

# News from Copenhagen

## OSCE PA field visit to Calais highlights need for coherent response to migration



OSCE PA delegation at Grande-Synthe camp with the Mayor of Grande-Synthe and Subprefect of Dunkirk, 11 May 2016.



OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri meets the staff of "La vie active" NGO in Calais, 11 May 2016.

Members of the OSCE PA's newly formed Ad Hoc Committee on Migration were in Calais, France, this week to see first-hand the conditions for refugees and migrants seeking shelter in encampments there. Serving as a fact-finding mission to enable the parliamentarians to help inform policy recommendations to improve the collective response to the migration crisis, the visit included a briefing at the Interior Ministry in Paris on Tuesday, and on Wednesday a field visit to the temporary reception centres in the Calais camp including facilities for women and children, as well as a visit to another camp near Dunkirk set up by the local mayor and Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

Hosted by OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri (MP, France), the delegation included the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, Filippo Lombardi (MP, Switzerland), Committee Vice-Chairs Guglielmo Picchi (MP, Italy), Sena Nur Celik (MP, Turkey), and Committee Members Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), Jose Ignacio Sanchez Amor (MP, Spain), and Margareta Cederfelt (MP, Sweden).

At the close of the visit, Lombardi pointed to the lack of cohesion in the policy responses to the refugee and migrant crisis so far. "Some call this encampment 'the jungle,' but the real jungle is the jumbled and sometimes conflicting interests

and policy responses coming from European capitals. To effectively deal with this crisis, we need more equitable responsibility-sharing and better integration measures to ensure that migrants can contribute to society," he said.

"While the Calais migrant encampment is not a new phenomenon for France, it has taken on a greater urgency as the migration crisis has escalated in the past two years. Seeing first-hand the conditions in which many migrants live gives an indication of the severe difficulties that many thousands of migrants face on a daily basis," Neri said.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration serves as a focal point for the OSCE PA's work in the field of migration in all three dimensions of the OSCE: political and security questions; economic issues; and human rights and humanitarian questions. It was established following a unanimous decision taken by the Standing Committee at the Winter Meeting on 25 February. The Calais field visit is the first official activity of the Ad Hoc Committee, whose future plans include further visits to migrant hotspots as well as policy-oriented events.

The Ad Hoc Committee's field visit was supported by Farimah Daftary and Anna Di Domenico from the International Secretariat. For more information on the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, please visit [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

## OSCE PA staff members busy this week in Calais, Minsk and Vienna

In addition to the support being provided by Programme Officer Farimah Daftary and Executive Assistant Anna Di Domenico to the OSCE PA delegation in Calais, France, staff members are also busy this week in Minsk, preparing for the 2017 Annual Session, and in Vienna, representing the PA at the annual meeting of focal points for gender issues and at the annual communications roundtable.

In Minsk, Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares, Semyon Dzakhayev and Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge are meeting with members of the Belarusian OSCE PA delegation and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss preliminary planning for the Assembly's 26th Annual Session. They are also visiting a number of hotels to assess their suitability for hosting delegates to the Session.

Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry and Programme Officer Loic Poulain are at OSCE headquarters in

Vienna to discuss communication strategies with counterparts from other OSCE institutions and field operations. Parry and Poulain today offered a presentation describing the PA's communications toolbox, including its use of social media.

Marc Carillet, Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office, described the work of the PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (MP, Canada) at a meeting this week of OSCE focal points for gender issues. Carillet noted that the PA stands ready to work with other OSCE structures on this issue including in the preparations for the Tbilisi Annual Session this summer.

Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle will participate in an ambassadorial retreat organized by the German Chairmanship on 12-13 May near Vienna. The retreat will focus on the crisis in and around Ukraine and preparations for the 2016 Ministerial Council Meeting in Hamburg.