

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

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Kathleen Ferrier appointed new Special Representative on Migration

President Joao Soares has appointed Kathleen Ferrier, member of the Dutch delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as the Assembly's new Special Representative on Migration.

Ms. Ferrier succeeds Hilda Solis (United States), who was appointed Secretary of Labor by President Obama in the U.S. administration. Ms. Ferrier said she was honoured by the appointment.

"Migration is one of the big challenges of the 21st century. It surely is a challenge for the OSCE countries. It has many aspects, humanitarian and judicial, it has both positive effects and aspects that are harmful to people and societies. It is necessary, even urgent, to approach migration in a coherent way and to work on concrete steps," she said.

The mandate for this appointment stems from Article 93 in the 2007 Kyiv Declaration, which calls for the Special Representative to "examine ways the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can further the development of migrant labour systems that are humane and meet the economic needs of both labourer and host country."

Mr. Soares said in his appointment letter that "I agree that is important for the OSCE PA to follow closely and discuss what is being proposed in the international arena on the issue of migration."

Kathleen Gertrud Ferrier, who was born in Suriname, has been a member of the Dutch Parliament since 2002, representing the Christian Democratic Appeal. In the Parliament, she is a member of the standing committees on Foreign Affairs and Defence as well as on Education, Culture and Science, and Health, Welfare and Sport.

Her pre-parliamentary career includes working for many years as development co-operation expert in Chile and Brazil. She has published a book on migrant churches as well as one on 50 years of development co-operation.

Educated in Suriname, the Netherlands, and Mexico, Ms. Ferrier received her doctoral degree in 1984 from the State University of Leiden, specializing in Spanish, Portuguese, and development co-operation.



Kathleen Ferrier at the OSCE PA's 2009 Fall Meetings in Athens

Joint staff meeting in Copenhagen



Staff from the OSCE PA's Vienna Liaison Office recently visited the headquarters of the International Secretariat in Copenhagen to discuss upcoming activities.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver and 13 staff members of the Copenhagen office were joined by three staff members from Vienna, led by the Assembly's Special Representative, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle.

The two-day meeting focused on the co-ordination of Assembly activities for 2010 such as the election observation mission to Ukraine in January and the Winter Meeting in Vienna on 18-19 February.

Also discussed was the 2010 Annual Session, which will take place 6 to 10 July in Oslo, and the Fall Meetings, scheduled for October in Palermo, on Sicily.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly now on Facebook

In an effort to enhance the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's ability to communicate with its members, the press and with the general public, a Facebook page for the organization has been set up and is available at www.facebook.com.

With more than 100 OSCE PA members presently using the social networking website, the organization's presence on Facebook should help facilitate inter-parliamentary discussion and will help keep parliamentarians informed of key developments in the OSCE PA.

The OSCE PA Facebook page is intended to supplement the PA's other communication tools, including its website, www.oscepa.org, periodic brochures published by the organization, and the weekly newsletter, *News from Copenhagen*.

OSCE PA members and others are encouraged to join the PA's Facebook page in order to stay abreast of developments and news.

For more information, please contact Klas Bergman, Director of Communications.