

News from Copenhagen

Santos addresses OSCE Security Days event on migration

OSCE PA Third Committee Chair Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal) joined senior government officials and representatives of a range of international organizations on 4 March at the OSCE's Security Days event on the theme "Refocusing Migration and Security: Bridging National and Regional Responses."

"The real crisis here is not one of security, for it is both cynical and false to assume that these refugees will bring into Europe the kind of violence that made them flee their homes in the first place," Santos said. "Instead, the crisis here is the lack of solidarity, the lack of political will, and, in some cases, racism – all of which are hampering international efforts to adequately deal with this situation."

Santos spoke about the special report on the migration crisis issued by the Bureau of the Third Committee last month during the PA's Winter Meeting. The report offers concrete recommendations for an improved response to the crisis by the OSCE and its participating States. She further emphasized the need for better co-operation between the OSCE, the



European Union and the United Nations to deal with the crisis; called for the establishment of more multi-service centers in countries of origin to promote legal channels of migration; and advocated for better equipping hotspots to provide information to migrants about their rights and next steps. Santos also encouraged the establishment of an OSCE mission or special co-ordinating position on migration.

Third Committee Vice-Chair Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), members of Italy's Delegation to the OSCE PA, Secretary General Roberto Montella, and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina were also present for the event.

SG Montella participates in Italian Senate panel on migration and security



On 3 March, Secretary General Roberto Montella spoke at the Italian Senate in a debate on "Migration and Security: a Difficult Balance." Montella appeared alongside Italian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Amendola, the Head of Italy's Delegation to the OSCE PA, Paolo Romani,

and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. He was accompanied by Senior Policy Analyst Francesco Pagani. In his intervention, the Secretary General described the OSCE PA's activities related to the refugee and migrant crisis and emphasized the need to find synergies between international actors to mitigate the situation.

Montella met earlier with the President of the Italian Senate, Pietro Grasso, and discussed the PA's recent activities. The sides also explored the possibility of Italy's hosting an OSCE PA event in the future. The Secretary General held additional meetings with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Vice-President Bowness visits OSCE PA headquarters in Copenhagen



OSCE PA Vice-President and Head of the United Kingdom's Delegation Lord Peter Bowness visited the International Secretariat Tuesday and met with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Semyon Dzakhaev, and other staff to discuss the Assembly's ongoing work.

Montella briefed Bowness on actions being taken to

follow up on the recent Winter Meeting in Vienna, as well as preparations for the upcoming Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen (10-11 April) and the Annual Session in Tbilisi (1-5 July). Discussions also focused on the work of the Subcommittee on the Rules of Procedure, which Bowness chairs.

Bowness has been a member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA since 2007.

Secretariat welcomes new staff

General Services Manager Bo Hjorth Nielsen joined the staff of the International Secretariat on 1 March. He is responsible for acquiring and maintaining equipment and supplies providing logistical support to the Assembly's activities. Nielsen holds a bachelor's degree in public health science from the University of Southern Denmark.