News from Copenhagen

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

OSCE PA

29 May 2024 | Number 971

Situation of refugees in focus during OSCE PA migration committee visit to Türkiye

OSCE PA delegation visits Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre, 21 May 2024

A ten-member delegation of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by its Chair Dr. Daniela De Ridder (Germany), concluded a visit to Türkiye on 23 May. Hosted by Kemal Çelik (Türkiye), the four-day visit was intended to contribute to greater understanding of the work being done by Türkiye to support a refugee population of 3.4 million persons.

Meeting with a wide range of interlocutors, the delegation learned how Türkiye is facilitating the access of Syrians under temporary protection and international protection holders to education, employment, health care, and other services. Challenges such as barriers in accessing legal status and labour permits, the situation of refugees and irregular migrants from other countries, vulnerable refugees – especially women – and addressing child labour and child marriage were among the many issues discussed. Delegates discussed the issue of returns to the so-called 'safe zone' in northern Syria and the need for increased humanitarian support to internally displaced persons in Syria, with interlocutors underlining that the conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified returns were not yet present.

The programme kicked off on 20 May in Ankara with briefings by representatives of migration management authorities, various Turkish ministries and Türkiye's Coast Guard Command. The delegation then visited the Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre, the largest camp in the country, currently hosting about 12,500 Syrians, and which includes schools, health care centres, mosques and other facilities.

The delegation met with provincial authorities and the mayor of Gaziantep, and representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and WFP, as well as non-governmental organizations. It visited a container camp set up for Syrian earthquake victims in Islahiye and new housing units for the affected population of the region.

In addition to De Ridder and Çelik, the delegation included the following OSCE parliamentarians: Committee Vice-Chairs Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), Farah Karimi (Netherlands), Gudrun Kugler (Austria), and Members Canan Bayram (Germany), Kristian Klinck (Germany), Dimitrios Markopoulos (Greece), Özgül Saki (Türkiye), and David Stögmüller (Austria).

OSCE PA Treasurer Büser visits OSCE headquarters in Vienna

Today, the OSCE PA Vienna Office was pleased to host Treasurer Johan Büser in Vienna for meetings with the Maltese Chairmanship, representatives of participating States and the OSCE Secretariat. Discussions served to get acquainted with OSCE's financial and budgetary challenges and relevant mitigating measures of potential applicability to the Assembly. Accompanied by International Senior Advisor from the Riksdag, Fredrik Svensson, the Treasurer was supported by Secretary General Roberto Montella, Special Representative Amb. Miodrag Pančeski, Head of Finance Stephen Paul, Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani and Research Assistant Maria Luce Napoliello.

Johan Büser, Roberto Montella and Miodrag Pančeski with representatives of Canada, France, Germany, Sweden and the United States, 29 May 2024

The visit proved informative and productive in providing a basis for understanding as well as identifying areas where OSCE parliamentarians could help address challenges.

Secretary General Montella meets with Latvian OSCE PA Delegation in Riga

Rihards Kols, Skaidrite Abrama, Roberto Montella and Ingrida Circene, 24 May 2024

On 24 May, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella met in Riga with representatives of the Latvian Delegation to OSCE PA, underscoring their common commitment to strengthening the OSCE PA's role and effectiveness. Discussions touched on how to ensure that the PA remains a vibrant platform for inter-parliamentary dialogue, especially in the current geopolitical landscape.

Discussing the work of the OSCE PA with Head of Delegation Rihards Kols and members Ingrida Circene and Skaidrite Abrama, Montella described the preparations for the upcoming Annual Session in Bucharest as well as various challenges facing the OSCE. Kols, Circene and Abrama highlighted Latvia's priorities for enhancing the organization's resilience and reinforcing its core values and principles.

OSCE PA's Conference Team visits Porto, Portugal, host of the 32nd Annual Session

In preparation for next year's Annual Session, hosted by the Portuguese Parliament (Assembleia da República), several members of the International Secretariat were on an assessment visit last week to Porto, Portugal. Gustavo Pallares, Odile Lelarge, Stephen Paul and Dimitrije Todoric met with staff of the Portuguese Parliament to discuss logistical, technical and security aspects of the meeting.

During the visit, the PA's team visited the venue where the Session will take place and positively assessed the premises. The meeting will take place in the summer of 2025.

For further information contact Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry at **+45 33 37 80 40** or email **nat@oscepa.dk** | **www.oscepa.org**