

# News from Copenhagen

## OSCE PA Bureau to meet at Danish Parliament in Copenhagen



The Danish Parliament (Folketinget)

The leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will meet in the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) next week for its spring Bureau meeting to discuss ongoing work, with a particular focus on the upcoming Annual Session in Minsk.

Hosted by Peter Juel Jensen, Head of the OSCE PA's Danish Delegation, the meeting on 24 April will include reports by PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria), Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany), and Secretary General Roberto Montella. Montella will brief the Bureau on his recent activities, including a meeting held with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in Vienna earlier this month.

Rapporteurs of the OSCE PA's General Committees will present draft reports and resolutions for the 26th Annual

Session followed by debates. In the coming weeks, following edits made by the rapporteurs, the draft reports and resolutions will be distributed and posted at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org) and the draft resolutions will be opened for amendments ahead of the Annual Session. (Deadlines are provided below.)

Additional topics of discussion will include OSCE PA election observation activities, the work of the ad hoc committees and special representatives, and information on upcoming meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2017, including the 26th Annual Session on 5-9 July and the 16th Autumn Meeting on 3-5 October in Andorra la Vella, as well as meetings scheduled for 2018.

### Minsk Annual Session deadlines

Delegations are requested to register for the 26th Annual Session by **30 May 2017**. Supplementary items must be received by **31 May**. Amendments to the three General Committee Draft Resolutions must be received no later than **21 June**, and amendments to supplementary items by **28 June**. Delegations are kindly advised to take note of changes to the PA's Rules of Procedure for amendments and supplementary items, adopted earlier this year.

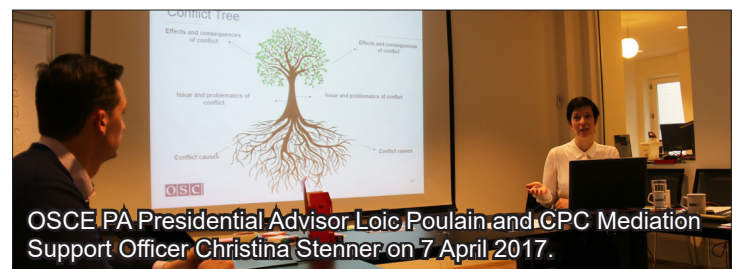
## Training seminar strengthens PA staff capacity to support conflict mediation

Representatives from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre conducted a day-long conflict mediation training seminar on 7 April at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, involving the participation of 15 PA staff members. CPC Mediation Support Officers Meeri-Maria Jaarva and Christina Stenner presented a detailed overview of the OSCE's conflict analysis and mediation tools, with a particular focus on potential roles and "entry points" for the PA and parliamentarians.

Jaarva and Stenner noted that members of parliament are well suited to assist in various stages of mediating conflicts, including early warning and dialogue facilitation. Pointing out that parliamentarians can serve a vital role in adding support to the sometimes shaky foundations of settlement processes, the CPC officers warned that there is also a negative potential for parliamentarians to engage in rhetoric that can undermine reconciliation. It is important, Jaarva and Stenner said, for those engaged in mediation to use language that reinforces mutual understanding.

The 7 April training included breakout working group sessions focused on regional issues and provided tools for developing mediation skills such as active listening, paraphrasing, and reframing.

The seminar followed a number of initiatives that the PA has undertaken in recent years to enhance its capacity in conflict



analysis and mediation, stemming from a resolution adopted at the 2014 OSCE PA Annual Session in Baku, which tasked the OSCE PA Secretary General with developing possible contributions of the Assembly in responding to emerging crisis and conflict situations. Another resolution, adopted at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi, welcomed the role of the OSCE PA in strengthening dialogue facilitation in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Last year, OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria) appointed Finnish parliamentarian and President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva as the PA's Special Representative on Mediation, with a mandate to act as the primary point of contact within the PA on mediation and the conflict cycle. Also last year, the CPC and the Finnish Parliament held a retreat in Helsinki for the PA on the topic of mediation, which included the participation of several OSCE parliamentarians.