

News from Copenhagen

Final preparations underway for Annual Session in Istanbul

Parliamentarians from across the OSCE area are preparing to gather in Istanbul to debate security, economic, environmental and human rights policies at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 22nd Annual Session. The meeting, hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, runs 29 June – 3 July at Istanbul's Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center. The Turkish hosts in Istanbul are working hard to ensure that the meeting will be a great success.

More than 600 individuals have registered for the session including 265 parliamentarians from 55 countries. Various dignitaries, including OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, are expected to address the opening plenary session. Several OSCE ambassadors from Vienna, along with officials from various foreign ministries, will also attend.

Members will debate issues including protection of

fundamental freedoms, economic austerity measures, political prisoners in the OSCE region, binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and improvements in military transparency. On the final day of the session, Members will adopt the

Istanbul Declaration and elect Assembly Officers, including a new President.

Resolutions have been introduced covering a wide range of timely issues related to the main areas of security, economic and environmental co-operation, and human



rights.

Regarding the recent demonstrations in Istanbul, the International Secretariat has been closely monitoring the situation and our Turkish hosts have provided assurances that the Annual Session will go forward as planned.

Delegations are reminded that the deadline for compromise supplementary items and amendments to the general committee draft resolutions is 13 June. Amendments to supplementary items are due by 20 June.

OSCE Office of Internal Oversight visits Copenhagen Secretariat



Paul Manning and Sonya Brander meet with Spencer Oliver and other staff of the International Secretariat.

On 11 June the Director and the Deputy Director of the Office of Internal Oversight of the OSCE, Paul Manning and Sonya Brander, visited the Assembly's Headquarters in Copenhagen and met with PA officials responsible for

financial management and oversight. The purpose of the visit was to brief the International Secretariat on the work of the Internal Oversight Office which works to ensure the effective and efficient use of the OSCE resources. The Office operates under the direction of the OSCE Secretary General and reports through him to the Permanent Council.

Director Manning and Deputy Director Brander were also thoroughly briefed on the Assembly's procedures regarding financial issues, audits and oversight, as well as the PA's reliance on outside, independent, professional audit services.

The meeting was very useful as it provided the opportunity, for the first time, to exchange views and share information between the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly regarding best practices for budgetary control, management issues and oversight.

Smith presents plan to attack human trafficking from the air

The OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking, Rep. Chris Smith (United States), represented the Assembly at the high-level conference on trafficking organized by the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE in Kyiv this week. Smith, a long-time advocate for strengthening the international response to human trafficking, proposed increased partnerships between law enforcement and the

travel industry to better combat human trafficking.

Smith presented his resolution on Trafficking Victim Watchfulness, which urges countries to establish training regimes in collaboration with airlines and hotels to identify potential victims and facilitate law enforcement intervention to get victims needed care. Parliamentarians will vote on the resolution at the Annual Session in Istanbul.