

Migliori participates in human trafficking Round Table, visits Moldova

Representing the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at a Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in St. Petersburg, OSCE PA Vice-President Riccardo Migliori spoke this week about the OSCE PA's engagement on the issue of human trafficking, in particular by bringing it to the attention of national parliaments through resolutions adopted at the Assembly's Annual Sessions.

"Over the past four years, at its sessions in Belgrade and Oslo, Vilnius and Astana, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has unanimously adopted resolutions on human trafficking," he said. Vice-President Migliori, who serves as head of the Italian delegation to the OSCE PA, noted Italy's role in promoting the international effort to combat human trafficking by holding the High-Level UN Conference of Palermo in 2000 and reiterated some of the main points that the Assembly has made in regards to trafficking in human beings.

The PA, he said, has called on OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to ratify the UN's Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to prevent trafficking in persons as well as to agree to greater co-ordination to ensure a full and effective implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action to combat human trafficking.

The Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was organized by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, CIS Executive Committee, and the Council of Europe.



Riccardo Migliori addresses Round Table on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Migliori's participation in the Round Table follows a visit he made to Moldova late last month. Migliori visited the OSCE Mission in Moldova where he met with the Deputy Head of the Mission, Jan Plesinger. He also held meetings with Marian Lupu, Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova; Simion Furdui, Head of the Moldovan Delegation to the OSCE PA; Iurie Leanca, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and Yevgeny Karpov, Deputy Prime Minister on Reintegration.

In his meetings, Migliori reiterated the OSCE PA's commitment to achieving a final settlement of the protracted conflict in Transnistria, in full respect of the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty envisaged by international law.

He expressed appreciation to the Moldovan government for its commitment to OSCE values, and the Moldovan representatives offered their appreciation for the work of the OSCE PA, particularly the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, chaired by PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden).

Danish Parliament holds annual debate on the OSCE



Head of Danish OSCE PA Delegation Peter Juel Jensen

The Danish Parliament (*Folketinget*) this week debated the Annual OSCE Report issued by the Danish Foreign Minister, Villy Søvndal. The report outlines developments within the OSCE and emphasizes Denmark's appreciation for the Parliamentary Assembly as a unique forum for dialogue.

The report notes in particular

the role of the OSCE PA in election observation.

Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA Peter Juel Jensen opened the debate by stressing the importance of the OSCE's work with its comprehensive security concept. He regretted the failure of the Ministerial Council to reach agreement on a new decision in the human dimension, and expressed concern over the lack of implementation of human rights commitments, especially in Belarus. He called on the

Danish government, as chair of the European Union, to keep pressure on Belarus to ensure that all human rights commitments are respected. Jensen stressed that ensuring implementation of OSCE commitments should be the top priority of the Ministerial Council in Dublin, and called for an open debate on this within the OSCE governmental structures.

Jensen's presentation was followed by a debate in which representatives from other political parties expressed their support for the OSCE. Several mentioned that while the OSCE is not always very visible, it is nevertheless a vital tool for conflict prevention and the promotion of human rights. Members called for deeper engagement with the Partners for Co-operation in order to promote democracy in the wake of the Arab Spring.

Foreign Minister Søvndal closed the debate by responding to the various points raised. He expressed appreciation for the work done by parliamentarians, particularly in election observation, and emphasized the Danish government's position that there is a need to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE PA and the governmental structures of the OSCE.