

OSCE PA issues report on COVID-19-related Parliamentary Web Dialogues



OSCE PA vs COVID-19

Phase 1 (March - July 2020)

Reflections, policy contributions and recommendations presented by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli

A new report, “OSCE PA vs. COVID-19: Reflections, policy contributions and recommendations presented by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli,” is the product of eight Parliamentary Web Dialogues since March dealing with subjects relating to the pandemic’s effects on conflicts in the OSCE area, economic and environmental impacts, human rights and democratic gover-

nance, counter-terrorism, gender issues and more. It features the observations of dozens of experts and parliamentarians who contributed to the events, pointing out that governmental and parliamentary actions during this period will have long-term consequences for public trust in institutions.

Presenting the report Monday, PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) noted that during the COVID-19 crisis, parliamentarians have played an essential role as a link between citizens and their governments, as well as promoting good governance and by enhancing dialogue on the international level.

“Faced with the need to provide a global response to this global crisis, the OSCE PA has encouraged close co-ordination with parliaments at the national and the international levels to promote democratic, effective, and coherent public policy responses, and to address our citizens’ concerns,” writes Tsereteli in an introduction to the report.

The pandemic has underlined the urgency of addressing long-standing challenges facing the OSCE area, including resolving conflicts, promoting environmental sustainability, managing migration, and ensuring democratic resiliency and social cohesion, the report concludes.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella writes in an introduction to the report that to address the crisis effectively, “we need to maintain unity among international actors, avoiding duplication of efforts and investing in each other’s added values to prove that only effective multilateralism will bring about concrete solutions to the current crisis.”

The report is available here: <https://bit.ly/3j0BqfY>

SG Montella addresses OSCE institutional crisis in letter to PA leaders

In a letter Tuesday to Members of the Bureau and the Standing Committee, SG Roberto Montella addressed the institutional crisis affecting the OSCE executive structures and Institutions, recalling that the PA has long urged the OSCE to de-politicize managerial decisions and avoid the misuse of the consensus rule. In light of the crisis, he urged PA leaders to place more value on the OSCE and remain engaged at the highest political level, particularly at this moment of unprecedented global challenges. Read the letter: <https://bit.ly/2WjmfEX>

Special Representative Fry speaks at OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation meeting

Hedy Fry, the OSCE PA’s Special Representative on Gender Issues and Head of the Canadian Delegation, addressed the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group on Monday, speaking on the theme of “Connecting the Tracks. Beyond the official negotiation table: women’s comprehensive contribution to peace processes.”

In her remarks, Dr. Fry emphasized how essential the contribution of women is to peace and security and regretted the slow progress on women’s inclusion in peace-building processes. She highlighted in particular the low levels of women mediators (3%) and negotiators (9%).

Fry spoke generally about gender perspectives and underlined deficiencies exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic,

stressing the need to speed up implementation by governments of the OSCE Gender Action Plan. Finally, Fry urged OSCE participating States to move forward with specific and well-targeted gender strategies, a development she described as beneficial for the entire organization as it would eventually lead to achieving consensus on key gender-related issues.

The online event, organized by the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group chaired by Sweden, included the participation of leaders from civil society, academia and international organizations. It was intended to connect the various tracks of diplomacy, with a focus on how official actors, such as the OSCE, can contribute to informal peace-building processes by supporting women-led mediator networks.

Featured tweets @oscepa

PA President George Tsereteli tweeted on Monday about the recent armed clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

“On behalf of the OSCE PA,” he wrote, “I express deep concern over the ceasefire breach on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border and regret the loss of life. Immediate deescalation and resumption of negotiations through renewed and effective engagement of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and all stakeholders is urgent.”



George Tsereteli @GTsereteli · Jul 13

On behalf of the #OSCEPA, I express deep concern over the #ceasefire breach on the #Azerbaijan-#Armenia border and regret the loss of life. Immediate #Deescalation and resumption of #negotiations through renewed and effective engagement of the #MGCC & all stakeholders is urgent.