

News from Copenhagen

PA President Muttonen meets with Belarusian President Lukashenko in Minsk



OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) met last week in Minsk with President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei, and Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly Vladimir Andreichenko. In her meeting on 16 February with the Belarusian President, Muttonen welcomed

the active engagement of Belarus in the OSCE PA, and expressed gratitude for the intensive efforts underway in Minsk in preparation for the Assembly's 26th Annual Session taking place in Minsk on 5-9 July.

Muttonen further expressed appreciation for the leading role that Belarus has played in facilitating a peaceful settlement of Ukraine crisis. Underlining the importance of implementing all OSCE commitments, she welcomed Belarus's continuing dialogue on electoral reform in line with OSCE recommendations. Muttonen also raised the issue of ongoing demonstrations in Belarus and related arrests. She took note of and expressed appreciation for the Belarusian leadership's reassurances that authorities will show restraint and respect for the rule of law in response to the protests.

In Chisinau and Tiraspol, Dade urges results in Transdniestrian settlement process



Concluding a three-day visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol on Wednesday, Arta Dade (MP, Albania), Chair of the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, called for concrete results in the Transdniestrian settlement process.

In Chisinau, Dade met with President Igor Dodon, Speaker Andrian Candu, Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Balan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Daniela Morari, and the Delegation of Moldova to the OSCE PA led by Serghei Sirbu. In Tiraspol, she held talks with the Chairman of the Transdniestrian legislature, Alexander Shcherba, and Chief Negotiator Vitaly Ignatiev. She encouraged interlocutors to live up to commitments made in the June 2016 Berlin Protocol and the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Council Statement.

The visit was supported by OSCE PA Programme Officer Loic Poulain, working closely with the Parliament of Moldova and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

OSCE PA First Committee Rapporteur Cederfelt visits International Secretariat

In a visit to the International Secretariat, OSCE PA First Committee Rapporteur Margareta Cederfelt (MP, Sweden) met on Monday with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Semyon Dzakhaev, and a number of other staff members for discussions on OSCE PA activities, with a particular focus on the ongoing work of the First Committee. Montella briefed Cederfelt on OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen's visit to Minsk on 15-17 March and the preparations taking place in the Belarusian capital for the upcoming Annual Session.

Cederfelt also met with Head of Communications and Press



Nat Parry, Head of Administration for Election Observation Iryna Sabashuk, and Programme Officer Farimah Daftary, for discussions on OSCE PA work, including election observation and the activities of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

OSCE PA staff members in Bishkek for 2018 Autumn Meeting preparation

OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge and Presidential Advisor Maria Chepurina are in Bishkek this week for the International Secretariat's first evaluation visit in preparation for the 2018 Autumn Meeting. Holding discussions with representatives of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan (Jogorku

Kenesh), including members of the parliament's organizing committee, the OSCE PA team is discussing the logistical and organizational aspects of the meeting, including its general programme and possible dates for the meeting.

The PA staff members will also visit the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on Thursday.