

OSCE PA participates in Security Days event on the Paris Charter



Kristian Vigenin and Lamberto Zannier at Security Days, 16 Oct.

Leaders of the PA took part in an event organized by the OSCE to mark the 30th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which was adopted at a summit meeting in November 1990. The Security Days event on 16 October focused on the theme of “Revitalizing Trust and Co-operation in Europe: Lessons of the Paris Charter” and featured the participation of Slovak Foreign Minister Ivan Korčok, James A. Baker III, former U.S. Secretary of State under President George H.W. Bush; Ambassador Wolfgang Friedrich Ischinger, who was part of the German delegation at the Paris Summit; Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, OSCE Officer in Charge/SG; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Martin Povejšil, and Ambassador Igli Hasani, Chairperson of the Permanent Council.

OSCE PA Vice-President Victor Paul Dobre (Romania) took the floor in Session 1, held under the theme “The Paris Charter as an inspiration: Highlights and turning points of the negotia-

tions, which lead to the unprecedented convergence between East and West.” Dobre spoke about enhancing the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE and emphasized the need to increase the political commitment to the OSCE at the ministerial level.

Former OSCE Secretary General and HCNM Lamberto Zannier, who currently serves as OSCE PA High-Level Expert, spoke at Session 2. Zannier noted that despite political divisions, the OSCE has been able to engage in areas where other international organizations could not, pointing out, for example, successful facilitation of dialogue in a number of hotspots and crisis situations over the years. He argued that in order to continue to do so, greater political support is needed for the organization.

OSCE PA Vice-President Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria) spoke at Session 3, “Lessons learned, best practices and future perspectives.” Vigenin described the Assembly as a vital forum for sharing best practices and exercising oversight of policymaking. He noted the important role played by parliamentarians, who facilitate dialogue between international and national levels and scrutinize their national governments for compliance with OSCE commitments. He also noted that the Assembly has offered over the years many ideas for strengthening the organization.

PA Secretary General Roberto Montella also addressed the event, underlining the importance of finding creative ways to focus the attention of the foreign ministers on the OSCE. He highlighted his own experience working in OSCE field operations and directly seeing the many benefits that the OSCE delivers to the “end users of the OSCE product” – the citizens of OSCE participating States.

OSCE PA contributions at Security Days event available on YouTube

Videos of the OSCE PA’s contributions at the OSCE Security Days event marking the 30th anniversary of the Charter of Paris are available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/oscepa/videos

Secretary General briefs Secretaries of Delegations on Assembly activities

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella provided an overview of International Secretariat activities to Secretaries of Delegations in an online forum on 15 October. Discussing ongoing work such as the preparation of the PA’s upcoming deployment of election observation missions to Georgia and the United States as well as the development of proposals to address the institutional crisis facing the OSCE, Montella said that it has been a busy period for the Secretariat. Other priorities he outlined include engagement with Azerbaijan and Armenia in relation to the outbreak of war over Nagorno-Karabakh and the facilitation of dialogue regarding the post-election unrest in Kyrgyzstan and Belarus.



In the discussion, topics raised included the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the functioning of the Assembly, including the prospects for organizing physical meetings, as well as the ongoing efforts to update and improve the PA’s Rules of Procedure.

Featured tweets @oscepa

Chair of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) tweeted on Saturday about the murder of Samuel Paty, a French middle-school teacher, in the suburbs of Paris. “The beheading of a school teacher who was teaching students about the #CharlieHebdo terror attack in #France is appalling,” Lopatka wrote, condemning the heinous attack in the strongest terms.

Lopatka also expressed sympathies to Paty’s family and to the people of France on behalf of the OSCE PA.



Reinhold Lopatka
@ReinholdLopatka

The beheading of a school teacher who was teaching students about the #CharlieHebdo terror attack in #France is appalling. In behalf of the @oscepa #counterterrorism committee I condemn it in the strongest terms. My sympathies go to the family of the teacher and the French people.