

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA Economic Conference opens in Dublin



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's sixth Economic Conference, entitled "The World Financial Crisis," kicked off in Dublin on Wednesday, 27 May, with almost 100 parliamentarians from over 30 countries participating.

President Joao Soares, in his welcoming remarks, said that the Dublin Conference is in line with his wishes for the Assembly to engage and meet new challenges and that he was sure that the discussions will be a most valuable contribution to the general debate on the financial crisis that touches every continent and not least many members of our Assembly.

"These problems," Mr. Soares said, "cannot be solved without sharing our experiences and our knowledge and without encouraging greater co-operation and increased trade. This is not time for protectionism and narrow self-interest. We will not overcome this crisis on our own – it is completely global."

The Economic Conference, which is organized under different themes every other year by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, is hosted by the Parliament of Ireland. Both the President of the House of Representatives, John O'Donoghue, and of the Senate, Pat Moylan, welcomed the participants.

Ireland's Finance Minister, Brian Lenihan, gave the keynote address, saying that this crisis is not cyclical but something much deeper. It is a crisis about our banks and the whole financial system.

"We need to repair the banking systems of the world or the crisis will not be overcome," he said.

The sessions of the Dublin conference 27-29 May will cover such topics as free trade and protectionism, financial regulations and good governance, and the social consequences of the crisis – particularly the case of migration.

Petros Efthymiou speaks at OSCE Forum

Petros Efthymiou, Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Second General Committee, spoke at the 17th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on effective labor migration management 18-20 May in Athens.

Citing a series of examples, including the efforts of the Assembly's former Special Representative on Migration – now U.S. Secretary of Labor – Hilda Solis, the recent labor migration seminar in Tajikistan, and the session on migration at the 27-29 May Economic Conference in Dublin, Mr. Efthymiou said that labor migration was an important priority of the Assembly.

The issue does not merely call for an administrative approach, Mr. Efthymiou said. Any solutions will be unworkable without winning "the hearts and minds of our peoples," he pointed out. That is the main task of parliamentarians, he said, who "are the direct link to the societies that we represent."

"Only by properly understanding and addressing our citizens' concerns," Mr. Efthymiou concluded, "and by thus promoting diversity and social cohesion can we be successful."

Mr. Efthymiou was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's liaison office in Vienna.

Andorran Head of Delegation elected President of Andorran Parliament

Josep Dalleres Cordina, Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE PA, was elected President of the new Andorran Parliament on 19 May after the legislative elections held on 26 April. Mr. Dalleres has been an active member of the Assembly for several years and in May 2007 hosted the Assembly's Economic Conference on International Trade in Andorra.



18th Annual Session Deadlines

- Parliamentarians are urged to register by **1 June 2009**
 - Deadline for Supplementary Items: **8 June**
 - Submitting amendments to the Draft Resolutions: **15 June**
- All Reports and Draft Resolutions, as well as registration forms, are available at www.oscepa.org.*