

News from Copenhagen

Parliamentarians debate issues at 2014 Winter Meeting



Parliamentarians from 55 OSCE participating States and 4 Partner for Co-operation countries participated in the 2014 Winter Meeting, held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 13-14 February.

The opening plenary session of the Winter Meeting was addressed by PA President Ranko Krivokapic, Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council of Austria. Abdul Raouf Ibrahimi, Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament of Afghanistan, also addressed parliamentarians.

In the First Committee, PA Members heard from speakers including Amb. Dominic Schroeder, Chair of the OSCE Security Committee; Amb. Adam Kobieracki, Director of the OSCE CPC; Lt. Col. Detlef Hempel, FSC Co-ordinator for

the Code of Conduct; and Col. Presenjit Chaudhuri, from the Swiss Armed Forces.

The Second Committee was addressed by Amb. Ol'ga Algayerova, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee and Dr. Halil Yurdukul Yigitguden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The Committee held a debate on co-operation in water management.

Speakers for the Third Committee included OSCE Human Dimension Committee Chair Robert Kvile, ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic. Several speakers from OSCE countries spoke on rule of law challenges in the region.

A vigorous debate on the situation in Ukraine concluded the Meeting.

Semyon Dzakhaev appointed Deputy Secretary General

During the meeting of the Standing Committee on 14 February, heads of national delegations to the OSCE PA and members of the Bureau confirmed Semyon Dzakhaev (Russia) to the position of Deputy Secretary General.

In his new role, he assists the Secretary General and holds primary responsibility for organizing all meetings of the Assembly and the Bureau. Mr. Dzakhaev is also responsible for the work of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment and the Sub-

Committee on the Rules of Procedure. He also supports the work of the Assembly's Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism.

Also at the Winter Meeting, Secretary General Oliver announced that Andreas Baker (Denmark/Canada) has returned to the International Secretariat as the Director of Elections.



Amb. Nothelle protests PA exclusion from security sector study

Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, head of the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna, protested the exclusion of the PA from a report on the OSCE's efforts in the area of security sector governance and reform during a Feb. 17 meeting of the Permanent Council's Security Committee.

The report, issued by the Swiss Chairmanship in conjunction with the Geneva Center regarding Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF), rationalizes the exclusion of the PA by claiming that the Assembly does not conduct operational work, and that its sole function is inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Amb. Nothelle pointed out that "developing and promoting mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts"

is one of the PA's key mandates. The Ambassador further emphasized that the Assembly has passed numerous recommendations addressing all related issues and has cooperated closely with the Conflict Prevention Center, the Field Presences and others in order to strengthen security sector governance. Its recommendations are directly addressed to the participating States and the other structures of the OSCE.

"We are deeply disappointed that an important study that directly addresses issues of democratic governance was undertaken in total and deliberate exclusion of the PA," he said.