

News from Copenhagen

Madrid conference focuses on victims of terrorism

Members of the OSCE PA and its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism participated on 15-16 November in a conference dedicated to the Victims of Terrorism, organized within the sphere of the OSCE PA and hosted by the Spanish Senate. Addressing the opening session, Ad Hoc Committee Chair Makis Voridis (Greece) stressed that “We must never forget the tens of thousands of people who have been injured, traumatized or lost their lives during terrorist attacks,” emphasizing that the extreme sacrifice of the victims has empowered countries to become more resilient against the terrorist threat.

In his opening remarks to the conference, Committee Member Ignacio Cosidó Gutiérrez said that terrorism has generated much suffering and cut short many lives and dreams in Spain and other countries, but noted that fighting terrorism has made Spanish society stronger and more united in defence of democracy and freedom. The two-day conference saw active participation by the Head of the Spanish Delegation to the OSCE PA Pere Joan Pons, and Vice-Chair of the Spanish Senate Pedro María Sanz Alonso, and a wide range of Members of the OSCE PA and of the Spanish Parliament.

The conference explored topics such as support to victims



Voridis and Cosido addressed the opening session, in the Spanish parliament, 15 November

of terrorism in Spain and across the OSCE, and the Spanish experience in the fight against terrorism.

Representatives of victims shared experiences of suffering terrorist attacks and discussed their personal situations and their experiences with authorities and public administrations. Security experts from police corps also participated, explaining how their departments manage the fight against terrorism, as well as the problems they face, the way they confront threats, and how they organize their actions and institutions.

From the International Secretariat the conference was supported by Gustavo Pallares and Marco Bonabello.

President Tsereteli leads high-level visit to Central Asia



President Tsereteli, together with Senate Chairman Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, 19 November

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and Special Representative on Central Asia, Austrian parliamentarian Roman Haider were in Astana, Kazakhstan on 19 and 20 November for a series of high-level meetings before continuing to Tashkent, Uzbekistan today. In Tashkent, the delegation was joined by the Chair of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland).

In Kazakhstan the delegation particularly highlighted that the country has continued to demonstrate its unconditional commitment to the OSCE PA's work through continuous engagement in Assembly activities. The delegation met with the Chairman of the Senate and Head of Kazakhstan's Delegation to the OSCE PA, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Chairman of the Mazhilis, Nurlan Nigmatulin, Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov, the Chairman of the Supreme Court, Zhakyp Assanov, the Minister of Interior and senior officials at the



The delegation is briefed by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, 21 November

Prosecutor General's Office, as well as Ambassador Gyorgy Szabo and the staff of the Programme Office in Astana as well as representatives from civil society.

In Uzbekistan the delegation met with Senate Chairman Nigmatilla Yuldashev, Legislative Council Deputy Speaker Savar Otamuratov, and Members of the Delegation of Uzbekistan to the OSCE PA, Headed by Senate Deputy Chairperson Svetlana Artikova as well as senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions focused on regional co-operation and security, domestic reforms, human rights protections, water management and environmental challenges, and the fight against terrorism. President Tsereteli and the delegation highlighted the strong contribution being made by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador John MacGregor, and his office.

From the International Secretariat, the delegation is supported by Semyon Dzakhayev and Farimah Daftary.