

# News from Copenhagen

## PA Secretary General, staff meet with OSCE officials ahead of Chairmanship opening



Roberto Montella, together with Gustavo Pallares and Andreas Nothelle, meeting with Lamberto Zannier in Vienna, 13 January 2016.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and several PA staff members are in Vienna this week ahead of the official opening of the German OSCE Chairmanship, taking place 14-15 January.

On Wednesday, Montella and Pallares held meetings with a number of officials and ambassadors at the OSCE headquarters in the Hofburg to discuss areas of common interest between the parliamentary and governmental sides of the OSCE, and avenues for promoting continued co-operation between the PA and the OSCE executive structures. In his first official visit since taking up his new duties as Secretary General, Montella was accompanied in his bilateral meetings by Pallares, Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, and Senior Policy Analyst Francesco Pagani.

In a meeting with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Montella outlined the PA's priorities for 2016 and extended an invitation to the Winter Meeting and Annual Session. Montella and Zannier exchanged views on practical steps to promote mutually reinforcing co-operation in the future. Montella, Pallares and Nothelle also met with Amb. Marcel Peško, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, for a discussion that focused on regional issues and respective high-level travel plans in the region. In this connection, Montella announced plans for an upcoming visit of PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) to the South Caucasus.

Montella, Pallares and Nothelle also met the Dutch OSCE

Permanent Representative, Amb. Desiree Kopmels, Amb. Alexander Lukashovich of the Russian Federation, Amb. Christian Strohal of Austria, Amb. Eberhard Pohl of Germany, and Amb. Daniel Baer of the United States. Discussions focused on possible avenues which would maximize the contribution of the PA in the context of the overarching action of the OSCE.

Also Wednesday, PA Director of Elections Andreas Baker, Programme Officer Maria Chepurina and Operations Officer Iryna Sabashuk held meetings with a range of OSCE officials, including the Office of the Secretary General's Senior Afghanistan Engagement Support Adviser Delia Rahmonova-Schwarz, Head of External Co-operation Section Sandra Sacchetti, and several representatives from the Conflict Prevention Centre's regional desks.

Baker, Chepurina and Sabashuk visited the Situation/Communication Room for a briefing on the work of the OSCE Situation Centre. Sabashuk, accompanied by Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet, also met with Andrzej Antoszkiewicz, Head Human Resources Services and Ethics Co-ordinator; Eoghan Hennessy, Human Resources Officer and Adviser to Field Operations and Institutions on Human Resources Policy Matters; and Hans Michael Plut, Deputy Director for Mission Support Services.

On Thursday, Montella will attend various events related to the Chairmanship opening, including the discussion by Secretary General Zannier with Heads of Field Operations and Institutions; the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council – to be addressed by Chairman-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier – and the Annual Meeting of the Chairmanship and the Secretariat with the Heads of Field Operations and Institutions.

On Friday, PA staff will participate in the Regional Working Group sessions on Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and South East Europe.

## VP Muttonen appointed Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia

OSCE PA Vice-President and Acting Head of the Austrian Delegation Christine Muttonen has been appointed the OSCE PA's Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia. In a letter sent to Muttonen Tuesday, President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) noted that Central and Eastern Asia has always been one of the PA's priority regions and stressed that "furthering co-operation with the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation is an equally important vector to be developed in the activities of the Assembly."

The mandate for the position includes encouraging active participation by parliamentarians from Central Asia and Mongolia in the work of the PA, as well as liaising and supporting the work of the OSCE field presences in the region.

In addition to her new post as Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, Muttonen chairs the Austria-Central Asia and Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Austrian Parliament. She also chaired the special Central Asia roundtable at the OSCE PA's Autumn Meeting in Ulaanbaatar.



Christine Muttonen and Ilkka Kanerva (fourth and fifth from left) with heads of OSCE Central Asia field operations and other participants at the Autumn Meeting roundtable event, 16 September 2015.