

News from Copenhagen

Tsereteli meets incoming CiO in Bratislava, speaks in Vienna and Geneva

Addressing the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna last week, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) said that through dialogue, progress can be made in these times of uncertainty and instability. It is an integral duty of the OSCE to ensure that democracy and the rule of law are respected in all participating States, Tsereteli said, stressing that the PA takes this responsibility seriously.

From Vienna, President Tsereteli travelled to Bratislava, where he and Secretary General Roberto Montella met with the Speaker of the National Council, Andrej Danko; the incoming OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajcak, State Secretary Lukas Parizek; and the Slovak Delegation to the OSCE PA led by Petr Osusky.

In discussions, President Tsereteli highlighted the need for the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE to continue working hand-in-hand to maximize the impact of



the Organization amidst a challenging security environment and offered the full range of PA tools to promote the OSCE agenda.

This week, President Tsereteli spoke at the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, Switzerland, underlining the importance of enhanced co-operation between the IPU and OSCE PA.

OSCE MPs debate future of election observation at European Parliament

Led by Vice-President Isabel Santos (Portugal), an OSCE PA delegation participated on 11 October at a high-level conference on the Future of Election Observation in Brussels.

Senior participants of the OSCE PA included Secretary General Roberto Montella, Vice-Presidents Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Victor Dobre (Romania), as well as Barbara Bartus and Lucian Romascanu, the Heads of the Polish and Romanian delegations to the OSCE PA, respectively.

Speaking on the topic of parliamentary observation, Santos emphasized that the OSCE PA's balanced approach of observing in both consolidated and developing democracies helps to reinforce that election observation should be seen as an opportunity to strengthen all democracies. She also underlined the advantages of parliamentary work in observation, stressing the transparency brought by public officials.

Montella, while recognizing the importance of a strict code



of conduct for parliamentary observers in order to preserve the integrity of election observation, encouraged civil servants and experts to exercise maximum independence and called for a more transparent and accountable policy of recruitment of the experts involved in electoral assessments.

The conference was organized by the European Parliament and included broad participation by international organizations, parliamentarians and civil society representatives.

Hoxha participates in EEDIM in Vienna



OSCE PA Second Committee Rapporteur Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania) attended the 2018 OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna on 15-16 October. While in Vienna, she met colleagues

from the OSCE's governmental side and discussed future work in the second dimension with staff from the PA's Liaison Office.

Kanerva addresses Astana conference

Speaking at the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10 October, OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediation Ilkka Kanerva (Finland) discussed his work to strengthen the PA's mediation efforts. Regardless of the type of conflict, he said, an inclusive approach to peace-building and mediation is essential. This requires involvement of a wide range of actors, including non-governmental actors, civil society and religious figures, he said, stressing the importance of promoting gender equality and participation of women. Kanerva is also President Emeritus of the Assembly.