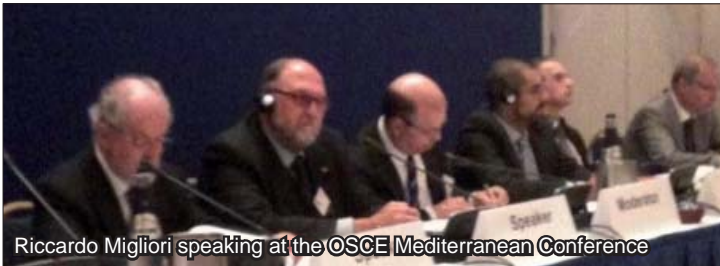


News from Copenhagen

Migliori addresses OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Malta



Riccardo Migliori, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Head of the PA's Italian Delegation, participated in the OSCE Mediterranean Conference on 14-15 October 2010 in Malta.

Recalling the conclusions of the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum and Fall Meetings in Palermo a week earlier, Mr. Migliori reminded the participants that ten years after the signing of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, two main themes were considered closely at the Palermo conference: the fight against mafia groups of all types in favor of the rule of law, and the current state of co-operation in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Migliori stressed that the OSCE is based on a very clear principle: the indivisibility of security. No participating State can be more secure than another or can assess its own security on the insecurity of others. All States can and must take concrete action for the prevention of potential conflict.

He also recalled the Oslo Declaration of the OSCE PA where it was stressed that the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE needs to be strengthened and particular attention must be placed to enhancing the parliamentary co-operation with partner States, beginning with a joint undertaking for election observation, and for opening up to all countries interested in becoming OSCE partners.

Another important point made by Mr. Migliori was the necessity for countries of this region to support a comprehensive system of small and medium businesses and sign the first agreements for the management of sea highways, a prerequisite for security in an area through which one third of the world's maritime freight passes.

In Malta, Mr. Migliori was supported by Roberto Montella, Programme Officer at the Vienna Liaison Office.

Hedy Fry appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada) was appointed the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues by PA President Petros Efthymiou on 19 October. In his appointment letter, Mr. Efthymiou reiterated the importance that the Assembly attaches to gender equality, particularly within the OSCE.

"The OSCE still has a long way to go before it provides equal opportunities for men and women," Mr. Efthymiou wrote. "It is very visible that women are lacking in the top layers of the hierarchy of the OSCE, and I believe that the working atmosphere suffers from this."

As part of her mandate, Dr. Fry will be following the gender situation within the OSCE, including in the Institutions and Field Missions, and report back to the President. She will also promote discussion of the gender issue within the OSCE and in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and develop, in co-operation with the Gender Unit at the International Secretariat, a more active gender profile of the OSCE PA.

Dr. Fry was elected to the Canadian parliament from Vancouver-Centre in 1993, defeating Prime Minister Kim Campbell. From 1996 to 2002, she served as Canada's Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women.

Prior to being elected to Parliament, Dr. Fry was well-known in Canada as a panelist on the national CBC television programme "Doctor, Doctor." She practiced family medicine at St. Paul's Hospital in the West End of Vancouver for two decades and was a local, provincial and national leader in medical politics.

As the Special Representative on Gender Issues, Dr. Fry succeeds Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden), who served as Special Representative from 2003 until retiring from the Swedish Parliament this year.



Parliamentary Assembly begins observation of U.S. midterm elections

Members of the OSCE PA begin observation of the United States midterm elections with a day-long seminar co-organized by the PA and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems on Friday 29 October. The seminar, entitled "Comparative Perspectives on Election Processes in the OSCE Area," will feature experts from IFES as well as OSCE PA Members including President Petros Efthymiou.

The observation continues with a day-long briefing on

Saturday, at which observers will hear from Senator Ben Cardin, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Co-Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, among others. Members will then deploy for observation in Colorado, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The observation mission is led by President Emeritus Joao Soares (Portugal), and includes more than 50 Members of Parliament from 20 of the OSCE's participating States.