

# News from Copenhagen

## 17th OSCE PA Winter Meeting set to begin in Vienna

Some 240 parliamentarians from 53 countries are gathering in Vienna this week for the OSCE PA's 17th Winter Meeting. Taking place at the Hofburg Congress Centre on 22-23 February, the Winter Meeting will feature debates on "fake news," climate change, arms control, migration, terrorism, and more. The opening session will include speeches by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, Italy's Undersecretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Vincenzo Amendola, representing the Italian Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE, and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger.

The three general committees will meet to hear from government representatives of OSCE countries and debate issues related to political and security affairs, economics and the environment, and human rights and humanitarian questions. Committee Rapporteurs Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria), Sofio Katsarava (Georgia) and Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjjiyianni (Cyprus) will also present their ideas and intentions for their reports to be prepared for the 27th Annual Session in Berlin.

Other officials scheduled to address the Winter Meeting include Ambassador Sian MacLeod, Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council and Head of the United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee; Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; Ambassador María Victoria González Román, Chairperson of the Security Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council; Ambassador Radomír Boháč, Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation; and Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.



Flags flying outside of the Hofburg, Vienna

The First Committee will also hear from Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, who will introduce the debate on Friday morning, "Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation: challenges and opportunities for the OSCE area."

The Winter Meeting will conclude on Friday afternoon with a joint session of the three committees, where members will hear reports by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure, Lord Peter Bowness; the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Dr. Hedy Fry; the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, Filippo Lombardi; and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, Makis Voridis. The reports will be followed by general debates.

President Tsereteli will also hold a series of bilateral meetings on the margins of the Winter Meeting and several side events are also planned. On Wednesday, members of the OSCE PA's Working Group on Refining Assembly Activities met to discuss ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of OSCE PA work.

More information about the Winter Meeting, including the full programme, is available at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

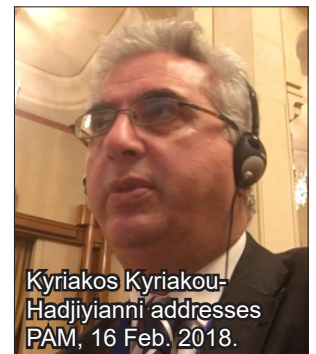
## Rapporteur Hadjiyianni speaks at Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Third Committee Rapporteur Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjjiyianni (Cyprus) participated last week in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)'s session in Bucharest, hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament. Hadjiyianni, who serves on the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, spoke at the meeting of the Third Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights on 16 February.

His remarks focused on the work of the OSCE PA on the Mediterranean region and migration. Noting that in OSCE PA conferences and Mediterranean Forums, OSCE parliamentarians have voiced strong interest in enhancing dialogue among Mediterranean nations, he pointed out that to promote security and co-operation in the region, economic

co-operation and intercultural exchanges should be pursued, as well as efforts undertaken to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights.

On the topic of migration, Hadjiyianni stressed a number of recommendations that have been made by the Assembly, including the importance of gender mainstreaming and ensuring that all OSCE countries allocate the necessary financial and human resources so that asylum claims are processed in a timely fashion.



Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjjiyianni addresses PAM, 16 Feb. 2018.