

News from Copenhagen

Preparations continue for OSCE PA's 2015 Winter Meeting



Since 2002, the OSCE PA has held a Winter Meeting every February at the Hofburg in Vienna, home of the OSCE. Last year's Winter Meeting, pictured here, brought some 250 parliamentarians to the Austrian capital.

More than 230 parliamentarians from OSCE participating States and 16 from partner States are registered for the OSCE PA's 14th Winter Meeting, to be held 18-20 February at the Congress Center of the Hofburg in Vienna. This year, in addition to meetings of the Standing Committee, each General Committee, and joint sessions of the three General Committees, the Winter Meeting will also include the OSCE PA's Mediterranean Forum on 18 February. To be chaired by Isabel Pozuelo (Spain), it is the first time that a Mediterranean Forum is being held in conjunction with a Winter Meeting.

Expected to address the plenaries are OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Ivica Dacic, President of the Austrian Parliament Doris Bures, and OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (Finland). OSCE PA

Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) will present her report at the joint session on 20 February, followed by a debate.

The Special Debate on the situation in Ukraine is expected to take place on 20 February. The Austrian Parliament will offer a reception for the members of the Parliamentary Assembly on the evening of 19 February after official OSCE PA business has concluded for the day.

Held every February since 2002, the Winter Meeting provides an opportunity for the three General Committees to hold discussions and interact with high-level OSCE officials. The meeting also serves as an opportunity for parliamentarians to hear presentations by the three committee rapporteurs and to discuss their ideas for the upcoming Annual Session.

Special Representative on Human Trafficking visits Liaison Office



Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova and Andreas Nothelle meet at OSCE PA Liaison Office with senior staff.

On 30 January, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, visited the Vienna Liaison Office where she held a meeting with Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, PA Special Representative, and senior staff from their respective offices.

The meeting focused on possibilities of continuing mutual co-operation, with Nothelle recalling that, in the past, activities had been organized with her predecessors including thematic field visits with members of parliament. Jarbussynova expressed gratitude to U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith, PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, for the support he provided to her office especially in the framework of the recent negotiations of their 2015 budget.

Research fellows support Secretariat

The research fellows of the International Secretariat – a group of recent graduates with degrees in international relations, political science and law – are working on a number of projects in support of the OSCE PA's ongoing work.

The Copenhagen team, consisting of Alexandra Chupina (Russian Federation), Anna Di Domenico (Italy), Roger Willis (United Kingdom) and Pavel Bratsky (Czech Republic), have prepared follow-up reports tracking developments in key areas of the OSCE PA's Baku Declaration, which will be distributed at the Winter Meeting. Other current projects include a background report for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Tajikistan and ongoing research in support of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project.

The team at the OSCE PA's Vienna Liaison Office consists of Emina Sadic (United States) and Karla Sanel (Germany), who support Special Representative Andreas Nothelle and his staff in the politico-military and human dimensions as well as with the editing of English and German documents.

Many former OSCE PA research fellows have gone on to careers in parliaments, international organizations and diplomatic services, while several work now as permanent staff of the International Secretariat.