

News from Copenhagen

Meeting with President Poroshenko concludes Kanerva's Ukraine visit



Wrapping up a four-day visit to Kyiv last week, OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin on 16 June, reiterating the Parliamentary Assembly's readiness to do its part to de-escalate and resolve the crisis in and around Ukraine. He urged the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements to end the conflict in the Donbas region.

Meeting with Poroshenko, Kanerva noted his concern that six months after the deadlines for the Minsk II agreement had passed, the international community is still calling for a real ceasefire. Poroshenko welcomed the PA's support and assured

Kanerva that his government is moving forward with reforms on both administrative and political fields.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Klimkin, the interlocutors concentrated on discussing OSCE efforts in Ukraine and the wider region.

While in Kyiv, Kanerva attended the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 92nd Rose-Roth Seminar, and held a series of high-level meetings including with Andriy Parubiy, Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Stepan Kubiv, and the Ukrainian OSCE PA Delegation led by Artur Gerasymov. On 14 June, Ukrainian pilot and Member of Parliament Nadiya Savchenko met with President Kanerva and offered gratitude for the OSCE PA's support during her nearly two years in a Russian prison.

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

Santos joins human trafficking representative in migration-related field visit

OSCE PA Third Committee Chair Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal) was in Lampedusa, Italy, and on an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean Sea this week, joining a delegation of the OSCE's Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova.

In Lampedusa on Monday, Santos and Jarbussynova met with migrants and refugees, officials at the Coast Guard Maritime District Office and European Asylum Support Office, representatives of the UNHCR, IOM, FRONTEX and non-governmental organizations, as well as Lampedusa Mayor Giusi Nicolini. Following these meetings, Santos commended the work being done on the ground but reiterated that much more must be done to address the crisis.

"The lack of burden-sharing and European solidarity on this issue has led to a situation that is intolerable both for migrants and for the countries hosting them," Santos said. She expressed hope that she can work with OSCE parliamentarians to encourage the political will necessary to create humanitarian corridors and legal channels of access to Europe.

In meetings and briefings aboard the Garibaldi aircraft



carrier Tuesday, Santos and Jarbussynova learned about Italy's efforts to promote safe migration strategies to fight trafficking in human beings. Special Representative Jarbussynova noted that combating human trafficking is one of the most important aspects of promoting a comprehensive and humane response to the crisis of migrants and refugees.

Meetings were also held at the Health Centre of Lampedusa, the CARA di Mineo welcome centre for asylum seekers, and with the Prefect of Catania, Maria Guia Federico. The visit was arranged by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Santos expressed appreciation for the close co-operation with Jarbussynova and her staff.

Special Representative Nothelle speaks in Vienna about PA support for Code of Conduct

The OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, spoke on behalf of the Assembly Wednesday at the fifth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Nothelle highlighted the PA's contribution to the Code of Conduct Conference in Berlin earlier this month organized jointly by Germany's 2016 OSCE Chairmanship and the

OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, in partnership with the PA and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. He also provided a detailed overview of the Assembly's long involvement in working to ensure parliamentary control and oversight of the security sector, including by proactively supporting the Code of Conduct's establishment in 1994, and repeatedly calling for its full implementation.