

President Tsereteli stresses PA support for Ukraine, urges ceasefire



President Tsereteli, SG Montella meet with the OSCE's Chief Monitor in Ukraine, Ertugrul Apakan

Meeting with officials in Kyiv on 18 and 19 January, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli reiterated the steadfast support of the Parliamentary Assembly for Ukraine's territorial integrity, within its internationally-recognized borders, and renewed calls to reach a sustained ceasefire.

Tsereteli held a range of high-level meetings including with the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy, the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya, and Members

of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA. Tsereteli also met with the Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Kostiantyn Yelisieiev, representatives from the international community, Ad Interim UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF Representative, Giovanna Barberis, as well as Chief Monitor Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan and staff of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

"With hostilities taking place daily, we have to step up efforts to create a safe environment for the people in the Donbas. The human cost of the conflict is simply unbearable," said Mr. Tsereteli.

President Tsereteli reiterated his strong support for the work of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, welcoming it as a critical stabilizing force. He expressed his hope that the Mission will be granted all necessary funds and security guarantees, as well as full access to Ukrainian territory, including everywhere along the border with Russia.

President Tsereteli was accompanied in Kyiv by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Special Representative Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, and Presidential Advisor Loic Poulain.

Harstedt calls for democratic reforms, welcomes Belarus' constructive international role

Concluding three days of meetings in Belarus, the PA's Special Representative on Eastern Europe Kent Harstedt called today for increased efforts on reforms within the country while welcoming the active engagement of the country in international affairs and mediation.

In his first official visit as Special Representative on Eastern Europe, Harstedt met with the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko; the Chairman of the House of Representatives, Vladimir Andreichenko; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vladimir Makei; the Chairperson of the Central Election

Commission, Lidia Yermoshina, and other officials. He also met with political opposition forces, and representatives from civil society and the international community in Minsk.

"Belarus' capital, Minsk, has become almost synonymous with efforts to address major international crises, whether it's the crisis in and around Ukraine or the Nagorno Karabakh conflict," said Harstedt. "With the country making such contributions internationally, I call on the authorities to also prioritize democratic reforms that will help ensure all Belarusians have a full voice in their governance."

Sena encourages sustainability through digital economy at OSCE forum



The Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, Nilza de Sena, yesterday addressed the first preparatory meeting of the OSCE's 26th Economic and Environmental Forum.

Sena stressed that digitalization and information technologies have becoming an integral and indispensable part of everyday life. Noting that a typical day entails some 207 billion emails, 36 million Amazon purchase and 4.2 billion Google searches, she reminded participants of the OSCE PA's Minsk Declaration's focus on the need to address technological evolution and digitalization at both the national and international levels.

Norwegian delegation visits PA headquarters

Members of the newly appointed delegation of Norway to the OSCE PA paid a working visit to the OSCE PA's headquarters in Copenhagen, Monday 22 January. Led by Head of Delegation, Ms. Siv Mossleth, the visit provided an opportunity for Secretary General Roberto Montella and International Secretariat staff to brief the delegation on the Assembly's structure, working methods and activities.



Siv Mossleth and the Norwegian delegation meet with SG Montella and team