

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA President Kanerva urges co-operation at IPA CIS in St. Petersburg

Addressing the plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) in St. Petersburg on 20 May, OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) stressed the importance of building bridges between nations and between international organizations, saying that inter-parliamentary dialogue is today more necessary than ever.

Kanerva pointed out, however, that international efforts to strengthen ties are undermined when fundamental principles – including respect for territorial integrity – are violated. In this regard, he urged leaders to contribute to peace and stability in Ukraine. The President also spoke about the ceasefire violations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, saying that “the human toll of continued fighting has become intolerable.”

While in St. Petersburg, the President also held a number of bilateral meetings, including with the Chairperson of Russia’s



Federation Council and the IPA CIS Council Valentina Matvienko; Russian State Duma Chairperson and Head of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Sergey Naryshkin; the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Saber Chowdhury; the President of PACE, Pedro Agramunt; and the Speaker of the Majilis of Kazakhstan, Baktykozha Izmukhambetov.

Kanerva was accompanied by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and Presidential Advisor Maria Chepurina from the International Secretariat.

Mediation and dialogue brainstorming retreat held for OSCE PA in Helsinki



Hosted by the Finnish Parliament and sponsored by the OSCE’s Conflict Prevention Centre, a brainstorming retreat for the PA on the topic of mediation took place in Helsinki on 23-24 May. Participants included President Ilkka Kanerva and Vice-Presidents Kent Harstedt, Christine Muttonen

and George Tsereteli, as well as Secretary General Roberto Montella and Chief Political Adviser Francesco Paganì.

The exercise served to strengthen the PA’s preparedness for mediation and dialogue facilitation and included a mapping exercise more specifically aimed at identifying the PA’s potential contribution with respect to the conflict cycle. The PA’s comparative advantages were defined with the aim of maximizing its contribution within the framework of OSCE activities on mediation and dialogue facilitation.

The CPC’s Mediation Support Officer, Meeri-Maria Jaarva, and external expert Natalia Mirimanova facilitated the exercise, which was also attended by Konsta Heikkilä and Gunilla Carlander from the Finnish Parliament.

Sena emphasizes migration’s economic benefits at OSCE meeting in Berlin



OSCE PA Second Committee Vice-Chair Nilza Sena (MP, Portugal) spoke last week at the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Berlin, focusing her remarks on the contribution of migrants to economic development.

Speaking on 20 May, Sena

also took the opportunity to highlight the OSCE PA’s recent work on the issue of migrants and refugees, noting in particular the launching of an Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

The OSCE should assist participating States by promoting effective migration management, she said, including through exchange of best practices, as well as by facilitating legal migration. She noted that the PA stands ready to work with the governmental side in developing this co-operative approach.

Sena was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev from the International Secretariat.

PA staff participates in pre-electoral assessments in U.S. and Montenegro

Last week, PA staff members Francesco Paganì and Andreas Baker were in Podgorica and Washington, respectively, in preparation for possible observation missions to Montenegrin elections on 16 October and U.S. elections on 8 November.

Both participated in Needs Assessment Missions organized by the OSCE/ODIHR, which included meetings with election officials, political parties, judicial authorities, representatives of the media, civil society and the international community.