

**6<sup>th</sup> REPORT BY THE CO-CHAIR OF THE OSCE PA AD HOC  
COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM,  
MS. LISA CHAMBERS**

*Marrakech, 5 October 2019*

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Esteemed Colleagues,

I am honoured to address you today as the Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and inform you about our recent and future efforts.

On behalf of our Committee's new Chair, Abid Qayyum Raja from Norway, as well as of all other CCT members, I would like to assure you of our unwavering determination to build further on the important work we have managed to achieve so far.

I would also like to **pay tribute to the former Chair of our Committee**, Makis Voridis, whose vision and commitment enabled the CCT to become what it is today: a renown and respected international actor in the field of countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Under his leadership, over the last few years our Assembly has engaged in several impactful initiatives and consolidated its partnership with the OSCE executive structures, relevant UN agencies and other inter-parliamentary bodies, bringing increased visibility to the important role of parliamentarians in this field.

Through targeted initiatives and strategic partnerships, we have strived to boost the security of the citizens we represent. I am deeply committed to further these efforts and continue to add value.

During our last Annual Session in Luxembourg our Assembly has adopted a very important and comprehensive **Resolution on the Challenges Related to Returning and Relocation Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs)**. This issue represents a major challenge for many countries in the OSCE area, and our Resolution provides a strong framework to successfully address it. Remarkably, while the OSCE governmental side has failed to meet consensus on this very topic last year, we have adopted this document unanimously! While we might be divided into 57 national delegations and various political affiliations, at the end of the day we are all united in addressing the threats stemming from terrorism.

We are now in the process of assessing possible follow-up work with relevant partners to strengthen the global response to the FTF challenge. Furthermore, while discussing the challenges related to returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, other major questions arose. Notably, we started to debate within our Committee the topic of “repatriation” of terrorist fighters and of their wives and children, which we intend to study more in depth in the coming months.

During its **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Luxembourg**, the final report on the **PA Initiative to Promote the Implementation of Relevant International Commitments on Strengthening Border Security and Information Sharing** was presented to the CCT. The Committee, through the work of an expert consultant, reviewed the feedback received from 21 national parliaments on the level of implementation of international obligations on Advance Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Biometrics.

Allow me to remind you that these data management systems are critical to prevent and counter the movement of terrorists across national borders. The final report conveniently highlights key challenges and promising practices in this field, as well as some policy recommendations for the attention of the OSCE participating States.

During the summer we have turned this report into a **full-fledged OSCE PA publication**, which was presented at our **6<sup>th</sup> Meeting held yesterday in Marrakech**. We intend now to widely distribute this material among our partners and openly debate its findings within our Assembly next February in Vienna. I encourage all of you to become familiar with it. This “project” is a prime example of how our Assembly can build on its members’ oversight powers, support the implementation of international commitments, and pragmatically contribute to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Furthermore, we are planning on organizing a **Committee visit to Norway** in the coming months (potentially in January), so that our Assembly may learn more about Norway’s counter-terrorism policies. The visit will focus on the topic of violent extremism and it will give all members the opportunity to learn more about how the Norwegian society responded to the terrorist attack of 22 July 2011 led by Anders Breivik, and which resulted in the death of 77 individuals, the deadliest attack in Norway since World War II.

We are also **co-operating closely with the OSCE Executive Structures**, in particular by supporting the development of a project proposal aimed at strengthening the role of parliamentarians in responding to violent extremism and terrorism and offering technical support to national parliaments as required.

In November, **our Chair will travel to Vienna** to consult with our OSCE counter-terrorism colleagues on future joint efforts and to update the participating States on our latest achievements, namely our Resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the final report on the PA Initiative on Border Security and Information Sharing. This privileged channels of communication with our executive structures are important and should remain wide open.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate my personal gratitude for your trust Mr. President and Mr. Secretary General. I stand ready to discuss further any issue related to the work of the CCT and potential avenues for action. The goal was and remains utterly clear: advancing the contribution of our Assembly in countering terrorism and violent extremism for the benefit of our communities and citizens.

Thank you!