

## OSCE parliamentarians discuss water management, climate change



Marietta Tidei (left) and Nilza Sena (right) at the meeting in Belgrade, 11 May.

The OSCE's work in water governance is helping to promote co-operation needed for realizing the Organization's broader security agenda, said two leaders of the OSCE PA's economic and environmental committee, Vice-Chair Nilza Sena (MP, Portugal) and Rapporteur Marietta Tidei (MP, Italy), at the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum in Belgrade on Monday.

Noting that water supply has a wide-ranging impact on security, the PA members said that the OSCE is able to address many related security concerns by facilitating negotiations on water management. At the same time, Sena emphasized the importance of recognizing the inter-connectedness of water issues with other environmental concerns such as climate change. The Vice-Chair highlighted in particular the recommendations contained in the OSCE PA's 2014 Baku Declaration, which drew attention to the effects of climate

change, particularly on the availability of water.

"It is imperative that participating States pursue policies on the local, national and regional levels to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as to forge bilateral and multilateral agreements toward this end, while continuing to negotiate a new universal climate accord with binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions," Sena said.

Tidei noted that it is a global responsibility of all countries to increase efforts in addressing the issue of water security. She pointed to the potential for the OSCE to promote broad-based, long-term solutions to water issues. "The OSCE as a major regional organization has the potential to take the initiative and launch the process of long-term active co-operation with regard to water resources," she said.

Co-organized by the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum took place in the Serbian capital from 11 to 13 May 2015 under the theme "Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation."

Sena and Tidei were supported on their visit to Belgrade by OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev. Their full remarks are available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

## Nordic-Baltic MPs prepare for Helsinki; Rapporteur appointed for First Committee

Representatives of the Nordic-Baltic Delegations to the OSCE PA met in Oslo 7 May to discuss pertinent issues and co-ordinate common regional interests ahead of the Annual Session in Helsinki. The meeting was hosted by Head of the Norwegian Delegation Geir Jørgen Bekkevold.

President Ilkka Kanerva updated the delegations on current issues in the OSCE PA, including the situation in Ukraine. The delegations discussed draft resolutions for the Helsinki meeting and nominations for the elections to the Bureau and General Committees. Bekkevold had also invited two leading researchers to address the meeting: Professor Janne Haaland Matlary spoke on the new security situation in Europe and Senior Researcher Cecilie Hellestveit spoke on regional conflicts in the Middle East and their implications for European security.

Also participating in the meeting was Deputy Head of the Swedish Delegation Margareta Cederfelt, who was recently named Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. Appointed last week by President Kanerva in accordance with Rule 36.5 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, Cederfelt has been a Member of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) since 1999 and has been active in the PA since 2010.

## Tsereteli: UK elections a strong demonstration of trust in democracy



George Tsereteli and Andreas Baker exit a polling station.

The 7 May general elections in the United Kingdom provided an opportunity for a thorough debate on challenges facing the country, and voters could freely cast their ballots in a strong demonstration of democratic processes, concluded OSCE PA observers led by Special Co-ordinator George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia). The complex legal framework was effectively implemented by election administrators, but could benefit from consolidation and simplification, observers said.

The full statement is available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

## Deadline reminder for Turkey EOM

Parliamentarians interested in observing the important 7 June parliamentary elections in Turkey are requested to register by this **Friday 15 May 2015**. Vice-President Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene and Jose Ignacio Sanchez Amor are leading the PA's observation mission, which is co-ordinating with PACE and the OSCE/ODIHR for the deployment of the parliamentary observers.