

## Muttonen emphasizes OSCE values in visit to China, Kazakhstan



Roberto Montella, Christine Muttonen and Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in Astana, 14 June 2017

OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen has held meetings in Beijing, China this week, and is now in Astana, Kazakhstan, where she participated today in the opening of the OSCE pavilion along with Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Head of the Task Force for the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship Amb. Florian Raunig, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Amb. Vuk Zugic, and OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Amb. Madina Jarbussynova. Earlier in the day she also participated in the opening of the Austrian EXPO pavilion. On Thursday, she will deliver a keynote speech at the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Accompanied by Secretary General Roberto Montella, Muttonen began her visit to the region on Monday in Beijing, meeting with representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the International Department of the Communist Party of China.

Topics of discussion included China's relations with the OSCE, particularly in the economic and environmental dimension, and the fight against terrorism.

In a meeting with Qi Mei, Deputy Director of the Department of European Affairs of the MFA, the President was briefed on the outcomes of a recent EU-China Summit, and both Muttonen and Qi agreed that enhanced contacts between China and the OSCE could prove mutually beneficial.

In a meeting with Wu Hailong, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, Muttonen emphasized several areas of common interest including migration, counter-terrorism, economic and environmental development and climate change. Muttonen also met with Vladimir Potapenko, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, for discussions that touched on prospects for future co-operation between the SCO and the OSCE.

Meeting today with Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan and Head of Kazakhstan's Delegation to the PA, the sides exchanged views on security issues, co-operation in the field, and other matters related to the OSCE. On Thursday, Muttonen will also meet with the Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nurlan Nigmatulin and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Kairat Abdrakhmanov.

She is supported on her visit this week by OSCE PA Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani, and Lukas Mussi and Brigitte Brenner from the Austrian Parliament.

## Fry highlights Canadian best practices at OSCE gender event in Vienna

Speaking at the second OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference in Vienna on Monday, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (MP, Canada) described various tools being used in her country to examine the impact of legislation, policies, programmes and budgetary measures on gender equality.

She discussed in particular an analytical tool developed by the Government of Canada called Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and outlined the steps that the Parliament of Canada has taken to encourage the application of GBA+ across government policies. Despite progress, she said, conflict between family and work demands continues to hinder women's full participation in the workforce. Fry also underlined the gender-related work being done in preparation for the Annual Session to be held in Minsk next month.

Fry participated in the event's opening panel, which included Pirkko Hamalainen from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; EU gender advisor Amb. Mara Marinaki, Ekaterina Lakhova, President, Union of Women of Russia; and Adelheid Meinzolt, Co-ordinator of the Women and Gender Working Group of the Civic Solidarity Platform. Participants stressed



Hedy Fry addresses OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference in Vienna, 12 June 2017.

that concrete action is needed to achieve progress advancing towards gender equality in the OSCE area.

The two-day Vienna event was organized by the OSCE Gender Section, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE/ODIHR, and aimed to assess progress in the implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. Participants in the event included Sophie Karmasin, Austria's Federal Minister for Families and Youth; Amb. Paul Bekkers, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General; Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR, and Gordana Comic, Deputy Speaker of the Serbian Parliament. Fry was supported by Marc Carillet from the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office.