News from Copenhagen

High-level visits to the Assembly's Secretariat in Copenhagen

Christine Muttonen meets with Roberto Montella and staff on 4 Sept.

Makis Voridis meets with OSCE PA staff on 6 Sept.

George Tsereteli, Andreas Baker and Iryna Sabashuk in Copenhagen, 6 Sept.

In a series of meetings this week at OSCE PA headquarters in Copenhagen, senior Members of the Assembly discussed upcoming activities and ongoing work of the PA with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Semyon Dzakhaev, OSCE PA Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, and other staff members.

President Christine Muttonen (Austria) visited the International Secretariat on Monday and Tuesday to discuss her recent visit to Central Asia; planned upcoming trips to Azerbaijan, Armenia and Morrocco; next month's Autumn Meeting in Andorra; and her thematic priorities for the coming year. Having recently been re-elected to a second term as Assembly President, the visit to Copenhagen provided an opportunity to review her first year in office and focus on the year ahead.

Christine Muttonen and Roberto Montella with OSCE PA research fellows.

Muttonen shared some of her main areas of interest on which she would like to focus, including women and security, climate change, co-operation with Central and Eastern Asia, migration and challenges in the Mediterranean region, South East Europe, and the crisis in and around Ukraine. She stressed the value of parliamentary diplomacy particularly in facilitating cultural exchanges and enabling meaningful dialogue. The visit also provided an opportunity for the President to inaugurate the newly renovated office facilities for the OSCE PA's research fellows.

Also visiting the International Secretariat this week were OSCE PA Vice-President George Tsereteli (Gerogia) and Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Chair Makis Voridis (Greece). Tsereteli met with Iryna Sabashuk, Head of Administration for Election Observation, and Andreas Baker, Chief of the Executive Office, for discussions about the PA's upcoming election observation mission to Germany. Tsereteli has been appointed as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observers for the 24 September vote in Germany, which will mark the first time for the PA observing an election in the country.

Voridis met with Marco Bonabello, Liaison Officer and Advisor from the OSCE PA's Vienna office, as well as other relevant staff, for preliminary discussions on the modalities, working methods and objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, which was established in July by the PA's Standing Committee. Voridis and Tsereteli also met with the full PA staff for discussions about upcoming activities.

Santos shares PA's migration experience with Baltic Sea MPs in Hamburg

OSCE PA Vice-President Isabel Santos (Portugal) spoke this week at the 26th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Hamburg, Germany, at Tuesday's session on migration and integration. Santos, who serves as Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, presented the PA's main findings and observations on this issue in light of a proposal by the BSPC to establish a migration-related working group.

Sharing the main observations of the Committee since it was established in February 2016 and the related resolution adopted at the PA's recent Annual Session in Minsk, Santos stressed that there is an urgent need for a cohesive, balanced and co-ordinated international response to migration.

The PA's Committee, which currently consists of 23 members from 19 countries spanning North America and Europe, has been active on the ground, Santos reported, conducting field visits to areas of concern and promoting the exchange of best practices. "It has

Isabel Santos speaking at the BSPC on 5 September.

actively pursued its mandate, carrying out four visits to France, Italy, Greece and Turkey and also engaging in extensive discussions in Brussels and Geneva with key European policymakers and international actors," Santos said.