

President Kanerva addresses NATO Parliamentary Assembly



OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) addressed the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 60th Annual Session in The Hague on 24 November, stressing that it is first and foremost up to Russia to take immediate, concrete steps towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine and

advocating continued co-operation between the two PAs.

"Key OSCE commitments have been swept aside [during the Ukraine conflict]. The territorial integrity and sovereignty of one of the OSCE's participating States has been violated," Kanerva said.

"I urge all parties to honor their ceasefire commitments strictly and to implement in their entirety the measures agreed upon in the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum. Having said that, the ball is clearly in Russia's court. In order to move forward towards a peaceful resolution of this crisis, Russia must withdraw all forces and equipment from

Ukraine and away from its border and end its support for separatist forces," he continued.

The OSCE PA President also referred to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE's founding document, in commenting on recent public statements by Russian officials in which they have called for guarantees that Ukraine will not pursue NATO membership. The first in the Final Act's decalogue of core principles states that OSCE participating States "have the right to belong or not to belong to international organizations."

"Simply put, it's up to Ukraine and no one else," Kanerva said.

Before parliamentarians from NATO's 28 member countries, Kanerva also urged the international community to work toward restoring "a sense of common purpose and security that goes beyond just blocs."

He also called for continued active co-operation between the NATO PA and OSCE PA, highlighting the Assemblies' successful collaboration in election observation and underscoring the importance of both bodies in providing democratic legitimacy to their respective organizations' work.

OSCE PA prepares for next Helsinki +40 seminar in Stockholm



L to R: Goran Lennmarker, SIPRI Chairman Emeritus; Oliver Chepurina; Natalia Evtikhevich, Program Manager at RIAC

OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Programme Officer Maria Chepurina visited the offices of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 25-26 November to discuss preparations for the third seminar in the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project, to be hosted by SIPRI in March 2015. The OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project is a series of international seminars at leading think-tanks that bring together diplomats, politicians and scholars to evaluate the OSCE's past and inspire reform ahead of the 40th anniversary of the Organization's founding document, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

Participants in the meeting included Kent Harstedt, OSCE PA Vice-President and Member of the SIPRI Helsinki +40 Advisory Board; Margareta Cederfelt, member of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA; SIPRI Interim Director Ian Anthony; SIPRI Chairman Emeritus and former OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker; representatives of the think-tanks partnering on the project (RIAC and FIIA); Olof Kleberg, Vice-Chairman of the Swedish OSCE Network; and other experts.

The Helsinki + 40 Project's second seminar was hosted by The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) on 18 November in Washington. The Project's opening seminar was hosted by RIAC on 25 September in Moscow. The Project will culminate in a final Colloquium organized by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Finlandia Hall, the site of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. The final Colloquium will be held in July 2015, prior to the 24th PA Annual Session. The Helsinki +40 Project is chaired by Joao Soares (MP, Portugal) and OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) and is co-ordinated by Oliver and Chepurina.

On 26 November Amb. Peter Burkhard, the Head of the OSCE Mission in Serbia, and Walburga Habsburg Douglas, former OSCE PA Vice-President, led a roundtable discussion on the role and future of OSCE field missions.

While in Stockholm, Oliver and Chepurina also met with several members of the newly appointed Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA. PA Vice-President Kent Harstedt was joined by fellow Swedish MPs Arhe Hamednaca, Goran Pettersson, Anna Wallen and Ann-Christin Ahlberg at the meeting. Topics of discussion included preparations for the SIPRI seminar, next week's OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, the work of the International Secretariat and its staff and the PA's election observation mission to Moldova. Secretary General Oliver thanked the Delegation for Sweden's active participation in PA activities and invited it to visit the OSCE PA's Headquarters in Copenhagen.