

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA Vice-President Muttonen visits International Secretariat

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President and Deputy Head of the Assembly's Austrian Delegation Christine Muttonen visited the OSCE PA's International Secretariat Tuesday for discussions on upcoming and ongoing Assembly work, including her plans for deepening engagement with Central Asia. As the OSCE PA's Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, Muttonen is planning a visit to the region at the end of the month.

Secretary General Roberto Montella outlined his priorities since assuming office, which have included enhancing working relationships with the OSCE's governmental side, as well as continuing the very close co-operation that has been developed with other parliamentary assemblies. Montella also described his efforts to modernize the International Secretariat, in order to better serve PA Members and further promote the relevance of the organization.

Other topics of discussion included upcoming election observation missions and the Annual Sessions to be held in



Tbilisi in 2016 and Minsk in 2017. Also, they exchanged views on the potential of parliamentary diplomacy and how to enhance the impact of the OSCE PA Declarations adopted at Annual Sessions.

In addition to Muttonen and Montella, participants in Tuesday's meeting included Gustavo Pallares, Semyon Dzakhaev and Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat, and Lukas Mussi, Sebastian Luking and Florian Steininger from Austria.

OSCE PA, PACE and NATO PA SGs discuss co-operation in Strasbourg



In the latest of a series of regular consultations between the Secretaries General of the OSCE PA and its partner parliamentary assemblies, Roberto Montella visited Strasbourg last week for meetings with his counterparts Wojciech Sawicki and David Hobbs, the Secretaries General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), respectively. Sawicki

hosted the meeting at PACE headquarters on 29 April.

The three Secretaries General discussed their general political agendas and current challenges for international organizations. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on co-operation between the three assemblies, particularly in the field of election observation. In this context, they were informed by PACE Secretary General Sawicki about the statement of the PACE pre-electoral delegation in Skopje assessing the pre-electoral climate of the early parliamentary elections scheduled for 5 June. They also reviewed other elections scheduled during the remainder of 2016.

Other topics of discussion included the possibility of exchanges between the three Secretariats concerning planning of meetings and sessions. This was the sixth in a series of meetings to discuss co-operation between the three bodies since their launch in 2013. The Secretaries General agreed to continue their ongoing trilateral consultations.

Anna Di Domenico joins International Secretariat

Former OSCE PA Research Fellow Anna Di Domenico has joined the International Secretariat on an interim basis as Executive Assistant. Her duties include providing general support to the Secretary General and working on various programmes, including election observation, and assisting the International Secretariat's executive office.

Prior to joining the staff of the OSCE PA, Di Domenico worked for NATO, the European External Action Service, an EU regional office, a number of non-governmental organizations and in the private sector.

Annual Session deadlines announced

Reports and draft resolutions for the three general committees are now posted in English at www.oscepa.org. Versions in other languages will be posted as they become available. Delegations are also kindly advised of the following deadlines:

- **26 May:** Annual Session registration deadline
- **27 May:** Supplementary items
- **17 June:** Amendments to committee resolutions
- **24 June:** Amendments to supplementary items