

# News from Copenhagen

## Secretary General Montella speaks at San Marino conference on fake news



Roberto Montella addresses San Marino conference on 10 May.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella spoke last week at a conference in San Marino on the topic of fake news. Including participation from experts, media professionals, and representatives of the government of San Marino and the international community, the conference on 10 May featured sessions on the effects of disinformation on democratic systems and the health of information in an era of social media.

At the opening session, Montella noted that striking the

right balance between the fight against disinformation with freedom of the press, freedom of information and freedom of expression is a difficult challenge, but stressed that censoring fake news is not the right answer.

Arguing that such an approach would only lead to other, possibly bigger, problems, he said that the answer instead lays in promoting quality journalism and creating a culture and positive environment for good information to spread.

“The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will continue to keep the topic high on its agenda and stands ready to fully co-operate to strengthen efforts, both within and outside the OSCE framework, aimed at countering disinformation and fake news,” Montella said. “It is a matter of democracy and we want to play our role to defend it.”

The conference included messages from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland.

## OSCE PA Special Representative meets with Head of Albanian Task Force

The PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, met on 8 May with the Head of the Albanian Task Force, Inid Milo, and the newly appointed Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Albania, Lejda Toci. Milo updated Nothelle on preparations for the 2020 Albanian Chairmanship and noted that priorities of the Chairmanship will be Ukraine and the protracted conflicts. She also mentioned that good governance, corruption, trafficking in human beings and violence against women would rank high on their agenda.

Nothelle referred to Albania’s positive example of religious tolerance as a best case example which could be replicated elsewhere. The issue of co-operation was also discussed



Inid Milo and Andreas Nothelle meet in Vienna on 8 May.

at length, with Nothelle outlining existing co-operation mechanisms and describing areas where the PA could lend political support to the Chairmanship.

## PA Special Rep discusses electoral recommendations, conflict cycle

At a meeting of the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE in Vienna on Tuesday, OSCE PA Special Representative Andreas Nothelle discussed the importance of parliamentary follow-up on recommendations issued by OSCE election observation missions. Many electoral recommendations relate to legislative matters and therefore close involvement of parliamentarians is necessary, he said, also noting that the PA’s participation adds political weight to electoral recommendations.

Nothelle also participated in the Conflict Cycle Seminar in Vienna on Monday. He addressed a working session which examined the role of security sector governance and reform in post-conflict rehabilitation and peace building. His presentation focused on best practices in the OSCE region.

## Annual Session deadlines reminder

The reports and draft resolutions to be considered by the three general committees at the Luxembourg Annual Session have been posted at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org). They will be provided in all six OSCE languages as translations become available.

Delegations are asked to register for the meeting by **29 May 2019**. Document deadlines are as follows:

Supplementary items must be received at the International Secretariat no later than **30 May**.

Amendments to the three general committee draft resolutions must be received no later than **20 June**. Amendments to supplementary items must be received no later than **27 June**. The email address for document-related correspondence is [luxembourgdocs@oscepa.dk](mailto:luxembourgdocs@oscepa.dk).