

News from Copenhagen

Bureau members participate in EEDIM and HDC



Roza Aknazarova addresses the EEDIM in Vienna.



Isabel Santos, with Sevki Kulkuloglu and Gordana Comic, addresses the Human Dimension Committee.

The Chair of the OSCE PA's Second Committee, Roza Aknazarova (MP, Kyrgyzstan) took part in the 2013 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting held in Vienna on 21-22 October.

Ms. Aknazarova addressed the meeting's first session, outlining several recommendations for the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension, stemming from the 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul, as well as from last week's Autumn Meeting in Budva, Montenegro.

Specifically, she referred to the need to establish new monitoring mechanisms that would enable the PA to oversee the implementation of relevant Second Dimension commitments. She also urged participating States to pay more attention to emerging energy challenges while underscoring the importance of green growth opportunities. She further called for increased harmonization of trade and tackling problems related to labour migration.

Also in Vienna this week, Isabel Santos (Portugal), Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey), and Gordana Comic (Serbia), respectively chair, vice-chair and rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Third Committee, met with their counterpart

committee Tuesday and outlined several ways the upcoming Ministerial Council could benefit from parliamentary input as well as a number of other issues.

Addressing the OSCE's Human Dimension Committee meeting, Ms. Santos discussed the rule of law situation in OSCE participating States, particularly pointing at specific cases of political prisoners. Regarding Guantanamo Bay, she called for the prisoners' re-settlement as well as for providing humanitarian assistance to those detainees who are cleared for release.

Mr. Kulkuloglu expressed the PA's support for the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media as well as to the Ministerial Council Draft Decision on "Protection of Journalists in the OSCE Area" tabled by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship.

Rapporteur Gordana Comic expressed her concern for human dimension commitments in the OSCE, in particular the fight against terrorism and protection of human rights, including when dealing with migration issues.

The Bureau members' participation was co-ordinated by the staff of the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna.

Special Rep Battelli on official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Zeljka Cvijanovic greets Roberto Battelli in Banja Luka.

OSCE PA Treasurer and Special Representative for South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) is in Bosnia and Herzegovina this week, meeting with representatives of the highest authorities of the country and its entities. He is accompanied by

PA Special Representative in Vienna Ambassador Andreas Nothelle.

Three years after the last field visit to the region, this visit comes just as the country is finalizing the first census since 1991, a year ahead of the next general elections, and just after the European Commission's last progress report came out. Travelling from Zagreb, where he met with the Head of the Croatian PA Delegation Branko Vuksic, to Banja Luka,

the capital of the Republika Srpska (RS), Mr. Battelli held talks with RS President Milorad Dodik, RS Prime Minister Zeljka Cvijanovic and the three deputy Speakers of the RS Parliament.

Mr. Battelli also paid a visit to the OSCE field office in Banja Luka, together with the Special Representative of the Head of Mission Alexander Chuplygin. In Sarajevo, he was welcomed by the Head of the OSCE Mission Ambassador Fletcher Burton, who underlined the excellent co-operation between his mission and the OSCE PA.

After an intense meeting program in Sarajevo Wednesday, the delegation will proceed to Konjic, where Mr. Battelli will address the OSCE's regional seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Amb. Nothelle will moderate a session of the seminar entitled "Parliamentary Oversight of Defense and Security Budgets." The delegation will conclude its visits with a number of additional meetings in Sarajevo.