

# News from Copenhagen

## OSCE parliamentarians gather in Vienna for the PA's 15th Winter Meeting

Nearly 300 parliamentarians from more than 50 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, including several speakers of parliament, will participate in the Parliamentary Assembly's 15th Winter Meeting at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 25-26 February 2016.

The migration crisis and the fight against terrorism will be the central themes of parliamentary debate and keynote presentations. The Ukraine crisis is also expected to be discussed in the meeting.

The Meeting's opening session will include addresses by OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) and the Special Representative of the Germany for the 2016 OSCE Chairmanship, Gernot Erler. The closing session will feature a special debate on migrant and refugee crisis in the OSCE area. EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides will offer opening remarks.

Meetings of the OSCE PA's three main Committees – Political Affairs and Security; Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions – will also be held in Vienna.

Debate in the committees will focus on combatting terrorism, the economic effects of the migration crisis, and the human rights of migrants and refugees. The leadership of the Third Committee will also present a special report during



Since 2002, the OSCE PA has met in Vienna every February for its Winter Meeting at the Hofburg Congress Centre.

the meeting on the crisis of migrants and refugees, containing concrete proposals for greater OSCE engagement.

Senior OSCE officials participating include OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier; OSCE/ODIHR Director Michael Link; Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic; High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors; Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden; and others.

The Standing Committee of Heads of National Delegations will meet Thursday to hear reports from OSCE PA Special Representatives, the leaders of recent election observation missions and ad hoc committees, President Kanerva, Treasurer Doris Barnett, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure, Lord Peter Bowness, and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

## Secretary General Montella meets with Danish Parliament Speaker Kjaersgaard



Roberto Montella, Pia Kjaersgaard and Gustavo Pallares.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and Danish Parliament Speaker Pia Kjaersgaard met at the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) Monday to discuss a range of OSCE-related matters. Montella expressed particular gratitude to the Speaker for Denmark's generosity in hosting the Parliamentary Assembly's headquarters for more than 20 years.

Montella described his priorities as the Assembly's

Secretary General, including modernization of the Secretariat and strengthening the Assembly's work to promote its effectiveness. Montella also briefed Kjaersgaard on the PA's Winter Meeting, to be held in Vienna on 25-26 February, as well as on upcoming activities, including future meetings and election observation missions.

Kjaersgaard, who previously served as a Member of the Danish Delegation to the PA, expressed her support for the work of the Assembly and welcomed the opportunity to continue Denmark's strong engagement. She was accompanied by Parliament Secretary General Carsten U. Larsen and Secretary of the Danish Delegation to the PA Eva Esmarch.

Secretary General Montella was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Administrative Director Kurt Lerras.

## OSCE PA Special Representative Nothelle speaks at Bundestag hearing

OSCE PA Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle spoke Monday as an expert at a Sub-Committee public hearing of the German Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee on "Potential for OSCE Conflict Management." Nothelle explained the PA's activities related to conflict resolution and possibilities for closer co-ordination with the OSCE's decision-making bodies and executive structures.



Andreas Nothelle addresses a Bundestag Sub-Committee on 22 February.