

News from Copenhagen

Fall Meetings address transnational crime and corruption in Palermo

Under the theme of “The Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption,” more than 200 OSCE Parliamentarians met in Palermo, Sicily, from 8 to 11 October. Hosted by OSCE PA Vice-President and head of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, Riccardo Migliori, the annual Fall Meetings also included a Mediterranean Forum which discussed co-operation and infrastructure sectors in the Mediterranean basin, as well as cultural and environmental co-operation as an expression of the Mediterranean civilization.

Noting in his conclusions that “the OSCE can and must step up its role in tackling crime and corruption, which pose very real threats to the security of our populations,” OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou stressed that “our responses cannot be successful if only enacted on a national level; they must be broad in their scope and approach.”

Ten years after the adoption of the Palermo Convention on organized crime, Mr. Efthymiou said he was pleased that crime and corruption is being addressed in such an effective manner by the Assembly this year and he called for national parliaments to undertake an analysis of the levels of corruption in their public administrations by establishing specific parliamentary committees.

Also speaking at the Fall Meetings were Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and OSCE Secretary General



Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. Speakers from Italy included Francesco Cascio, President of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, and the Presidents of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate, Gianfranco Fini and Renato Schifani, as well as several Cabinet ministers.

During the opening session of the conference, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev discussed topics that the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship wants included at the upcoming OSCE Summit in Astana.

The Assembly’s Standing Committee heard a report from Johannes Koskinen, Chair of the PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE. As part of the Corfu Process, President Efthymiou indicated that the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations will be forwarded to the governmental side as the OSCE PA’s input on preparation for the Astana Summit.

Hoeglund ‘impressed’ by political pluralism in Kyrgyzstan’s parliamentary elections



Marked by political pluralism and a vibrant campaign, the 10 October parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan constituted a further consolidation of the democratic process and brought the country closer to meeting its international commitments on democratic elections, international observers concluded in a preliminary statement issued on 11 October. They stressed, however, that there remains an urgent need for a profound reform of the electoral legislation.

“I was impressed by the political pluralism, the civic responsibility and the spirit of the people of this country. I have observed many elections in Central Asia over the years



but this is the first election where I could not predict the outcome. This election reflected the will of the people of the Kyrgyz Republic,” said Morten Hoeglund, appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission and deliver the post-election statement.

The OSCE PA delegation, headed by Mr. Hoeglund, worked closely with the OSCE/ODIHR and the European Parliament, and was supported by Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova. The full statement and press release are available at www.oscepa.org.