE and other organizations, for instance by hosting a meeting on election observation with representatives from OSCE/ODIHR, PACE, NATO PA and the European Parliament. Montella also presented a series of additional PA activities and outlined the Assembly's upcoming work.

The Standing Committee heard reports on the OSCE PA's election observation mission to Belarus from Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden) and Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), while Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) reported on the observation of the Russian Federation's parliamentary elections.

The Standing Committee was also addressed by Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices Lord Peter Bowness, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Filippo Lombardi, Special Representative on Mediation Ilkka Kanerva, Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli, Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Michel Voisin and Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry.













Secretary General  
Roberto Montella

The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Roberto Montella, and has a permanent staff of 16, including three staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



Deputy Secretary General  
Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary General  
Semyon Dzakhayev



Special Representative  
Andreas Nothelle



Chief of the Executive Office  
Andreas Baker



Head of Document Services  
Dana Bjerregaard



Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office  
Marc Carillet



Presidential Advisor  
Maria Chepurina



Programme Officer  
Farimah Daftary



Head of Conference Services  
Odile LeLarge



Director of Administration, Finance and Human Resources  
Kurt Lerras



General Services Manager  
Bo Hjorth Nielsen



Chief Political Advisor  
Francesco Pagani



Head of Communications and Press  
Nat Parry



Chief ICT  
Stephen Paul



Programme Officer  
Loic Poulain



Head of Administration for Election Observation  
Iryna Sabashuk



**B**ringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and seminars are designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions are deployed to areas of latent or active crisis.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

International Secretariat of the OSCE PA

Tordenskjoldsgade 1

1055 Copenhagen K

Denmark

Tel: +45 33 37 80 40

Fax: +45 33 37 80 30

[international.secretariat@oscepa.dk](mailto:international.secretariat@oscepa.dk)

[www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)