

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA's leadership gathers in Copenhagen for annual Bureau meeting



First Committee Rapporteur Margareta Cederfelt presents her draft report.



Second Committee Rapporteur Marietta Tidei presents her draft report.



Third Committee Rapporteur Gordana Comic presents her draft report.

The Assembly's elected leadership was joined by representatives of host parliaments for upcoming Assembly meetings and a number of OSCE PA Special Representatives for discussions in the Danish capital Monday that focused on the PA's ongoing work. Featuring prominently in the meeting were discussions on topical issues including developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh zone of conflict, the crisis in and around Ukraine, and the revelations disclosed in the so-called "Panama Papers."

The annual spring Bureau meeting was opened by OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), who stressed the importance of dialogue facilitation and mediation, as well as the need for a stronger role for the PA throughout the conflict cycle. Head of the OSCE PA's Danish Delegation Peter Juel Jensen welcomed participants to Copenhagen and emphasized the significance for Denmark in hosting the headquarters of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Rapporteurs of the OSCE PA's three general committees – Margareta Cederfelt (MP, Sweden), Marietta Tidei (MP, Italy) and Gordana Comic (MP, Serbia) – presented their draft reports and resolutions, and addressed comments and questions from other Bureau members. Among the key issues highlighted by the rapporteurs were the refugee and migrant crisis, transnational terrorism, the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, climate change, and corruption.

Secretary General Roberto Montella reported on his recent activities, focusing in particular on the internal reforms that he has introduced to the International Secretariat since assuming his post in January. He noted, *inter alia*, that he has developed staff rules and regulations, in co-operation with

colleagues in Copenhagen and Vienna, which embody the fundamental conditions of service and the basic rights, duties and obligations of Secretariat staff. He stressed his hopes that the new regulations will better enable the staff to focus on supporting Members in their work.

The Bureau heard reports on the Assembly's recent election observation mission to Kazakhstan and a report by OSCE PA Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany), who presented the OSCE PA's draft budget for fiscal year 2016/2017. Barnett also reported on preparations for the seminar Germany is hosting this weekend, entitled "Opportunities for the OSCE PA and its members to contribute extensively to OSCE measures for breaking the conflict cycle – focusing in particular on protracted conflicts."

The Speaker of the Georgian Parliament and Head of the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE PA, David Usupashvili, reported on the preparations underway for the hosting of the 25th Annual Session in Tbilisi on 1-5 July 2016, and looked forward to welcoming participants from all OSCE participating States. Vladimir Gjorcev provided an update on his parliament's preparations for the PA's 15th Autumn Meeting, scheduled for 29 September to 2 October in Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Bureau also heard reports from Special Representatives regarding their work and future projects. OSCE PA Vice-President Lord Peter Bowness (United Kingdom) presented ideas being developed related to possible changes in the Rules of Procedure and working practices of the PA.

The Assembly holds its spring Bureau meeting every year at the Danish Parliament (Folketinget).

Danish parliamentarians debate OSCE with Foreign Minister

Lawmakers from seven parties participated in a debate in the Danish Parliament on Tuesday dedicated to the OSCE and Danish engagement with the organization. All parties had the opportunity to respond to a written report, after which Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen in turn answered parliamentarians' questions. OSCE work related to the crisis in and around Ukraine were among the topics featured in the report and the discussion.

Several Members of the Danish delegation to the OSCE PA, including Head of Delegation Peter Juel Jensen, engaged actively in the discussion. Parliamentarians voiced broad support for the work of the OSCE, and noted the important contribution that Denmark provides to the organization by hosting the Parliamentary Assembly's Secretariat. Jensen thanked parliamentarians for their personal engagement in OSCE work, particularly in the field of election observation.