

News from Copenhagen

Neri, Barnett address OSCE Code of Conduct conference in Berlin



Alain Neri, second from right, addresses the OSCE Code of Conduct Conference in Berlin, 2 June 2016.

Some 20 OSCE parliamentarians from 13 countries were in Berlin last week for an OSCE Code of Conduct conference focused on strengthening parliamentary control of the security sector. The event, which took place 2-3 June, highlighted the role that parliaments play in both the oversight of armed forces and in increasing the level of political support for the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects.

OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri (MP, France) spoke at the opening session on 2 June, which also included addresses by Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship Gernot Erler, Forum for Security Co-operation Chair Amb. Adam Bugajski, and Conflict Prevention Centre Director Amb. Marcel Pesko.

“It is up to parliamentarians,” Neri said, “to ensure that fundamental human rights are respected by all security and intelligence services, both public and private.”

OSCE PA Treasurer and Head of the German Delegation Doris Barnett also addressed the conference, focusing her remarks on the changing character of conflicts, including the growing number of internal and external actors that are involved in armed conflicts and the role of non-state actors.

The OSCE PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, moderated a session on 3 June and delivered concluding remarks, recalling the PA’s 2014 resolution on parliamentary oversight over the security sectors.

Final preparations for Tbilisi Annual Session

Final preparations for the 25th Annual Session are proceeding well, reported Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge, who are in Tbilisi this week working with colleagues from the Georgian Parliament to ensure the timely finalization of all arrangements. Pallares and Lelarge have held extensive meetings with staff of the Georgian Parliament responsible for the organization of the Session, including Parliament Secretary General Zurab Marakvelidze, representatives of the Foreign Ministry, and staff from the Expo Georgia Exhibition Center, where the Session will be held from 1 to 5 July.

Upcoming deadlines for the Annual Session include **17 June**, by which time amendments to committee resolutions must be received, and **24 June**, by which time amendments to supplementary items must be received.

Muttonen concludes Central Asia visit with lecture at OSCE Academy



Christine Muttonen, centre, addresses the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, 3 June 2016.

Wrapping up a two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, which included meetings with the Speaker of the Parliament, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and officials at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, OSCE PA Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) spoke to students on 3 June at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek on conflict prevention and peace-building, noting the strengths of the OSCE’s approach, as well as areas for improvement.

In meetings with Speaker Chynybay Tursunbekov and Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev, Muttonen noted the importance of continuing to build trust and dialogue through the OSCE. In meetings with staff of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Muttonen was briefed on the situation in the country and on the Centre’s ongoing projects. There was also discussion on possibly holding future PA events in the country.

In her lecture at the OSCE Academy, Muttonen highlighted the early warning capabilities of the OSCE but regretted that sometimes political considerations hamper effective implementation of early warning mechanisms.

Muttonen’s lecture concluded a week-long visit to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan she undertook with PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, which included meetings with government officials, parliamentary leaders and members of civil society. She was accompanied by advisors Lukas Mussi from the Parliament and Maria Chepurina from the Secretariat.

PA at meeting of SEE heads of field operations

Representing the PA at the Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in South-Eastern Europe, held in Sarajevo on 2-3 June, Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani spoke at a session on “The role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and prospects for co-operation with field operations.” He provided food-for-thought on possible avenues for interaction and also informed participants about the PA’s upcoming Autumn Meeting in Skopje, mentioning that it foresees a roundtable discussion with regional heads of field operations.

The discussion, chaired by the Head of the Conflict Prevention Centre’s Desk for South-Eastern Europe, Georgios Makeroufas, included active contributions from all six heads of OSCE field operations in the region. It served, inter alia, to achieve a common understanding of effective areas of co-operation between the PA and field operations.