

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 748

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat [@oscepa](https://twitter.com/oscepa)

22 May 2019

PA leaders explore local and global impact of climate change in Arctic visit



Several members of the OSCE PA are on a study visit to Norway this week where they are focusing on the impact of global warming and the changing nature of the Arctic region. In Svalbard, one of the world's northernmost inhabited areas, OSCE parliamentarians explored new local realities in the High North, how warming in the Arctic affects the planet's climate, and considered security risks posed by climate change for the entire OSCE region.

Hosted by the Norwegian parliament, the PA delegation includes President George Tsereteli, Second Committee Chair Nilza de Sena and Rapporteur Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, and Secretary General Roberto Montella. It was joined north of the Arctic Circle by the Delegation of Norway to the OSCE PA, headed by Siv Mossleth.

In a series of seminars in Tromsø, northern Norway, and Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Members were sensitized to the severe disruptions to the Arctic environment caused by a rise of temperatures in the region. They also discussed ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the High North.

Throughout the visit, participants were briefed on Arctic exploration, satellite observation, and other environmental research efforts undertaken to understand climate change and its impact on the Arctic region. Experts and scientists underlined the urgency to curb global greenhouse-gas

emissions in order to limit the effects of climate change.

The visit will inform debates on the theme of "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments" at the OSCE PA's Annual Session in Luxembourg (4-8 July 2019). Discussions will complement the PA's engagement on Arctic issues and are expected to offer an avenue for greater international co-operation and dialogue to respond to security, economic and environmental concerns specific to the Arctic region.

The visit continues later this week with meetings in Oslo, where President Tsereteli and his delegation will hold talks with Storting President Tone Trøen, Minister for Climate and Environment Ola Elvestuen, and Foreign Affairs State Secretary Marianne Hagen.



Media registration open for the OSCE PA's 28th Annual Session in Luxembourg



Registration is open for members of the media interested in covering the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 28th Annual Session, taking place on 4-8 July 2019 in Luxembourg.

Under the general theme of "Advancing Sustainable

Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments," the Annual Session will bring together some 300 parliamentarians from North America, Europe and Asia to debate and adopt resolutions on today's most pressing challenges in the areas of security, human rights, economics and the environment. It will include high-level speeches from national leaders in Luxembourg and OSCE officials.

The venue of the session is the European Convention Center, Luxembourg 4, Place de l'Europe, Luxembourg-Kirchberg.

Members of the media who wish to cover the OSCE PA's Annual Session in Luxembourg are asked to register by 26 June. Downloadable press registration forms are available at www.oscepa.org.