

# News from Copenhagen

## Ukraine's Savchenko expresses appreciation for PA support to President Kanerva



Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian pilot, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament and recipient of the country's highest Hero of Ukraine order, visited OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva while he was in Kyiv this week. Savchenko thanked Kanerva for the PA's support during her time in a Russian prison and Kanerva expressed the Assembly's relief over her recent release, inquiring about her treatment during the time she was held in isolation.

Kanerva is in the Ukrainian capital for meetings with Andriy Parubiy, Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for European Integration and Economic Development Stepan Kubiv, and the Ukrainian OSCE PA Delegation led by Artur Gerasymov. The meetings are taking place on the sidelines of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 92nd Rose-Roth Seminar.

In all meetings Kanerva has reiterated the PA's support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and called for the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, stressing that despite setbacks, the goals set forth in these agreements are still achievable. The visit continues Thursday with an expected meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

Kanerva is accompanied by Andreas Nothelle and Iryna Sabashuk from the Secretariat, and advisor Konsta Heikkila from the Finnish Parliament.

## In Moldova, OSCE parliamentarians encourage political support for settlement negotiations



Members of the PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova conducted a three-day visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol this week for meetings with leaders in both cities. The delegation was led by Arta Dade (MP, Albania) and included Marietta Tidei (MP, Italy) and Thierry Mariani (MP, France).

In Chisinau, the Parliamentary Team met with Deputy

Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament Liliana Palihovici, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Gheorghe Balan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Lilian Darii, and the Delegation of Moldova to the OSCE PA led by Serghei Sirbu. Parliamentary Team members held talks in Tiraspol with Transnistrian leader Yevgeny Schevchuk, Chief Negotiator Vitaly Ignatiev, and the speaker of the Transnistrian assembly, Vadim Krasmoselski. While in Moldova, OSCE parliamentarians also met the Governor of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Irina Vlah.

In their meetings, the Team explored possible opportunities for co-operation with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol through the OSCE PA. The Team members are supported by Loic Poulain from the Secretariat.

## Roberto Battelli participates in SEECP PA session in Sofia

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP, Slovenia) delivered an address on 11 June to the South East European Co-operation Process Parliamentary Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria, noting the important role that parliamentarians have to play in the region.

"As parliamentarians we have a vital role to play, to promote good governance and the rule of law, support social and political reform, confront corruption and the abuses of power, and protect human rights," said Battelli, offering the OSCE PA's readiness to intensify co-operation with the SEECP PA for the benefit of the region. Battelli also made use of the opportunity for talks with the President of the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Trajko Veljanovski. Battelli was accompanied by the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle.

## Isabel Santos addresses OSCE Human Dimension Committee

OSCE PA Third Committee Chair Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal) addressed the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE's Permanent Council in Vienna last week, urging robust action on issues ranging from migrants and refugees to discrimination against the LGBT community to the situation in occupied Crimea.

Santos noted that the refugee and migrant crisis is a major humanitarian concern that "puts our human rights commitments to a test," and highlighted the topics to be considered by the OSCE PA at the Annual Session in Tbilisi next month. She also expressed her concern over the targeting of human rights defenders, critics and journalists by several governments, and regretted that despite the U.S. government's efforts, dozens of men continue to be held without trial at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.