

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 16TH AUTUMN MEETING ANDORRA

3-5 OCTOBER 2017



Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks



REPORT ON THE 2017 AUTUMN MEETING OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Report prepared by the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA in Copenhagen

Summary



Hosted by Andorra's Consell General, the 16th Autumn Meeting was held 3-5 October 2017 in Andorra.

The OSCE PA holds an Autumn Meeting every year to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on OSCE-related topics. Previous meetings have been held in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Canada, Slovenia, Malta, and Spain.

Some 180 parliamentarians took part in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 16th Autumn Meeting in Andorra on 3-5 October 2017. Under the theme of "Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks," parliamentarians from across the OSCE region held debates dealing with cybersecurity, climate change and the importance of education as a guarantee of stability.

Hosted by Andorra's Consell General, the meeting featured addresses by senior officials, representatives from the OSCE, and a range of experts on topical issues. Speaker of the Parliament of Andorra Vicenç Mateu Zamora, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen and Prime Minister of Andorra Antoni Martí Petit addressed the inaugural session on 3 October.

Other speakers at the Autumn Meeting included Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice, Home and Social Affairs of Andorra; Rasa Ostrauskaite, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats; Silvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra; Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; and Carles Miquel Garcia, Head of the Energy and Climate Change Office, Government of Andorra.

The Assembly's Standing Committee met on 4 October and heard reports from President Muttonen, Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany), Secretary General Roberto Montella, chairs of ad hoc committees, the leadership of the recent election observation mission to Germany, and Special Representatives. Also addressing the

Standing Committee was the new Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ingibjörg Gísladóttir, who spoke about areas of co-operation for the PA and ODIHR.

On 3 October parliamentarians heard expert presentations and engaged in a debate on cybersecurity, stressing the need for confidence-building and risk reduction related to cyber incidents. Session two of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 4 October, was dedicated to environmental security, and particularly the threat of climate change.

Parliamentarians voiced broad support for the Paris Agreement on climate change and for the need to steadily reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, while developing and promoting cleaner, renewable sources of energy.

The third session focused on discussions on the topic of

"Promoting Education as a Guarantee of Stability and Development." Parliamentarians stressed education's potential to contribute to international stability through teaching principles of diversity and tolerance, to combat radicalization, and to promote healing in post-conflict settings. The three sessions of the Parliamentary Conference were chaired by OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Isabel Santos (Portugal) Victor Paul Dobre (Romania) and Roberto Battelli (Slovenia).

The Autumn Meeting also included meetings of the Mediterranean Forum and OSCE PA ad hoc committees on migration and on counter-terrorism.

"In today's world a nation's interests are very closely interlinked with those of others, which means: whenever a country declares that it is pursuing only its own interests without taking into account other countries, it is in fact undermining all of our interests."

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
President Christine Muttonen





Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Prime Minister Antoni Martí Petit, Speaker Vicenç Mateu Zamora and OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen opened the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 2017 Autumn Meeting on 3 October, addressing the conference's theme "Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks" and encouraging participants to explore issues related to cybersecurity, climate change and education.

Christine Muttonen, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



President Muttonen thanked Andorra for its hospitality, noting that the Autumn Meeting marked the second time for Andorra hosting the Assembly, following its hosting of the 2007 economic conference.

The President opened her speech by pointing out that Andorra embodies the value of good neighbourly relations and sovereign equality for all OSCE countries.

The international community must continue to address climate change through co-operative and innovative strategies, she said, noting the importance of meeting commitments in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

"We must pursue policies that prioritize clean energy projects, investment and innovation to promote environmentally friendly economic growth," she said. "This is something that we

cannot afford to compromise on."

The President underlined that, in today's interconnected world, co-operation is a necessity and no country can afford to ensure its security on its own. She encouraged OSCE countries and parliamentarians to promote dialogue and compromise, engage with each other, and search for common ground to address joint security challenges.

President Muttonen concluded by highlighting the valuable role of parliamentarians. As the most direct link between governments and the people, she said, they can promote people-to-people contact, facilitate cultural exchanges and enable meaningful dialogue to promote security and stability in the OSCE area.

Antoni Martí Petit, Head of Government of the Principality of Andorra

In his opening address, the Head of Government of Andorra defined multilateralism as the most democratic and just expression of international relations. Prime Minister Martí underlined that the OSCE format was especially relevant to smaller countries such as his, because it places all participating States on an equal footing.

Martí explained that Andorra had long been aware of the crucial importance of action within a multilateral format, since the



Parliamentary Conference Opening Session

country's geographic reality necessitates co-operation and alliances with the international community. As a result, Andorra has undertaken reforms to align internal policies with international action.

To fight global warming and mitigate the effects of climate change, Andorra was one of the first countries to make their contribution to the COP 21 in Paris and set up an ambitious plan to meet the target of a 37 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030. This was made possible by promoting the use of electric vehicles through direct government subsidies, encouraging the use of renewable energy through public investment to increase energy sovereignty, and increasing the efficiency of the country's heating network.

In the field of education, Prime Minister Marti detailed the Andorran Ministry of Education's efforts to work closely with the Council of Europe to incorporate the study of fundamental rights and democratic values in the academic curriculum, encouraging OSCE countries to emulate this experience.

The Head of Government also addressed cybersecurity, which is relevant to two of Andorra's main priorities: the diversification of its economy through new information and communication technologies and guaranteeing the security of its citizens, both online and offline. Prime Minister Marti praised the role of multilateral organizations in sharing experiences to enhance cybersecurity and fostering a joint response to security challenges emerging in the cyberworld.

Vicenç Mateu Zamora, General Syndic of the General Council of Andorra

In his remarks, the Speaker of the Andorran Parliament discussed the upcoming 25th anniversary of the country's constitution, which he pointed out does not limit itself to the national sphere but also encourages international co-operation to ensure the quality of life of future generations. Security and co-operation, Mateu



explained, are necessary conditions to guarantee the personal and collective freedom of all.

Mateu said that security is a precious asset for a small country like Andorra, given that the Principality's low crime rate encourages tourism and increases the quality of life of those who decide to become residents. Today, however, security challenges are far more complex than the way they had been previously understood: interconnectivity through information and communication technologies have engendered new forms of crime and questioned the relationship between security and freedom. Discussions in that field transcend national perspectives and thus require co-ordination between all countries.

Similarly, Speaker Mateu stated that climate change is no longer just a threat but a palpable reality for many people and countries. He explained that with Andorra's economy largely relying on snow tourism, the slightest increase in temperature represents a threat to the country's main source of wealth.

Finally, Speaker Mateu underlined that education is a powerful tool for peace and social transformation because it provides real equal opportunities to citizens. Education is not only

key to provide future professionals with values such as sustainability, accessibility or equity, it also helps to shape responsible and enlightened citizens indispensable to defend democracy.



Vicenç Mateu Zamora





Parliamentary Conference: Session One



Xavier Esport Zamora addresses session one on 3 October.

OSCE PA Vice-President Isabel Santos (Portugal) opened the session emphasizing the role of technology, which she said has brought many benefits but also a wave of uncertainty within inter-state relations in recent years. Such ambiguity arising from cyber activities fuel mistrust and heighten inter-state tensions, she said. Cyberattacks, she noted, represent a serious threat to security in every societal sphere, including the government and the private and public sectors.

Against this backdrop, OSCE participating States have engaged in establishing a set of voluntary confidence-building measures (CBMs) to reduce the risks stemming from the use of new information and communication technologies, Santos said. Such confidence-building measures are designed to ensure a more predictable cyberspace while offering concrete tools and mechanisms to facilitate dialogue, avoid confusion, and exchange best practices.

In addition to confidence-building measures, the OSCE and its institutions are also focusing on tackling cyber-related threats stemming from non-state actors including organized crime and terrorists, she said.

Numerous resolutions and recommendations adopted at Annual Sessions by the Parliamentary Assembly on cybersecurity and cybercrime have underlined the risks of modern security breaches, Santos noted, pointing out that altogether the Assembly has adopted 12 texts on the subject.

Since 2008, in the Assembly's Astana Declaration, the PA has underlined that the rise of the electronic environment has created a new possibility for conflicts. The OSCE PA urged parliamentarians and OSCE participating

States to join efforts in tackling the abuse of ICT for criminal and terrorist purposes.

Santos recalled the 2010 Oslo Declaration and 2013 Istanbul Declaration, in which the PA attached great importance to the work in the international arena in combating cybercrime and safeguarding the exchange of online information.

Xavier Esport Zamora, Minister of Justice, Home and Social Affairs of Andorra

Minister Zamora identified three essential elements of cybersecurity. First, he said, cybersecurity should be addressed from an international perspective, since no country can guarantee the cybersecurity of its citizens on its own. Second, the population must be educated in the use of the internet in order to understand the risks and opportunities it represents. And the third involves nonstate actors from NGOs to companies in the technology sector.

Zamora noted that these three elements are key to improving the internet, but, he said, the most essential element to maintain a specific order is that the majority of the population trusts and believes in this order. He pointed out that the vast majority of transactions and interactions on the internet are safe because most people do not make fraudulent or illegal use of this technology.

He also noted the potential for the internet to improve public responses to emergencies, pointing out that in recent terrorist attacks, social media networks became a key element in informing the population, in order to ensure that people follow the security recommendations, to co-ordinate aid to those

Parliamentary Conference: Session One

affected and to facilitate the identification and prosecution of terrorists.

To continue promoting cybersecurity, the Minister concluded, we need more international law in this area; more education in the population; a greater involvement of non-governmental agents; and a citizenship aware that security in the virtual world is as important as security in the physical world.

Rasa Ostrauskaite OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

The OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats began her presentation by stressing that what makes cyberattacks so challenging is the fact that they are hard to predict, difficult to measure, and challenging to trace. Perpetrators can be state actors or not, many or few, acting directly or indirectly, and stationed anywhere, Ostrauskaite pointed out.

Prevention and management through dedicated tools and mechanisms are key to restoring confidence and promoting stability. To this end, the OSCE has played a pioneering role since 2012, when the OSCE Permanent Council created an Informal Working Group tasked to develop confidence-building measures, or CBMs, to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs.

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department has focused efforts on ways to improve the implementation of confidence-building measures, Ostrauskaite said. It has launched numerous initiatives to promote co-operation with academia, for example, and to identify challenges with implementation, she noted.

"The success of the OSCE crisis prevention toolbox will largely depend on those who will employ it, namely policy- and decision-makers who will decide on how to react to a cyber-attack believed to originate from another country," Ostrauskaite said.

Cesar Marquina Perez de la Cruz, Chief Security Officer for Andorra Telecom

In a visual and interactive presentation the Chief Security Officer for Andorra Telecom referred to the challenges presented by cyberattacks in the communications industry and corporate world and its effects. He referred to specific cases that have affected prominent banks, companies and media outlets in the past years. Statistically, he pointed out, every day there are twice as many cybercrime victims as babies born. The problem affects citizens, public administration and business. Transnational collaboration is the only way to find solutions

Open Debate

A total of 17 parliamentarians took the floor in the open debate session that followed the interventions by the keynote speakers. Most Members underlined the need for OSCE participating States to co-operate to have a cybersecurity strategy and develop a global one. Lawmakers need to consider national policies to protect against cybercrime, participants said.

In conclusion, OSCE governments must consider digital risks as a high priority, parliamentarians said.



Rasa Ostrauskaite addresses the first session of the Parliamentary Conference on 3 October.

Parliamentary Conference: Session Two



Session two of the Parliamentary Conference took place on 4 October.

The second session of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 4 October under the theme "Environmental Security: Addressing Climate Change," was chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Victor Paul Dobre (Romania). He opened the session by stressing that climate change has been recognized as a core development challenge that carries serious implications for international peace and security. It has moved from being just an environmental problem and an energy challenge to a matter of economic, social and political concern, Dobre said.

Silvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra

In a keynote presentation Calvó Armengol emphasized that enhancing dialogue on energy and climate change is essential to promote an energy transition that must be global if it is to fight against climate change effectively. For this reason, the involvement of entities such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is needed in order to ensure a comprehensive and global response, she said.

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified mountain areas as especially sensitive regions in the face of climate change. Therefore, the changes in Andorra climatic conditions will undoubtedly have environmental consequences that will increase the vulnerability of people and ecosystems, Armengol said. These climatic

changes will also have a significant impact on the socioeconomic sphere, with implications that will involve sectors including hydroelectricity, agriculture and tourism. It is one of the most important sectors of the economy of the country and is highly dependent on climatology, she said.

She highlighted that on 22 April 2016, her country reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against climate change with the signing of the Paris Agreement in New York, along with 176 other States Parties.

At COP 22 in Marrakech in November 2016, Andorra co-organized an event entitled "The impact of climate change on mountain areas: a priority for global action" in conjunction with the Government of Pakistan and the Mountain Institute, with the aim of focusing public opinion on the problems of the impact of climate change on mountain areas. Following this same line of commitment and action in the international context, Andorra will again be present at the next COP 23 in Bonn during November 2017, Armengol stated. She further outlined activities Andorra conducting in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Ralf Ernst, Head, Environmental Activities/ Deputy Co-ordinator Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ralf Ernst stated that climate change is not only an environmental issue but affects agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water security and

Parliamentary Conference: Session Two

the energy sector. Climate change exacerbates existing threats to security and increases environmental stresses. Some OSCE countries experiencing water shortages are likely to face increased challenges and insecurity due to climate change.

Many OSCE participating States experience extreme weather events and climate change is likely to increase the frequency and intensity of such events, Ernst said. These environmental stresses can result in increased competition over access to natural resources, disruption of food production and increased food prices, he noted. In this regard Ernst elaborated on implementation of a flagship project on "Climate Change and Security" which was implemented by his Office over the past four years through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) and conducted regional participatory assessments of climate change and security risks in three regions of the project: Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus.

He further outlined recommendations to address these risks which include increased regional co-operation, improved exchange of information, the development of early warning and response mechanisms and afforestation and reforestation measures.

Ernst welcomed opportunities to present the work of the OCEEA at Parliamentary Assembly events and to receive input from members of the Assembly. He emphasized the significance of co-operation between the governmental and parliamentary pillars of the OSCE. He welcomed opportunities to assist national parliaments in including climate change and security issues and the results of the assessments in national legislation or national strategies in relevant areas.

**Carles Miquel Garcia,
Head of the Energy and Climate
Change Office, Government of
Andorra**

Miguel Garcia discussed the environmental and socioeconomic context of Andorra, underlining in particular the importance of the agricultural sector which represents only a 0.6 per cent of the country's GDP (2014) but plays

an important role providing a large number of environmental services. The service sector represents the largest part of the country's economy representing 87.1 per cent of the country's workforce.

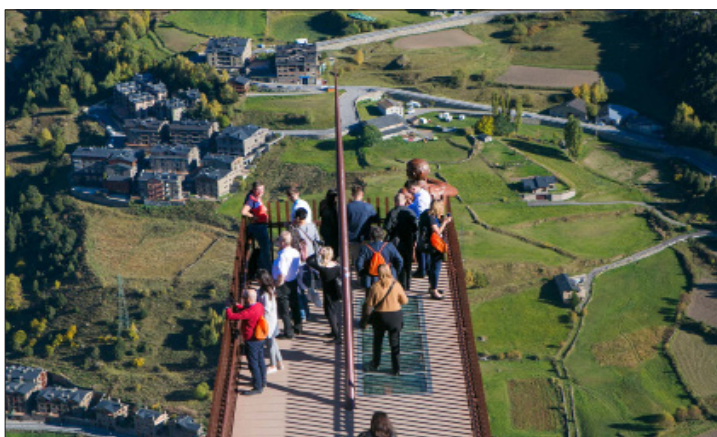
Tourism is one of the fundamental pillars of the Andorran economy, directly or indirectly responsible for 60 per cent of GDP with about eight million visitors per year. In winter, products related to skiing are predominant, but very vulnerable to climate changes. In 2007, the IPCC identified the mountainous areas as particularly sensitive to climate change. The climate has already evolved, with an increasing tendency of approximately +0.18°C/decade in average temperatures and a reduction of at least 40 mm/decade (1950-2015) in annual rainfall. For the end of the 21st century, the country can expect a rise of 3.6°C in temperatures and a decrease of 16.8 per cent in rainfall. The water resources of Andorra will also be affected.

Garcia highlighted some of Andorra's main priorities in combatting climate change: a reduction of 37 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, energy efficiency and energy saving in buildings, promotion of renewable energy and alternative sources of energy like hydrogen.

Debate

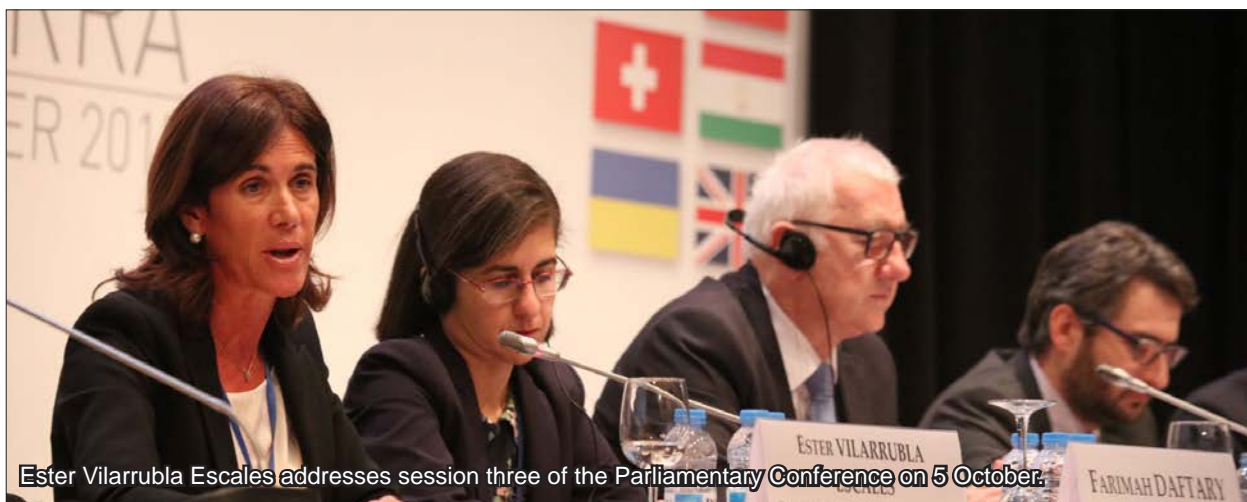
Session two concluded with a general debate in which Members addressed a range of issues including migration flows, climate change and water shortages. Parliamentarians voiced broad support for the Paris Agreement on and for the need to steadily reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, while developing and promoting cleaner, renewable sources of energy. The discussions highlighted a number of good practices that already exist in this field. With growing impacts of climate change, it was noted that efficient management of water resources becomes even more pivotal, requiring greater international co-operation.

Finally, parliamentarians encouraged proactive and innovative work by the OSCE in this field, in co-ordination with other relevant international bodies.





Parliamentary Conference: Session Three



OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli, opened the third session, held on 5 October under the theme “Promoting Education as a Guarantee of Stability and Development,” by highlighting the key role of education for promoting mutual understanding and respect for one another’s culture, including language and values in multiethnic societies. His remarks also focused on the role of education as part of the healing process in the aftermath of conflicts and in long-term post-conflict reconciliation processes, as has been exemplified by the countries of South East Europe.

Vice-President Battelli noted how education can become a highly politicized topic, especially during the process of consolidation of state- and nation-building, and that still today a number of OSCE countries are struggling to find a balance between the need to ensure that all citizens of a country are proficient in the state language while respecting the right of persons belonging to national minorities to education in their mother tongue. Striking the right balance, he pointed out, is important for the sake of confidence-building. In this regard, he highlighted the work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in developing guidelines regarding the education rights of national minorities.

Eric Jover Comas, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Andorra

Eric Jover Comas, Minister of Education of Andorra, presented the educational model

adopted by his country which is characterized by diversity, both in terms of its structure and in terms of its students. Indeed, Andorra offers three free, public educational systems: Spanish, French and Andorran. He underlined the positive benefits of a diverse educational system which enables Andorran citizens to adapt to the challenges faced by an evolving society. Minister Jover emphasized in particular the inclusiveness of each of the three systems, in which various nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds are represented. This is especially noteworthy given the demographic boom that Andorra has experienced as a result of immigration.

He also elaborated on the efforts of the Ministry of Education in four main areas: the identification and protection of children at risk through the educational system; promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities; building a cohesive community through shared interests and shared values; and preventing rivalries between students in the three systems through joint sports activities.

Minister Jover also offered thoughts on how education can be used to counter the rise of extremism and populism, for example by ensuring that the educational system forms responsible and critical citizens who value the common good. This cannot be achieved by merely introducing one hour of civic education per week, he said, but rather by ensuring that the skills necessary for democratic citizenship are taught throughout the entire curriculum.

The Education Minister concluded by emphasizing the importance of international co-operation, e.g. support from the Council of Europe, for the development of methodolo-

Parliamentary Conference: Session Three

gies and good educational practices that promote democratic citizenship.

Ester Vilarrubla Escales, Director, Department of Andorran Schools, Government of Andorra

In her address, Ester Vilarrubla Escales, Director of the Department of Andorran Schools, presented an overview of the Andorran school system established in 1982 and which today serves about 4,000 pupils. She elaborated upon initiatives to adapt the Andorran school system towards a skill-based approach in which pupils have to solve problems in order to better prepare them to real situations in the outside world. Thus, “transversal skills” – skills learned in one context which can be transferred to another context – are at the core of the new Andorran educational system.

Vilarrubla emphasized that schools are among the best places to promote confidence and mutual respect, and that children need to learn how to co-operate and to use co-operation to change the way that they learn. The inclusive nature of Andorran schools, which also incorporate children with disabilities as well as children from different cultural backgrounds, is conducive to such objectives, she said.

Discussion

In the ensuing discussion, a number of participants highlighted the key role of education in combating radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism, including by promoting human rights norms and values. Many also pointed out that investment in education pays off in the long term in terms of prosperity and stability and that education was an essential component of humanitarian aid. It was also noted that education, which is one of the UN sustainable development goals for 2016-2030, is also necessary for the achievement of the 16 other SDGs.

Participants shared best practices in the field of education within the context of their national experiences, for example as a means of building bridges and fostering good inter-ethnic relations. The key role of education in conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict scenarios and the rebuilding of societies was stressed by a number of parliamentarians. The need to ensure access to education of girls, refugees and migrants, as well as children with disabilities, was also stressed. Concerns were also raised regarding education practices in various countries related to instruction in minority languages, as well as the alleged misuse of education to foster hatred in some parts of the OSCE area.

Ad Hoc Committees discuss counter-terrorism, migration work



The inaugural meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, 3 Oct. 2017

Parliamentarians met on the margins of the 2017 Autumn Meeting for discussions on migration and counter-terrorism work. The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism held its first meeting since being established by a decision of the OSCE PA's Standing Committee at the 26th Annual Session in Minsk three months earlier. Ad Hoc Committee Chair Makis Vroidis (Greece) opened the meeting by

underlining how the PA could add real value in this field through practical recommendations to both governments and parliaments. The focus should be on legislative harmonization, international co-operation and sharing of lessons learned, he said.

Also meeting in Andorra was the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland). The migration committee members met twice to follow up on the resolution adopted at the Minsk Annual Session on “Ensuring a Coherent, Shared and Responsible Governance of Migration and Refugee Flows” and to plan activities for the upcoming year.

Mediterranean Forum



Pascal Allizard chairs the Mediterranean Forum on 3 October.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (MP, France) chaired the Mediterranean Forum, held under the theme “Promoting Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean” on 2 October. He opened the meeting by underlining that while the Mediterranean region is facing serious security challenges posed by political instability, mass migratory movements and terrorism, there are also many opportunities for co-operation and development. Allizard stressed the need to reinforce co-ordination with the OSCE executive structures and briefed about his recent visit to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

The Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE PA, Meritxell Palmitjavila Naudí, welcomed all participants to Andorra and noted security challenges related to irregular migration, environmental impacts and organized crime. Against this backdrop, she expressed hope to see more action-oriented dialogue.

Minister Counsellor Luca Frattini, 2017 Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Luca Frattini discussed ongoing governmental efforts to promote constructive dialogue in the Mediterranean region. With an emphasis on solutions, Frattini noted that in 2017 the Mediterranean Contact Group has focused on trafficking in cultural properties, cyber security, energy, the role of women in building security,

and economic co-operation. Frattini introduced the theme of the OSCE’s 2017 Mediterranean Conference to focus on migration and would take place in Palermo on 24-25 October.

He also listed the priorities of the incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship, which include dealing with the crisis in and around Ukraine, addressing the protracted conflicts, cyber security, transnational threats and promoting dialogue with civil society. He concluded by stressing the key role played by parliaments in promoting dialogue among our societies as well as the need to maintain solid partnerships among all OSCE structures.

Pedro Roque, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

In his address, Pedro Roque talked about the goals and work conducted by PAM as a regional platform of 30 States from both shores of the Mediterranean. While PAM strives to promote security and economic co-operation in the region, Roque noted that a lack of progress in the Israeli-Palestinian relations, the war in Syria and prolonged instability in Libya are posing significant security threats. Moreover, mass migratory and refugee movements driven by conflicts, poverty and climate change are a cause of concern for many countries of the region, while the EU regrettably still lacks a coherent and effective response. Finally Roque invited the OSCE PA to contribute to the 17-18 November La Valetta conference, which will

Mediterranean Forum

focus on the UN's Global Compact on Migration.

Mário Gomes, Diplomatic Advisor to the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

Mário Gomes noted that the Helsinki Final Act enshrined a strong security link between the Mediterranean and Europe, and pointed out that for the last decade, the UfM contributed to shape a more action-oriented and fair partnership between the shores of the Mediterranean basin. Currently consisting of 43 members (all EU members and all Mediterranean countries), UfM is a strong instrument for regional co-operation, he said, noting that its work is structured around three pillars: 1) a political process, with frequent meetings of ministers; 2) a platform for regional dialogue among national authorities, international agencies, civil society, academia, youth, financial institutions and the private sector; and 3) goal-oriented regional projects implemented by the Secretariat (e.g. the regional university of Fes and the trans-Maghreb motorway). Gomes concluded by urging greater levels of co-operation between the UfM and the OSCE PA.

Addresses by the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and the Palestinian Legislative Council

The Algerian delegation expressed concerns over the security situation in the Mediterranean region, including the challenges stemming from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The representative emphasized readiness to share practices on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, based on principles furthering human rights and gender equality, such as solidarity and social justice. Algeria raised several questions on how to build trust and mutual confidence for lasting peace and security in the region.

The delegate from Morocco underlined the need to strengthen co-operation in the security area through multilateral policies and north-

south dialogue, bringing long-term solutions. He assessed the situation in the Maghreb as challenging, with weak economies and lack of security regional cooperation, and noted its efforts in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

The Palestinian Legislative Council's delegate voiced support for human rights and the rule of law, and expressed hopes for progress regarding the Palestinian cause. He criticized Israeli policies including the detention of some 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners, as well as the settlement activity in the West Bank and the lack of prosecutions of settlers' actions.

Open Debate

During the discussion, approximately 30 parliamentarians took the floor to debate the security challenges posed to the region by terrorism, radicalization, mass-migratory movements, regional instability, protracted conflicts and humanitarian crises. Many stressed the need to put counter-terrorism higher on OSCE countries' agendas, including by allocating more resources and by better protecting the rights of all those involved, especially innocent victims.

Several delegates advocated for more international co-operation, better information exchange and greater harmonization of policies and legislation on counter-terrorism. Many members welcomed the efforts undertaken by countries such as Italy, Greece, Turkey and Jordan in accepting and managing large numbers of refugees. The lack of a common EU approach in this domain was broadly labelled as a cause of concern, while the need to protect the most vulnerable people on the move was also stressed. Several interventions focused on the ongoing instability in Libya and the Middle East, with its complex negative repercussions on regional security. Concerning the situation in Catalonia, a few delegates called for an open and constructive dialogue between the interested parties in full respect of the rule of law and human rights.

Finally, the importance of preserving healthy oceans for promoting development, peace and security in the region was also mentioned.





Standing Committee Meeting



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 opened the Standing Committee meeting on 4 October with a report on her activities since being re-elected at the 2017 Annual Session in Minsk. She outlined her priorities including empowering women; developing close relations with OSCE executive structures to address the security implications of climate change; using cultural diplomacy and intercultural exchanges as peace-building tools; and reinforcing co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

The President also informed the Standing Committee that she had attended the 11 July informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Mauerbach, Austria, where she highlighted the recommendations adopted in the Minsk Declaration. She reported on several visits she had undertaken since her re-election including to Kazakhstan where she spoke about nuclear safety, non-proliferation and disarmament at the 62nd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs. She also visited Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, highlighting the value of cultural exchanges as a confidence-building measure. Finally, the President reported on her most recent trip to Morocco during which discussions focused on common challenges including migration, terrorism, and climate change.

Following the President's report, members of the Standing Committee engaged in a discussion on the issue of the Catalanian referendum, which had been organized a couple days earlier.

ODIHR Director Ingibjorg Gisladdottir regretted democratic regression and attacks on the rule of law throughout the OSCE area, noting the diminished oversight role of parliaments and the judiciary. Building on her predecessor's work at ODIHR, she discussed prospects for deeper co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in particular to increase the representation of women and persons with disabilities in parliaments and decision-making

bodies, to reinforce the democratic control of armed forces, and to protect the freedom of religion and belief and of minority rights.

Parliamentary Assembly Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) reported on the PA's healthy and stable budgetary status and welcomed OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella's efforts to modernize the Assembly's budget to better reflect realities of its activities. She also encouraged national delegations to consider hosting future OSCE PA meetings.

Secretary General Montella thanked the Andorran Parliament for hosting the 2017 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, as well as other relevant international organizations. Montella also presented a series of additional PA activities, noting the work of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and the newly established Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and outlined the Assembly's upcoming work.

The Standing Committee heard reports on the OSCE PA's election observation mission to Germany from George Tsereteli (Georgia) who thanked the German Delegation for its assistance in making the PA's first-ever election observation mission to Germany a success.

The Standing Committee was also addressed by Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices Lord Peter Bowness (United Kingdom), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland), Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Nikolay Kovalev (Russian Federation), Special Representative on Mediation Ilkka Kanerva (Finland), Special Representative on Arctic Issue Ola Elvestuen (Norway), and Special Representative for Eastern Europe Kent Harstedt (Sweden).













OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 2017 AUTUMN MEETING PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2017

09:30 – 12:30 **MEDITERRANEAN FORUM**

Parliamentary Conference “Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks”

14:30 – 15:15 **INAUGURAL SESSION**

Opening Address by the Speaker of the Parliament of Andorra, Mr. Vicenç Mateu Zamora

Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ms. Christine Muttonen

Address by the Prime Minister of Andorra, Mr. Antoni Martí Petit

15:30 – 17:30 **SESSION 1: *Addressing Cybersecurity***

Chair/Moderator: Ms. Isabel Santos, Vice-President of the OSCE PA (Portugal)

Keynote Speakers:

Mr. Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice, Home and Social Affairs of Andorra

Ms. Rasa Ostrauskaite, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

Mr. César Marquina Pérez de la Cruz, Chief Security Officer, Andorra Telecom

Open debate

2017 Autumn Meeting ♦ Andorra

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2017

Parliamentary Conference “Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks”

- 09:30 – 12:30 **SESSION 2: *Environmental Security: Addressing Climate Change***
Chair/Moderator: Mr. Victor Paul Dobre, Vice-President of the OSCE PA (Romania)
Keynote Speakers:
 Ms. Silvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra
 Mr. Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities / Head, Environmental Activities
 Mr. Carles Miquel Garcia, Head of the Energy and Climate Change Office, Government of Andorra
Open debate
- 14:30 – 17:30 **MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2017

Parliamentary Conference “Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks”

- 09:00 – 11:45 **SESSION 3: *Human Dimension: Promoting Education as a Guarantee of Stability and Development***
Chair/Moderator: Mr. Roberto Battelli, Vice-President of the OSCE PA (Slovenia)
Keynote Speakers:
 Mr. Eric Jover Comas, Minister of Education and Higher Education
 Ms. Ester Vilarrubla Escalas, Director, Department of Andorra Schools, Government of Andorra
Open debate
- 11:45 – 12:00 **CLOSING SESSION**
 Closing Remarks by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ms. Christine Muttonen
 Closing Remarks by the Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ms. Meritxell Palmitjavila Naudi



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 19, including four 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



Liaison Officer and
Advisor
Marco Bonabello



Deputy Director of the
Vienna Liaison Office
Marc Carillet



Programme Officer
Farimah Daftary



Executive Assistant
Anna Di Domenico



Executive Assistant to
the Vienna Liaison Office
Tim Knoblaue



Head of Confer-
ence Services
Odile Lelarge



General Services
Manager
Bo Hjorth Nielsen



Chief Political
Advisor
Francesco Pagani



Head of Communi-
cations and Press
Nat Parry



Chief ICT
Stephen Paul



Presidential Advisor
Loic Poulain



Head of Administration
for Election Observation
Iryna Sabashuk



Chief of Administra-
tion and Finance
Marieta Samac



Bringing 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.



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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