

# News from Copenhagen

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## High-level PA participation at Human Dimension Implementation Meeting



President Tsereteli delivers opening remarks at HDIM, 10 Sept.

In an address Monday at the opening of the OSCE/ODIHR's 2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) stressed that open dialogue on controversial issues must continue and opposing views must be allowed to be heard by all in order to successfully work together towards implementing OSCE commitments.

“Our primary goal is to better the lives of the more than one billion people of the OSCE area,” he said. “Our duty is to respond to their desire to live in a free society, where democratic debate is encouraged and not stifled, where journalists are respected and not jailed or killed, where a simple citizen can trust that his or her voice counts and is not discarded.”

President Tsereteli was joined at the HDIM by OSCE PA human rights committee Rapporteur Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), who spoke at Monday's working session on democratic institutions and elections, and again the following day during the session on freedom of the media. In his remarks, Hadjiyianni stressed that the OSCE and civil society must work together to defend journalists from persecution, promote quality journalism and ensure that efforts to address “fake news” comply with international standards for free media.

Ensuring an informed electorate in a democratic society requires that governments refrain from all forms of censorship or intimidation, but also requires higher standards in journalism, he said.

Over the next week and a half, several other OSCE PA Bureau members are expected to participate in various sessions of the HDIM, which takes place 10-21 September.



Kyriakos Hadjiyianni speaks on freedom of the media, 11 Sept.

## Vice-President Guliyev addresses seminar on Afghanistan and Central Asia in Tashkent



Azay Guliyev addresses UN seminar in Tashkent, 12 Sept.

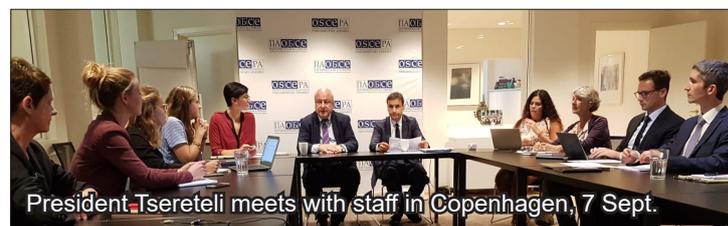
OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) is in Tashkent this week where he spoke Wednesday at a seminar organized by the UN focused on the role of parliaments in engaging Afghanistan into Central Asian co-operation frameworks.

In his speech, Vice-President Guliyev noted that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is well positioned to exert preventive diplomacy. Parliamentarians, he said, can open doors which only politicians can open and the PA has a variety of instruments at its disposal to increase engagement with particular countries or regions and to promote parliamentarism.

Guliyev said that “the entire OSCE family stands ready to continue its support in promoting greater co-operation and integration among the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan.” In Tashkent, Guliyev held meetings with parliamentary leaders and discussed enhancing future co-operation between the PA and the Uzbek Parliament.

## OSCE PA President Tsereteli visits Secretariat, meets with Secretary General and staff

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli visited Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen on 7 September for discussions on upcoming activities. Going over the Assembly's calendar for the next few months, President Tsereteli, Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff discussed ongoing work including next month's Autumn Meeting in Bishkek and a number of upcoming election observation missions. Tsereteli outlined his agenda as President and discussed ideas with staff members on how to ensure that his priorities are implemented.



President Tsereteli meets with staff in Copenhagen, 7 Sept.

The President's busy autumn agenda continues this week with visits to Armenia and Italy.