

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA Third Committee Chair Santos visits Kazakhstan

Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal), Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, was in Kazakhstan 9-11 June for meetings with senior government and parliamentary officials in Astana. On Wednesday she met with jailed Kazakhstani opposition leader Vladimir Kozlov at a penal colony outside Almaty. Santos spoke with Kozlov for about an hour at the penitentiary facility in which he is serving a seven-and-a-half-year prison term.

Before meeting with Kozlov, Santos met in Astana with government officials including Deputy Minister of Justice Elvira Azimova; Deputy Minister of the Interior Amantay Kurenbekov; Deputy Prosecutor General Andrey Kravchenko; and members of the Advisory Board on Human Dimension Issues in the Foreign Ministry.

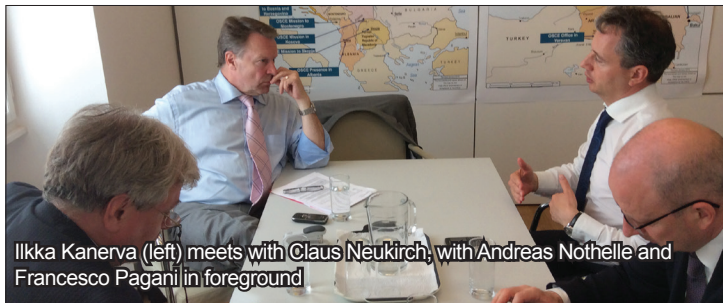
She also met with parliamentary leaders including Deputy Chairman of the Mazhilis Sergey Dyachenko and Chairman



of the Committee on International Relations, Defense and Security of the Senate Ikram Adyrbekov. Santos also held meetings with members of Kazakhstan's OSCE PA Delegation.

Santos also met with representatives of the Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, Aurelia Bouchez, as well as representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the representatives of the OSCE Centre in Astana. She was accompanied in her visit to Kazakhstan by OSCE PA Programme Officer Maria Chepurina.

Vice-President Kanerva visits Vienna Liaison Office, briefed by OSCE officials



OSCE PA Vice-President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) held a day of meetings at OSCE offices in Vienna on 10 June. The discussions focused primarily on the current crisis in Ukraine, the continued detention of OSCE monitors in eastern Ukraine, and the OSCE PA's successful deployment of over 100 monitors to the country in the recent election observation mission.

Kanerva, who is Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE PA and a former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, was thoroughly briefed by representatives of the Swiss OSCE

Chairmanship, the OSCE Secretary General, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE PA's Liaison Office.

He met with Ambassador Marcel Pesko, the director of the Office of the Secretary General, to discuss OSCE priorities in the weeks ahead. Andrea Rauber Saxer, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Swiss Mission to the OSCE, exchanged views with Kanerva on the Chairmanship's current and planned initiatives, particularly with respect to Ukraine. The situation in Ukraine was also the focus of Kanerva's meeting with Claus Neukirch, the Deputy Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, who provided an update on efforts to secure the release of kidnapped OSCE monitors.

Kanerva also met with Vuk Zagic, Serbia's Ambassador to the OSCE, during his Vienna visit. Serbia will assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2015. At the PA's Vienna Liaison Office, he met with Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Director of Presidential Administration Roberto Montella, Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet and OSCE PA Senior Policy Analyst Francesco Pagani.

Ukraine mediation efforts top agenda in Krivokapic's visit to Berlin

OSCE PA President Ranko Krivokapic was in Berlin last week, where Ukraine mediation efforts topped the agenda in talks with parliamentary and government leaders.

Krivokapic met with Bundestag President Professor Norbert Lammert on 6 June; Professor Maria Böhmer, the Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, on 5 June; OSCE PA Vice-President Doris Barnett and other members of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA; the leadership of several parliamentary groups within the Bundestag; and

think-tank experts during his three-day visit.

In meetings, Krivokapic discussed the ongoing unrest in Ukraine and expressed his concern that time may be running out for diplomacy to resolve the crisis. He encouraged Germany to strengthen its role in mediation efforts. In a keynote speech at Berlin's Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Krivokapic further addressed the capacity of the OSCE and the PA to promote a solution to the crisis in the face of a "new Cold War mentality."