

# News from Copenhagen

## Italian OSCE Chairmanship begins, PA team in meetings with OSCE field offices



Minister Alfano, with OSCE SG Greminger and Italian Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni

Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff participated in the inaugural address of the new OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, to the OSCE Permanent Council on 11 January. Minister Alfano announced that “Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility” would be the motto of the Chairmanship’s work this year, also noting that addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, the security of the Mediterranean region, and the challenges of migration, combating human trafficking and all forms of xenophobia and discrimination, are among Italy’s OSCE Chairmanship

priorities.

PA President George Tsereteli welcomed the priorities outlined by Minister Alfano, stressing that the Assembly will remain a strong partner and active place for dialogue on OSCE issues. “I look forward to working with Minister Alfano and his team as we all strive for a more peaceful, more secure Europe. I trust that the Italian Chairmanship can provide important leadership to the OSCE at this critical time, and welcome the focus on dialogue, ownership and responsibility.”

Secretary General Montella and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle participated in meetings with Minister Alfano and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger together with heads of OSCE field operations and Institutions. Montella reiterated the strong support of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the work done by OSCE field operations and paid tribute to the expertise that the Organization has in these important offices.

OSCE PA International Secretariat members participated in a series of regional working groups with OSCE Institutions and field operations, focused on Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and South East Europe, providing a brief overview of OSCE PA activities and plans in each of the regions.

## OSCE PA team in Bishkek for Autumn Meeting preparations

Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge arrived in Bishkek today to continue preparations for the 2018 Autumn Meeting. The visit, organized together with the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, is intended to ensure that all necessary preparations are proceeding.

Pallares and Lelarge are holding a series of meetings with senior representatives from the Parliament and Foreign Ministry to discuss the planned programme and logistics for

the meeting. A draft programme and details regarding the precise dates for the meeting will be communicated in due time.

The OSCE PA Autumn Meeting is held each year in an OSCE country, and consists of a topical conference, the Standing Committee, and traditionally includes a Mediterranean Forum, bringing together close to two hundred parliamentarians to discuss current issues. In 2017 the OSCE PA’s 16th annual Autumn Meeting was held in Andorra la Vella, Andorra.

## SG Montella meets with new French Delegation

Secretary General Roberto Montella travelled to Paris earlier this week to meet with the newly constituted French Delegation to the OSCE PA.

Meeting with Sereine Mauborgne, the Head of the French Delegation, Pascal Allizard who serves as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, and other Members of the Delegation, Montella took the opportunity to provide an overview of upcoming activities of the Assembly.

The Secretary General welcomed the intention of delegation Members to remain active in Assembly affairs, and stressed the important role that France has long played in the OSCE and in the Parliamentary Assembly.



SG Montella with Sereine Mauborgne and Members of the French Delegation