

# News from Copenhagen

## Autumn Meeting features debates on cybersecurity, climate change, education



Some 180 parliamentarians took part in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 2017 Autumn Meeting in Andorra last week. Under the theme of "Security in the OSCE Area: New Challenges, New Tasks," parliamentarians from across the OSCE region held debates on 3-5 October dealing with cybersecurity, climate change and the importance of education as a guarantee of stability.

Following the closure of the meeting on 5 October, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (Austria) reflected on the importance of all OSCE countries working together to address these issues. "Today's world can no longer be divided between winners and losers. All of our countries are feeling the impact of climate change. We all have to adapt to make sure that modern technologies are used for constructive purposes rather than attacks that undermine the very bases for our societies. And we must all invest in our future through education," said President Muttonen.

The meeting in Andorra featured addresses by senior officials, including the Prime Minister and Parliament Speaker of Andorra, representatives from the OSCE, and a range of experts on topical issues. The Assembly's Standing Committee met on 4 October 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. Also addressing the

Standing Committee was the new Director of the OSCE/ODIHR, Ingibjörg S. Gísladóttir, who spoke about areas of co-operation for the PA and ODIHR.

On 3 October parliamentarians heard expert presentations and engaged in a debate on cybersecurity, stressing the need for confidence-building and risk reduction related to cyber-incidents. Session two of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 4 October, was dedicated to environmental security, and particularly the threat of climate change. Parliamentarians voiced broad support for the Paris Agreement on climate change and for the need to steadily reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, while developing and promoting cleaner, renewable sources of energy.

The third session focused on discussions on the topic of "Promoting Education as a Guarantee of Stability and Development." Parliamentarians stressed education's potential to contribute to international stability through teaching principles of diversity and tolerance, to combat radicalization, and to promote healing in post-conflict settings. The three sessions of the Parliamentary Conference were chaired by OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Isabel Santos (Portugal) Victor Paul Dobre (Romania) and Roberto Battelli (Slovenia).

Hosted by Andorra's Consell General, the Autumn Meeting also included meetings of the Mediterranean Forum and OSCE PA ad hoc committees on migration and on counter-terrorism.

## Ad Hoc Committee on Migration issues report with wide-ranging recommendations

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland), adopted a report last week offering a set of observations and recommendations to policymakers based on the Committee's work over the past year and a half. Stressing the importance of solidarity and responsibility-sharing in addressing migration-related challenges, the report notes that purely voluntary mechanisms for relocating refugees and asylum-seekers have proved insufficient and that the OSCE should adopt a decision urging governments to share responsibilities. It also highlights positive benefits of migration and features a number of examples from around the OSCE area in relocation and integration efforts.

The report stresses that governments must focus on both managing migration and addressing migration's root causes. Agreed to last week in Andorra, the report is available for download at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org) and was distributed at the request of the Ad Hoc Committee to foreign ministers and speakers of parliaments of OSCE countries on Tuesday.

