

News from Copenhagen

Parliamentarians from more than 50 countries to debate in Monaco

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will convene its 21st Annual Session in Monaco 5-9 July at the Grimaldi Forum. Representatives from more than 50 countries are expected at the session under the theme of “The OSCE: Region of Change.”

The OSCE PA’s Committee on Economic Affairs, Technology and Environment will tackle the core question at the heart of the global debate on the economic crisis: austerity measures or economic stimulus? The debate will mark the first time that lawmakers from Europe, Asia and North America directly address this question within the OSCE’s comprehensive view of security.

Aiming to update the 22-year old Vienna Document, a resolution before the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security calls for increasing transparency among States by lowering the thresholds at which they must inform each other of their military exercises. It also urges participating States to promote multi-party systems of government, and for

the OSCE to adopt long range plans and modify its consensus rule regarding personnel, budget and administrative issues.

The General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions will debate a resolution calling for countries serving as OSCE Chair-in-Office to set the standard for “exemplary observance” of their human rights commitments, including respecting the independence of the judiciary. The draft resolution expresses concern regarding the abuse of the INTERPOL Red Notice system by States whose judicial system do not meet international standards, and calls for the re-opening of OSCE field presences in Belarus and Georgia.

All committee reports and resolutions are available at www.oscepa.org.

The session will also include a Mediterranean Forum with

delegations from the Middle East and North Africa – the first such meeting since democratic elections were held in Tunisia and Egypt.



Standing Committee to take action on 28 supplementary items

Out of 34 submitted draft supplementary items, a total of 28 qualified receiving 20 or more support signatures from Members representing at least four different countries. The supplementary items deal with a wide variety of subjects, covering a broad spectrum of OSCE-related issues.

On 5 July, the Standing Committee will decide by two-thirds majority which of these resolutions move forward to either one of the General Committees or the Plenary. All valid supplementary items will be distributed in their original language this week. Once the translation process is completed,

all valid draft resolutions will be available in English, Russian and French.

For the sake of comparison, 26 supplementary items were valid for consideration in Belgrade in 2011 and the same number were valid for the Vilnius Annual Session in 2009. In 2010, the Oslo Annual Session dealt with 35 supplementary items.

The deadline for submitting amendments to committee resolutions is **21 June** and the deadline for submitting amendments to supplementary items is **28 June**.

Debate in the Swedish Parliament on the activity of the OSCE

Members of the Swedish Parliament debated reports on the OSCE from the Swedish Government and the OSCE PA’s Swedish Delegation on 30 May.

Head of Delegation and OSCE PA Vice-President Walburga Habsburg Douglas delivered a broad presentation of the OSCE’s work. Deputy Head of Delegation Kent Harsted,

along with delegation members Maria Lundqvist-Bromster, Annelie Enochson and Asa Lindestam, also participated in the debate, which lasted about an hour.

It follows similar debates recently held in the Danish, Irish, British and Finnish parliaments. Video is available at the Swedish Riksdag’s website: <http://tinyurl.com/d3npoqs>