

News from Copenhagen

18th OSCE PA Winter Meeting set to begin in Vienna



The OSCE PA's 18th Winter Meeting kicks off Thursday at the Hofburg Conference Centre in Vienna, featuring speeches by President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, OSCE Chair-in-Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák, and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger.

The PA's general committees will meet to hear from government representatives of OSCE countries and discuss

political and security affairs, economics and the environment, and human rights and humanitarian questions. Members will hold debates on restrictions on human rights during emergencies; fighting corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; and how to best leverage the tools and mechanisms of the OSCE to resolve protracted conflicts.

The closing joint session of the general committees will feature reports by OSCE PA Special Representatives and the Chairs of OSCE PA Ad Committees on Migration and Countering Terrorism. Leaders of recent election observation missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the United States and Armenia will present reports, followed by discussions.

Nearly 300 parliamentarians from 54 OSCE participating States and several Partners for Co-operation are attending the two-day meeting. It will stream live at www.oscepa.org.

OSCE PA's counter-terrorism and migration committees meet in Vienna

Chaired by Greek parliamentarian Makis Voridis, the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism met Wednesday in Vienna on the eve of the Winter Meeting. Committee members heard welcome remarks by PA President George Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella, who thanked them for their commitment to the mission of developing an effective response to the threat of terrorism.

The meeting featured a panel discussion on OSCE-OSCE PA co-operation on countering terrorism, with Amb. Radomir Bohac from the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, Amb. Maria Victoria Gonzalez Roman, Chairperson of the OSCE Security Committee, and Amb. Argo Avakov, Head of the Action against Terrorism Unit, OSCE TNTD, presenting overviews of their work. Also participating were Floriane Bacconnier representing INTERPOL and Reinhard Uhrig, Director of Administration and Outreach at the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, who spoke about evolving trends and new partnerships.



On Thursday, Belgian parliamentarian Nahima Lanjri will chair a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Committee members will discuss good practices in migrant integration and the role that parliamentarians can play in the implementation of the global compacts on migration and refugees. A presentation is expected by Pablo Rojas-Coppari from OSCE/ODIHR, along with interventions by Argentina Szabados from the IOM Regional Office, and Christoph Bierwirth, Head of the UNHCR Liaison Office in Vienna.

Redesigned OSCE PA website features new look and tools

The International Secretariat has just launched a newly designed website at www.oscepa.org. The website is more mobile-friendly and offers several new features, including a redesigned Member Directory and a Twitter feed on the home page. The website redesign has been co-ordinated by Nat Parry and Stephen Paul in the Media and IT Sections, with the valuable technical and graphic support of a research assistant, Anzhelika Ivanishcheva. Other research assistants have also provided valuable support, in particular in building the Member Directory.

Comments can be sent to feedback@oscepa.dk.

