

News from Copenhagen

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In Rome, President Tsereteli builds co-operation with Italian OSCE Chairmanship



George Tsereteli and Enzo Moavero Milanesi in Rome, 14 Sept.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) was in Italy last week, meeting with high-level officials for discussions on a range of topics. The visit to Rome on 13-14 September was intended to ensure close co-ordination with the Italian Chairmanship under the leadership of Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Enzo Moavero Milanesi, most notably exercised through close interaction of the

International Secretariat with the Permanent Delegation of Italy in Vienna led by Amb. Alessandro Azzoni.

In Rome, Tsereteli and Montella met with the President of the Senate, Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati; Vice-President of the Senate, Paola Taverna; President of the Chamber of Deputies, Roberto Fico; Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Interior, Nicola Molteni, as well as leaders of government and opposition parties.

President Tsereteli emphasized the importance of building on shared needs and experiences, and highlighted the importance that the PA attaches to the Mediterranean dimension. He noted the positive role played by the Italian Chair in promoting greater synergy between the parliamentary and governmental structures of the Organization.

Montella welcomed the active contribution of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA in all fields, noting the strong representation over the years in the Assembly's leadership.

Electoral reforms, regional security focus of President Tsereteli's visit to Armenia



George Tsereteli meets Armenian President Armen Sarkissian, Yerevan, 12 Sept.

In his first presidential visit to Armenia since being elected to the position at the Annual Session in July, President George Tsereteli visited Yerevan on 11-12 September, welcoming the ongoing efforts to implement electoral reforms in the country and urging broad political consensus for any changes to the electoral system. He reiterated the OSCE's and the Parliamentary Assembly's commitment to supporting

Armenia's continued democratic development.

Tsereteli, accompanied by Secretary General Roberto Montella, met with President Armen Sarkissian, Parliament President Ara Babloyan, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, parliamentary leaders, civil society representatives, members of the international community, as well as students and faculty from Yerevan State University.

In meetings, President Tsereteli discussed issues including economic development, electoral reform, anti-corruption efforts, regional relations, and Armenia's work within the OSCE. He reiterated the PA's support for the work of the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs on Nagorno-Karabakh, but stressed that the ultimate responsibility on delivery of concrete results and progress lies with the political leaderships of the parties involved, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

PA continues high-level participation in Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

The OSCE PA has been represented at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in recent days by Vice-Presidents Isabel Santos (Portugal) and Kari Henriksen (Norway), and Third Committee Chair Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), who have spoken at several working sessions of the meeting. At the session on tolerance and non-discrimination, Kiener Nellen noted that parliaments can improve the situation by enacting relevant legislation aimed at combating hate crimes and hate speech, and promoting equal rights and opportunities.

Santos spoke on the rights of migrants, noting that the main question is whether we will be able to meet together the challenges of increased migration flows and continue to honor the commitments made globally. In working sessions

on fundamental freedoms, rights of migrants, and human trafficking, Henriksen focused on promoting opportunities and protections for women and children.

Last week, President Tsereteli and Third Committee Rapporteur Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) participated in the opening session and the first three working sessions.



Kari Henriksen addresses the HDIM in Warsaw, 18 Sept.