

News from Copenhagen

Conventional arms control to be debated at Winter Meeting

The OSCE PA's eleventh Winter Meeting, being held 23-24 February in Vienna, will include a special debate on The Future of Conventional Arms Control in the OSCE Area on the second day. The debate is expected to include participation from leading participants from the United States and the Russian Federation, including Head of the Russian Delegation in Vienna on Military Security and Arms Control Anton Mazur.

The 2012 Winter Meeting will also include a discussion of the global financial crisis in the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment. The meeting of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions will host a panel discussion on judicial systems and prison reform with participation expected from former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred Nowak; Bill Browder of Hermitage Capital Management, who will speak about the case of Sergei Magnitsky; and Eugenia Carr, daughter of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence. Discussion will also focus on cases in Italy and Guantanamo Bay.

All three general committees will hear presentations from the vice-chairs regarding developments related to PA recommendations in the Belgrade Declaration, as well as preliminary plans from the rapporteurs on ideas for reports and draft resolutions for the 21st Annual Session in Monaco.

Also expected to address the Winter Meeting are OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou, President of the Austrian Parliament Barbara Prammer, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Minister of State for European Affairs of



The eleventh Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA will be held at the Hofburg in Vienna on 23-24 February 2012.

Ireland Lucinda Creighton as Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek.

Parliamentarians will also hear a report by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry, followed by a discussion.

Around 250 parliamentarians from 51 countries are expected to participate in the annual Vienna meeting, including several from the Mediterranean Partners. Details on the Winter Meeting agenda, as well as practical and logistical information, are available at www.oscepa.org. Parliamentarians who wish to participate in the special debate will be able to sign up on the speakers list on 23 February.

All sessions of the Winter Meeting are open to the media.

Since 2002, the Winter Meeting has been the primary venue for the Assembly's Members to receive high-level briefings from OSCE officials and discuss draft reports for the upcoming Annual Session. It is the second largest event on the OSCE PA calendar.

Conference Team visits Monaco in preparation for 21st Annual Session

The OSCE PA's Conference Team is in Monaco this week preparing for the 21st Annual Session to be held 5-9 July 2012 under the theme "The OSCE: Region of Change." The team, which includes Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev, Administrative Director Kurt Lerras and Conference Co-ordinator Odile Lelarge, is visiting the Grimaldi Forum Congress Centre as well as the hotels at which PA Members will stay during the session.

The Secretariat's delegation is meeting with Jean-François Robillon, Speaker of the Conseil National; Jean-Charles Gardetto, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Head of Monaco's Delegation; Guillaume Rose, Member of the Delegation to OSCE PA and Director of the Tourist Office; Laurence Guazzone-Milliasseau, Secretary General of the Conseil National; Flavie Novaretti from the Tourist Office; and Olivier Wenden, Secretary of Monaco's Delegation to the OSCE PA.



Semyon Dzakhaev, Kurt Lerras, Gustavo Pallares, Odile Lelarge and Spencer Oliver tour the Grimaldi Forum Congress Centre.