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President Tsereteli's address to PACE highlights areas of co-operation



George Tsereteli and PACE President Stella Kyriakides, Copenhagen, 24 Nov. 2017

In his first address as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President, George Tsereteli (Georgia) spoke on 24 November at the Standing Committee meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Copenhagen. Noting the role that the OSCE and Council of

Europe have historically played in the transformation of Europe, President Tsereteli urged continued dialogue and a creative approach to strengthen international co-operation.

Tsereteli highlighted a number of new and enduring challenges requiring greater attention, including growing

political and social tensions both within and between countries, as well as ongoing conflicts, radicalization, terrorism, populism, cybersecurity, migration, and organized crime.

He also met with PACE President Stella Kyriakides and discussed projects for further OSCE PA-PACE co-operation.

Tsereteli's visit to Copenhagen included discussions with OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff about ongoing work and upcoming activities, including next week's OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna. Tsereteli will address the opening session of the Ministerial Council on 7 December.

Following the President's Copenhagen visit, Montella visited Tbilisi for meetings today with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Speaker of Parliament Irakli Kobakhidze, and local authorities, as well as representatives of the international community. Topics of discussion include a review of OSCE priorities as well as domestic and international co-ordination to best support Tsereteli's presidency.

In Permanent Council remarks, Lombardi stresses OSCE's role on migration

OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Chair Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 23 November, stressing the importance of addressing the root causes of migration, which he said include conflicts, poverty, the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. He urged ambassadors to consider the added value of the OSCE as a forum for holding this discussion.

"We must indeed strive to move beyond short-term emergency responses towards long-term and sustainable migration policies to create the appropriate conditions – in terms of peace, security, the environment, economic development, democracy and human rights – for preventing sudden and uncontrolled migration flows," he said.

Parliamentarians, Lombardi noted, also have the additional responsibility of urging policymakers at the regional and global levels to honestly assess the political mistakes of recent



Filippo Lombardi addresses Permanent Council, 23 Nov. 2017.

years that have resulted in the destabilization of many African and Middle Eastern countries.

While in Vienna, in his capacity as Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Lombardi also met with a broad range of high-level OSCE officials dealing with these issues. His visit was supported by the staff of the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office, as well as Gustavo Pallares and Farimah Daftary from the Copenhagen Secretariat.

Guliyev speaks on election observation in Vienna

OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) participated Tuesday in a seminar organized by OSCE/ODIHR in Vienna on election observation and the role of technology. Discussing a range



Azay Guliyev in Vienna, 28 Nov. 2017

of challenges related to democracy in the OSCE area, Guliyev warned against becoming complacent and stressed that "efforts at democracy will unavoidably fail if we do not have an informed society." He also raised issues related to voter turnout and confidence in electoral systems.

Birchall speaks on counter-terrorism in Milan

Speaking at an event in Milan Tuesday, Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism member Ana Birchall (Romania) said that promoting human rights is an essential component of counter-terrorism. She also highlighted



Ana Birchall in Milan, 28 Nov. 2017

the OSCE PA's work on counter-terrorism. Birchall was joined by Roberto Montella and Francesco Pagani from the International Secretariat, as well as OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), who was elected in Milan as President of Parliamentarians for Global Action.