

Migliori speaks on food security at FAO event



Riccardo Migliori at the OSCE PA's recent Fall Meetings in Athens

On the occasion of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Summit being held in Rome, the Parliamentary Assembly's First Committee Rapporteur Riccardo Migliori gave an address regarding food security to a special Parliamentary Meeting organized by the Italian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on 13 November.

The meeting, entitled "Parliaments addressing agriculture, hunger and food insecurity in times of global crisis," was organized with the support of the FAO for Members of Parliament who are part of their national delegations to the Summit. In his speech, Mr. Migliori informed participants of the OSCE PA's Vilnius Declaration, which included food security as a top priority.

"At the last plenary session of the Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania, in July," he said, "we addressed the theme of food security and adopted, almost unanimously, a document that is now being deliberated by as many as 55 Parliaments."

The Vilnius Declaration, he said, emphasizes the indivisibility of security and shared values for the defence of fundamental human rights. As one of these fundamental rights, and one that is explicitly cited in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, food security has been incorporated into the priorities on the political agenda of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

"We are robustly demanding that our governments provide the necessary resources to achieve the ambitious Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as well as adopting urgent and secure policy measures," Mr. Migliori said.

The Vilnius Declaration "expresses deep concern regarding the food crisis affecting certain countries, in some cases to the point of attacking their 'food sovereignty' and, in others, giving rise to nothing short of famine," he added.

Regarding solutions to the crisis – the UN's World Food Programme estimates that the world's hungry will exceed one billion people this year – Mr. Migliori pointed to several workable solutions.

"Measures can be adopted to halt agricultural price increases in order to foster the balanced use of suitable farmlands, promote a worldwide network of agricultural scientists, and adopt an international recovery strategy to be able to farm enormous expanses of step lands," he said.

Riccardo Migliori, a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, was elected Rapporteur of the PA's First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security during the 2008 Annual Session in Astana, and was re-elected in Vilnius in July 2009.

He has been a member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly since July 2006 and was named Head of the Delegation in June 2008.

Soares to address OSCE Permanent Council, PACE

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Joao Soares will address the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on Thursday, 19 November. It will be the second time since his election as President in July 2008 that Mr. Soares addresses the Council.

On Friday, 20 November, Mr. Soares will address the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Bern, Switzerland. The President will discuss the PA's cooperation with PACE particularly in the field of election observation.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker are joining President Soares during the two visits.

SG Oliver meets with ambassadors

The ambassadors from Ireland and Greece to Denmark visited the International Secretariat this week for discussions with Secretary General Spencer Oliver. The purpose of the two visits by Ambassador Joseph Hayes (Ireland) and Ambassador Alexandros Couyou (Greece) was to discuss OSCE PA activities including recent official visits by President Soares and the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens.

Election Observation Deadline Reminder

The deadline for registering for the OSCE PA Election Observation Mission to Ukraine is **17 December**. To register, please contact the PA's Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova: petra@oscepa.dk.