

PA represented by de Donnea at OSCE Security Days

Head of the Belgian OSCE PA Delegation François-Xavier de Donnea represented the Assembly during the first “OSCE Security Days” on 24-25 June in Vienna. Taking place on the eve of the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), the event offered a new forum for security dialogue between OSCE delegations, senior officials from national capitals, prominent OSCE researchers and representatives of civil society.

While the ASRC focuses on a number of concrete and (in part) technical items, the Security Days addressed issues of a more conceptual nature related to the future of the OSCE. Since diplomats face restrictions when they discuss such issues, some Security Days participants said that it is only through non-governmental organizations that the OSCE can conduct a more open and fruitful discussion.

With most participants agreeing that the main problem that the OSCE faces today is the mutual lack of trust between participating States, de Donnea emphasized the value that the Assembly adds as a forum for open dialogue between elected representatives of the peoples of the OSCE.

“Members of Parliament are an essential component of any solution for problems that the OSCE is mandated to deal with,” said de Donnea, a former minister of defence of Belgium.

Referring to concepts that envisage the formation of two blocs of states within the OSCE, he also said that such



developments could have a negative impact on the creation of a common security space, making it more difficult to address threats that all participating States face. Listing the many proposals that the PA has made to strengthen the Organization over the past decade, he urged the OSCE to address important reform issues in order to adapt to today’s challenges.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier confirmed the important role that the Parliamentary Assembly plays in the Organization, calling it a “useful tool” for participating States and a “link” between their citizens and the executive structures. During his stay in Vienna, de Donnea was assisted by Amb. Andreas Nothelle and the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office.

Mediterranean Forum to focus on OSCE partnership in a changing region

This year the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum will be held in conjunction with the Annual Session in Monaco on the afternoon of Friday 6 July. Open to all Annual Session participants and chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco), the forum is entitled, *The OSCE Mediterranean partnership in a changing region: The impact of elections since the events of 2011*. Opening keynote speakers will include the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Jean-Claude Mignon and the Chairperson of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, Amb. Ihor Prokopchuck.

At the invitation of the National Council of Monaco, delegations from Libya and the Palestinian National Authority will also participate in the forum. Parliamentary delegations



from most OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, including Algeria, Israel and Morocco, have expressed strong interest in the forum and will also participate in the Monaco Annual Session.

Following the keynote addresses, the Mediterranean Forum will host a round table discussion including participation from Mohamed Abdulaziz, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Libya; Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic

Conference; Khaled Ghellali, Spokesperson for the Libyan National Democratic Alliance; and Nassif Hitti, representing the League of Arab States.

A detailed programme of the 2012 Mediterranean Forum will soon be circulated to national delegations.