

News from Copenhagen

MPs address ethnic conflict prevention at Berlin seminar



Participants at Leinsweiler IV Seminar, 12 July 2018

An OSCE PA seminar held last week in Berlin focused on how to prevent ethnic conflicts through law and the exchange of best practices, notably through the protection of national minorities and accommodating ethnic diversity. The participants discussed in an informal setting the central role that parliamentarians can play in forming government policy towards national minorities and in promoting legislation that can protect the rights of national minorities.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) opened the seminar on 11 July, noting that entrenched positions and nationalist rhetoric as well as unilateral actions which

run contrary to the founding principles of the OSCE have threatened to undermine trust in the Organization's ability to find common ground.

Bringing together more than 20 Members of Parliament from 12 countries, the 'Leinsweiler seminar' included the participation of German parliamentarians representing areas where minorities live, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities, as well as representatives from the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and a number of minority associations.

The seminar, entitled "Addressing potential ethnic conflicts through law and good practices," was the fourth of a series of seminars organized by the Delegation of Germany to the OSCE PA and supported by the German Foreign Ministry. Secretary General Roberto Montella and the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, also participated in the seminar, which was supported by several other staff members from the International Secretariat.

In Ukraine, Special Rep on Gender Issues links gender equality to reform efforts

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) visited Kyiv last week, where she underlined the need for greater equality between women and men to advance Ukraine's reform agenda and conflict-resolution efforts. Discussions focused on the participation of women in public life, domestic violence, and how the conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated human trafficking in the country, including trafficking of women for sexual and labour exploitation.

Fry met with Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ivanna Klymush-Tsyntsadze, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Tetyana Kovalchuk, Deputy Minister of Social Policy Natalia Fedorovych, and the Ombudsman of Ukraine, Liudmyla Denisova. She also met with representatives of the parliamentary caucus "Equal Rights," the Office of the Government Commissioner for



Tetyana Kovalchuk and Hedy Fry in Kyiv, 12 July 2018.

Gender Policy, and non-governmental organizations.

As part of her visit, Fry held a meeting with the Head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, Amb. Ertugrul Apakan, and his Deputy Aleska Simkic. Fry's visit was supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Canadian Embassy.

Tsereteli speaks at Udine conference on national minorities in inter-state relations



George Tsereteli participating in Udine conference, 16 July 2018.

Participating in a conference in Udine, Italy, on Monday marking the 10th anniversary of the OSCE High Commissioner's Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on

National Minorities in Inter-State Relations, President George Tsereteli outlined the various instruments at the disposal of the PA, such as Special Representatives and presidential visits, and highlighted the flexibility of parliamentarians.

He spoke at a panel discussion on the role of multilateral institutions, noting that the PA strongly supports the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations and promotes them among its members, recalling a seminar organized by the Italian OSCE PA delegation in Bolzano in May 2011.

Farimah Daftary from the Secretariat supported the visit.