

## Andorra Autumn Meeting underway with focus on new security challenges

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is meeting this week in Andorra for its 16th Autumn Meeting. Held under the theme “Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks” and hosted by the Andorran Consell General, the meeting is bringing together some 180 parliamentarians from across the OSCE area for three days of debate. It began Tuesday with addresses by the OSCE PA President, and the Speaker of Parliament and Prime Minister of Andorra.

OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (Austria) opened the Autumn Meeting with remarks emphasizing the importance of all OSCE countries working together in meeting common challenges. “Co-operation is a necessity in this interconnected world, and no country – no matter how big it may be – can afford to ensure its security on its own,” she said.

In his address, the Speaker of Andorra’s Parliament, Vicenç Mateu Zamora, noted that security and co-operation are core OSCE values. “These values are part of a framework which is necessary for citizens to develop freely, both individually and collectively,” he said. Andorra’s Prime Minister, Antoni Martí Peti, said that multilateralism is the best path towards more democratic and fair international relations.

Also on Tuesday, the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum met and addressed topics including the importance of pursuing a humanitarian approach to migration flows, infrastructure development in the Mediterranean region, and international co-operation on countering terrorism. The Mediterranean Forum was opened by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), and featured remarks by Meritxell Palmitjavila Naudí, Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE PA; Pedro Roque, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean; Minister Counsellor Luca Fratini, on behalf of the 2017 Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation; and Mário Gomes, Diplomatic Advisor to



the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The Assembly’s Standing Committee met today and heard reports from President Muttonen, Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany), Secretary General Roberto Montella, chairs of ad hoc committees, the leadership of the recent election observation mission to Germany, and Special Representatives. The President outlined a number of priority topics that she is pursuing, including empowering women, the security implications of climate change, culture as a peace-building tool, and the Mediterranean. She also announced her recent appointment of Kent Harstedt (Sweden) as Special Representative on Eastern Europe. Also addressing the Standing Committee was the new Director of the OSCE/ODIHR, Ingibjörg S. Gísladóttir.

Other participants in this week’s Autumn Meeting include Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice, Home and Social Affairs of Andorra; and Rasa Ostrauskaite, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats. The three sessions of the Autumn Meeting’s parliamentary conference are dealing with cybersecurity, climate change, and education.

The OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, as well as the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Working Practices, have met on the margins of the Autumn Meeting to discuss ongoing work.

## Special Representative Vigenin concludes week-long visit to South Caucasus



The OSCE PA’s Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria), wrapped up a visit to the region on Saturday in Yerevan. Beginning his trip in Azerbaijan on 25 Sept., Vigenin continued to Georgia

and Armenia for talks with government officials, parliamentary leaders and civil society representatives. During his visit Vigenin particularly highlighted the human impacts of

protracted conflicts in the region.

In Georgia, Vigenin took note of the constitutional reform efforts currently taking place, and encouraged all political forces to work for a political consensus. In meetings with leaders in Yerevan and Baku, Vigenin reiterated the need for a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, stating that the status quo is unacceptable. He welcomed plans for a meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, reiterated his support for the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Co-Chairs.

Appointed Special Representative in February 2016 by the OSCE PA President, Vigenin has regularly highlighted the role that parliamentary dialogue can play in conflict resolution processes.