**OSCE PA Press Release**

**Proposals would have OSCE take on larger role in managing refugees, migration**

COPENHAGEN, 28 June 2011--The Arab uprisings in North Africa -- with more than a million refugees leaving their home countries -- has created a migration challenge that requires greatly enhanced international coordination, Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier(MP, Netherlands) said today upon introducing a resolution to address the urgent migration issues.

OSCE partners for cooperation Tunisia and Egypt have taken in almost one million people from Libya since February. More than 40,000 people have fled North Africa for Italy, often enduring trips on over-packed boats fraught with danger.

Ferrier's resolution, co-sponsored 37 MPs from 15 countries, calls on governments to coordinate migration policies and proposes the OSCE create a network of national focal points on migration in each country, similar to the network in place that has increased international cooperation addressing human trafficking. The proposal also recommends the OSCE, its field missions and participating States collect migration data and promote the exchange of that information.

"Without regionally collected migration data and internationally coordinated policies our governments are flying blind," Ferrier said. "Under my plan our countries will no longer enact policies in a vacuum, unaware of what a neighbor in the wider region is doing or the effect a new law would have on migration flows."

Another resolution pending in the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions would call on the OSCE Ministerial Council to consider establishing rapid-reaction missions to coordinate responses to international crises, such as, mass migration movements.

"We have seen the strength of the OSCE field missions in conflict zones before, so I hope the foreign ministers will seriously consider taking the organization to the next level on human rights and see fit to be more involved on the ground where our organization is needed most," said Matteo Mecacci (Italy), the committee rapporteur who drafted the resolution.

The resolutions will be considered for inclusion in the Assembly’s Belgrade Declaration, which helps shape OSCE and national policy. Parliamentarians from more than 50 participating OSCE countries will vote on the resolution and declaration in Belgrade.

The Belgrade Annual Session, including committee debates and votes, are open to the press and public. The session runs 6-10 July 2011. For more information on the Annual Session, click [here](http://www.oscepa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1006:twentieth-annual-session-belgrade-2011&catid=36:annual-sessions&Itemid=64).

*The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is comprised of 320 parliamentarians from 55 countries spanning, Europe, Central Asia and North America. The Assembly provides a forum for parliamentary diplomacy, monitors elections, and strengthens international cooperation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.*

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