

President Tsereteli speaks on the geopolitics of Southeastern Europe in online forum



George Tsereteli addresses the online discussion on "Reflections on the Western Balkans Geopolitics," 9 Nov.

Participating in an online discussion entitled "Reflections on the Western Balkans Geopolitics," OSCE PA President George Tsereteli said on Monday that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are key to delivering true security in

the region. All OSCE participating States have recognized that human rights are inalienable and guaranteed by law, Tsereteli said. The OSCE's comprehensive concept of security acknowledges that protecting and promoting human rights is inextricably linked to the preservation of peace and stability within and between States, he said. The President also discussed the effect of COVID-19 on human rights and civil liberties, noting that parliaments must exercise their oversight powers to ensure that democratic principles are not infringed upon, and stressed that no country is immune from criticism on its human rights record.

Hosted by former OSCE PA member Fatmir Mediu, the event covered topics such as EU and NATO perspective of the Western Balkans, as well as the roles of foreign powers in the region.

US election observation leaders brief European Parliament members



Michael Georg Link addresses the European Parliament committee overseeing election observation, 10 Nov.

In an exchange of views organized by the European Parliament, Michael Georg Link and Kari Henriksen shared observations of the US election that took place last week. Also joining the online forum was Ambassador Urszula Gacek, who led the ODIHR's mission, and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella. Participants highlighted the comprehensive nature of the post-election statement.

Link noted that the PA and ODIHR are continuing to maintain a presence on the ground in the US and are closely following the complaints procedures. He noted that the State Department was cooperative with the observation mission but stressed that work is needed convincing more states to open up to international observers. Nevertheless, he noted that PA observers covered a broad range on election day.

Henriksen mentioned her pre-visit to Michigan and Colorado and stressed that allegations of systematic fraud were baseless. Talk of intimidation appeared to be widespread,



Kari Henriksen speaks about the US election, 10 Nov.

she said, noting that it demonstrated the difficulties of the election. Henriksen also noted that certain groups had difficulties accessing voter registration, including Native Americans, and pointed out that felon voting rights restrictions contravene principles of universal suffrage. She noted that while US has taken great strides in ensuring voting rights, there is still progress to be made.

Gacek provided an overview of the prolonged electoral process with early and postal voting, as well as the post-election period, which is characterized by ongoing allegations and appeals to the courts.

Topics that came up in the discussion included challenges posed by COVID to election administration and how to ensure proper follow-up of recommendations, including the issue of opening states to observation. Voter suppression and foreign interference were other topics of discussion. Montella thanked all participants for their effort and good cooperation.

Featured tweets @oscepa

On Tuesday, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek tweeted about the OSCE PA's participation in a course dedicated to introducing students to the OSCE's institutions and structures. Senior Adviser Marco Bonabello, Programme Officer Hana Dogovic, and Research Assistant Anastasia Griadasova briefed the Academy students on the work of the OSCE PA, its activities and structure. Griadasova, an Academy alum, also shared her experience working for the PA.

OSCE Academy @OSCE_Academy · 23h
Our MA students learn more about the work of the @oscepa, its activities & structure from @marcobonabello, Senior Adviser @oscepa. They also had a chance to meet @oscepa Research Fellows', one of them, Anastasia Griadasova, is @OSCE_Academy alumna, and listen to their experience

