

News from Copenhagen

At NATO PA session in Istanbul, Muttonen emphasizes parliamentary diplomacy

Speaking at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 62nd Annual Session in Istanbul on Monday, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) noted that although the NATO and OSCE assemblies differ in many respects, they both share a goal of comprehensive security.

"As parliamentarians, we always must keep in mind that it is our citizens who will suffer most if we are unable to find the solutions to the pressing security challenges facing our region," she said. She pointed out that both NATO, which was founded in the ashes of the Second World War, and the OSCE, which was created at the height of the Cold War, have contributed greatly to security over recent decades.

Expressing concern over "the growing militarization of international politics," President Muttonen stressed that "we should in the end strive for arms control," as well as promote dialogue and de-escalation.

"It is essential that we all acknowledge that a security architecture that does not work for all of us does not in fact work for any of us," she said. "This is why we must exploit every opportunity to maximize the great potential of inter-parliamentary dialogue and inter-parliamentary diplomacy, and the shared ability of our organizations to address security

challenges."

She also highlighted the challenges faced by Turkey, including the attempted coup last summer and the recent arrests of elected members of parliament. "It is precisely at difficult times like these that we must focus on open dialogue and robust engagement by a pluralistic parliament," she said.



Christine Muttonen and NATO Sec. Gen. Jens Stoltenberg

On the margins of the NATO PA Annual Session, President Muttonen held meetings with Andriy Parubiy, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada), and Deputy Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Ahmet Aydin. Both meetings served to exchange views on recent developments in Turkey and Ukraine, as well as renew the PA's engagement in the two countries.

She was accompanied in Istanbul by advisors Francesco Paganini from the International Secretariat and Lukas Mussi from the Austrian Parliament.

President Emeritus Kanerva addresses OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation



At a meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation in Vienna last week, OSCE PA President Emeritus and Special Representative on Mediation Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) called for active dialogue and co-operation with like-minded actors, drawing attention to the PA's hosting of mediation-focused seminars in May and July 2016, as well as a recent visit he made to United Nations headquarters in New York.

The 16 November event in Vienna focused on "Co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and on Inclusion of Women in Peace Processes," and was organized by the missions to the OSCE of Finland, Switzerland and Turkey.

In their remarks, Finnish Amb. Katja Pehrman, Turkish Amb. Rauf Engin Soysal, and Swiss Amb. Claude Wild reiterated the role of parliamentarians in mediation, as well as the role of women, and the need for good co-operation between the OSCE's governmental and parliamentary sides.

President Emeritus Kanerva highlighted the "open, inclusive and comprehensive approach" that effective mediation requires, underlining the role of women in peace processes. "When it comes to peace and security, it is vital to ensure that decisions and solutions reflect the needs and views of the majority of a population," he said.

Preparations underway for 2017 OSCE PA Annual Session in Minsk

Representatives from the OSCE PA's International Secretariat are in Minsk this week to prepare for the OSCE PA's 26th Annual Session, to be held in the Belarusian capital on 5-9 July 2017. Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Semyon Dzakhayev and Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge have met with Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Boleslav Pirshchuk and staff to

develop the programme; facilitate lodging, transport, protocol and security; as well as other logistical and practical matters.

The OSCE PA team reported on Wednesday that preparations are proceeding well in Minsk and noted that the progress of preparations for the Annual Session will be discussed at the OSCE PA's Bureau meeting in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 December.