

# News from Copenhagen

## PA's de Sena and Gjebrea-Hoxha visit Vienna for OSCE EEF meeting



Nilza de Sena (second from left) at the EEF, 29 January 2019



Elona Gjebrea-Hoxha, Nilza de Sena, Radomir Bohac and Roberto Montella, 28 January 2019

The OSCE PA's Nilza de Sena (MP, Portugal) and Elona Gjebrea-Hoxha (MP, Albania) were in Vienna this week to participate in the First Preparatory Meeting of the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and to meet with counterparts from the OSCE's governmental side. In an address to the EEF meeting on Tuesday, de Sena noted that the rapid digitalization process taking place across the OSCE area is generating substantial changes in all spheres of life and carries many security implications, including in the economic and environmental dimension.

National parliaments must keep abreast of developments in this field and respond appropriately with relevant legislation, de Sena said. She highlighted that human beings should remain at the center of the digitalization process and drew attention to the sharp increase of energy consumption and digitalization's impacts on the labour market. Moreover, de Sena stressed that legal protection of personal data must be duly addressed.

De Sena, who serves as Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, was speaking at session four of the EEF meeting, which was held under the theme, "Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era."

She was joined in Vienna by Gjebrea-Hoxha, who serves as Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's economic and environmental

committee. Gjebrea-Hoxha also spoke at the EEF, noting that the economy and the environment should be issues of focus for all governments. She emphasized the role of parliamentarians in promoting security and appreciated the support and recommendations of the OSCE on topics that are related to the daily lives of citizens and which need to be addressed properly with the support of all OSCE structures in co-operation with each other.

Gjebrea-Hoxha and de Sena held a series of bilateral meetings on the margins of the EEF. They met Monday with Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee, and Ambassador Radomír Boháč, Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council. On Tuesday they met with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and Vuk Zugic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

In meetings, de Sena and Gjebrea-Hoxha have stressed that the OSCE area must be one of co-operation between OSCE countries and noted that the Organization can also serve as a trendsetter for the broader international community.

Satisfaction was expressed for the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship's focus on the economic and environmental dimension as a priority. The PA members also expressed appreciation that the PA's work was duly reflected in the latest Ministerial Council documents in this context, noting the need to continue advancing this good co-operation.

## Ukrainian Ambassador to Denmark visits International Secretariat



Mykhailo Vydoynyk at the Secretariat, 25 Jan. 2019

Mykhailo Vydoynyk, Ambassador of Ukraine to Denmark, visited the OSCE PA's International Secretariat on 25 January for discussions with Secretary General Roberto Montella and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares. The sides

discussed issues related to the OSCE PA's programme of activities, including the Winter Meeting in Vienna next month, the recent visit of the PA's human rights committee officers to parts of Ukraine, the upcoming visit of President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) and SG Montella to Kyiv in February, as well as the upcoming elections in Ukraine.

### Deadline reminder

Delegations are kindly reminded of the following date:

- **1 February:** Deadline for registering to observe the 24 February elections in Moldova