

VISIT UNDER EU PRESIDENCY

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA

The meeting organised by H. E. Maria Assunta Accili, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organisations in Vienna, who cordially welcomed us to Palazzo Metternich, the residence of the Italian Ambassador to Austria, was particularly interesting. The statements made provided us with information and news enabling us to become better acquainted with the work done by the high representatives of the International Organisations, in the presence of the European ambassadors to those organisations.

Director Christophe Xerri, of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Disposal department at the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) pointed out that the Agency worked with 170 states and that among the priorities there were also nuclear applications in the field of science, known as 'atomic science in peaceful applications', which helped countries with various technologies and in developing appropriate infrastructure.

In considering the 2030 Agenda, Mr Stefano Bologna, Special Advisor to the Director General, UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation), stressed the importance of implementing an inclusive kind of industrial development that took environmental impact into account,

by using efficient energy and organising exchanges of experiences between developed countries and developing countries.

Director Patrick Grenard, of the CTBTO (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation), called for his organisation to become more widely known, on the basis of the treaty banning all nuclear explosions on earth for both military and peaceful purposes. He announced that several states had failed to ratify the treaty and spoke of the alerts launched by CTBTO monitoring stations when an unusual seismic event was detected indicating that nuclear tests were being conducted in the area (such as in North Korea in 2017).

Mr Giovanni Gallo, Senior Legal Advisor, UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), pointed out that in 1997 the UN Secretary General had established an office for drug control and crime prevention which was designed to take over the roles and obligations of all the bodies involved in crime fighting. It was renamed the UNODC in 2002. The three main pillars of its work programme are: drugs (alternative development and monitoring of illegal crops; combating drug trafficking; prevention, treatment and rehabilitation with regard to drug consumption and HIV/AIDS); crime (organised crime, including the trafficking of persons, migrant

smuggling and firearms; corruption, money laundering and economic crimes; reform of justice and prisons; and terrorism (prevention). Mandates are established by international treaties (to set global standards) and are delivered through political analysis (to understand the problem) and technical cooperation (to address the problem). In 2017, UNODC's total budget was USD 373.7

million, 95% of which was covered by voluntary contributions from member countries, bearing in mind that the European Union was the third largest donor (USD 63 million). It has been involved in substantial legislative activity ranging from prevention – of crime and corruption – to rehabilitation, regarding the transformation of countries and regions based on analysis, research and technical cooperation.

Lastly, Mr Ian Freeman, Office of the Director, UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs), reported on international cooperation for peaceful purposes and space exploration and on the use of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development: the Office helped member countries to establish legal and regulatory frameworks to govern space activities and improve developing countries' ability to use space technology and applications. At present there are some 1800 satellites passing through space, compared to around 550 in 2017; they are all required to register with the United Nations.



FMA Delegation with representatives of the International Organisations

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FMA VISIT TO AUSTRIA

The FMA Board member Lord Richard Balfe led an FMA delegation composed of 24 former MEPs from twelve EU countries and four European political families (EPP-ED, Socialists, Liberals and Greens), that visited Austria from 28 to 30 October on the occasion of the Presidency of the Council of the EU. The FMA in co-operation with the Austrian Association of former parliamentarians set up a programme aimed at evaluating progress towards achievements of the EU Presidency. It included official meetings with Parliament, government and international organisations' representatives, as well as an open debate with university students. The programme started with a meeting of the delegation with the Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mr Thomas Greminger, who stated: "The OSCE is the platform for inclusive dialogue addressing a broad range of security issues in the Euroatlantic and Eurasian area". There has been some discussions on the major challenges to security in Europe, with an emphasis to the efforts still needed



FMA Delegation with Ms Karoline Edtstadler, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior



FMA Delegation during the meeting with Austrian parliamentarians

to achieve comprehensive ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine. A special session was devoted to the important work carried out by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the field of election observation and its follow-up actions. Mr Richard Lappin,

Deputy Head of the ODIHR stated: "Since 1996, we have observed over 350 elections, in 56 of our 57 participating States. This includes to EU member states, as well as those looking to accede to, or enhance partnerships with, the EU". The series of meetings were concluded by interesting and stimulating exchanges with representatives of the different international organisations kindly invited by H.E. Maria Assunta Accili Sabbatini, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, to meet the whole FMA delegation at the Palais Metternich. The discussion proved the importance of the existence of these institutions and the need for further support by the international community.



A moment during the meeting with Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)