

News from Copenhagen

PA's Winter Meeting features debates on migration, terrorism



Roger Wicker addresses the First Committee on 26 February.



Halil Yürdakul Yigitguden addresses the Second Committee on 25 February.



Isabel Santos addresses the Third Committee on 25 February.

A total of 239 parliamentarians from 54 OSCE participating States, plus several from the Partners for Co-operation, participated in the Parliamentary Assembly's 15th Winter Meeting in Vienna on 25-26 February 2016.

The meeting featured a special debate on the refugee and migrant crisis, including interventions by dozens of parliamentarians, as well as a keynote address by Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. A special report on the migration crisis, containing concrete proposals for action by the OSCE and its participating States, was issued ahead of the debate.

The opening session included welcoming remarks on behalf of the Austrian Parliament by Vice-President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria), as well as addresses by President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship, Gernot Erler (MP, Germany).

The OSCE PA's three general committees also met in Vienna to hear addresses by high-level OSCE officials and from committee rapporteurs, who offered presentations on their ideas for reports and draft resolutions to be developed for the OSCE PA's 25th Annual Session in Georgia this summer. Debate in the committees focused on combatting terrorism, the economic effects of the migration crisis, the crisis in and

around Ukraine, and protecting the human rights of refugees and migrants.

Senior OSCE officials participating in the two-day meeting included Secretary General Lamberto Zannier; ODIHR Director Michael Link; Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic; High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors; Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden; Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats Alexey Lyzhenkov, and Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Madina Jarbussynova. OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry also addressed the Assembly.

The Standing Committee met on 25 February to hear reports from OSCE PA Special Representatives, the leaders of recent election observation missions and ad hoc committees, President Kanerva, Treasurer Doris Barnett, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure Peter Bowness, and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

In his first address to the Standing Committee as Secretary General, Montella described the status of implementing his priorities, including modernizing the International Secretariat to further improve the way it supports OSCE PA Members.

Kyrgyzstan's OSCE PA Delegation holds meetings in Copenhagen



Left to right: Omurbek Tekebaev, Peter Juel Jensen, Chynybai Tursunbekov, and Bakyt Torobaev

Members of Kyrgyzstan's Delegation to the OSCE PA held two days of meetings in Copenhagen this week, including a visit to the International Secretariat and the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) Monday, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday. They also met with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Danish Church Aid Organization.

Led by Chynybai Tursunbekov, the parliamentary delegation included Omurbek Tekebaev and Bakyt Torobaev, who were

accompanied by Secretary of Delegation Ernest Abdirashitov, Senior Programme Assistant at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek Guljamal Tokombaeva, and diplomats from the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to Germany. Maria Chepurina and Belek Ibraev from the OSCE PA's International Secretariat co-ordinated the visit.

At the Secretariat, they were briefed by Secretary General Roberto Montella and others on the work of the Assembly, including the activities of the OSCE PA's Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, Vice-President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria). At the Parliament, the delegation met with Peter Juel Jensen, Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA, who recently visited Kyrgyzstan.

The delegation expressed strong interest in continuing active engagement with the Assembly, including working closely with Special Representative Muttonen.