

REPORT

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 17th Autumn Meeting Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 3-6 October 2018



Promoting Security Dialogue in Central Asia and Beyond



REPORT ON THE 2018 AUTUMN MEETING OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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Summary



Hosted by Kyrgyzstan's Jogorku Kenesh, the 17th Autumn Meeting was held 3-6 October 2018 in Bishkek.

The OSCE PA holds an Autumn Meeting every year to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on OSCE-related topics. Previous meetings have been held in Andorra, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Canada, Slovenia, Malta, and Spain.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 17th Autumn Meeting took place 3-6 October 2018 in Bishkek. Attended by some 300 delegates, including 160 OSCE parliamentarians, it was hosted by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The 2018 Autumn Meeting featured a Parliamentary Conference on the theme of "Promoting Security Dialogue in Central Asia and Beyond." The Mediterranean Forum met for discussions on the theme "Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Mediterranean: Addressing Migration, Trade and Environmental Challenges." The OSCE PA's Standing Committee of heads of national delegations met on 5 October.

Speakers at the event included OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia), President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Erlan Abdylidaev, representatives of OSCE field operations in Central Asia, and a representative of the Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Sessions were chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Kari Henriksen (Norway), Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), and Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada).

Topics covered during the Autumn Meeting included combating trafficking in human

beings along migration routes, tackling the trafficking of illicit drugs, preventing the spread of terrorism, fighting corruption, the work of the OSCE field operations in Central Asia, combating violence and discrimination against women, increasing youth and minority participation in public life, and promoting open government initiatives. The Mediterranean Forum tackled topics including migration, counter-terrorism, climate change, and conflict resolution.

Participants noted that responding to common transnational threats has had the effect of strengthening ties between the Central Asian countries and that cross-border co-operation in the region has helped build security for the whole OSCE area. Promoting regional economic development will also provide a basis to counter extremists, they said, noting that the OSCE PA is a key forum to build confidence and co-operation in the OSCE area.

"Action is dearly needed to make the results of our discussions most meaningful. We must carry on holding our governments accountable, and pushing them to live up to their commitments. With a deterioration of trust across the OSCE area, we parliamentarians have this crucial role to play to encourage dialogue."

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
President George Tsereteli

Parliamentarians also discussed how the Mediterranean and Central Asian regions can learn from each other in many respects.

The OSCE PA's Standing Committee met and heard reports from President Tsereteli, Secretary General Roberto Montella, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Working Practices Peter Bowness, Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany), and Special Representatives. The Standing Committee meeting also included a discussion of current international political issues and increasing the profile of Assembly activities.



Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Dastanbek Dzhumabekov addresses the opening session of the Autumn Meeting, 3 October.

In addressing challenges such as migration, trade, terrorism, border security and the environment, closer collaboration is needed within the OSCE and with international partners, said participants at the opening of the Autumn Meeting. Parliaments play a key role in this regard in facilitating dialogue and generating political will for implementing international commitments, speakers said.

Speakers at the opening session, held at the “Ala-Archa” State Residence, included President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, Speaker of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, and OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia).

Prior to the speeches, a ten-minute documentary film was shown to participants featuring highlights of Kyrgyzstan’s history. A special focus of the documentary was on Kyrgyzstan’s commitment to parliamentarism and its participation in international organization such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The film showcased Kyrgyzstan’s political and cultural life, as well as its natural beauty.



Delegates watch an informational video about Kyrgyzstan at the opening session.

George Tsereteli, OSCE PA President



George Tsereteli

In his opening speech, President Tsereteli noted that a deterioration of trust in the OSCE has threatened the functioning of the organization, eroded dialogue, entrenched existing conflicts, and left unfulfilled the agreements that could bring an end to human suffering in conflict zones such as Ukraine and Georgia.

“This absence of political will has not only hamstrung our Organization’s mediation capabilities,” Tsereteli said. “It has also made it more and more difficult for us to address other possible problems that loom on the horizon. Our citizens, the people we serve, expect and deserve better.”

He pointed out that parliamentarians, along with civil society, have a key role to play in generating political will in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments.

“We will continue to find new ways to draw on your expertise and work in a more inclusive manner in order to maximize our impact,” he said.

Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Delegates listen to a welcoming speech at the opening session.

**Sooronbay Jeenbekov,
President of the Kyrgyz Republic**



Sooronbay Jeenbekov

In his remarks, President Sooronbay Jeenbekov noted that Kyrgyzstan has greatly benefited from its co-operation with the OSCE, particularly in the development of its electoral system. He stressed that Kyrgyzstan is committed to parliamentary democracy and continues to modernize its economy and implement political and judicial reforms, as well as reforms in law enforcement.

The President noted that Kyrgyzstan considers sustainable development as part of a wider regional development strategy and said that there is no alternative to co-operation and dialogue. In this respect, he noted the value of hosting the 17th Autumn Meeting and welcomed increased multilateral engagement.

President Jeenbekov also highlighted challenges to stability and security such as violent extremism and terrorism. He noted the importance of uniting against this common threat and stressed the unique ability of the OSCE to promote mutually agreed upon action.

**Dastanbek Dzhumabekov,
Speaker of Parliament of the
Kyrgyz Republic**



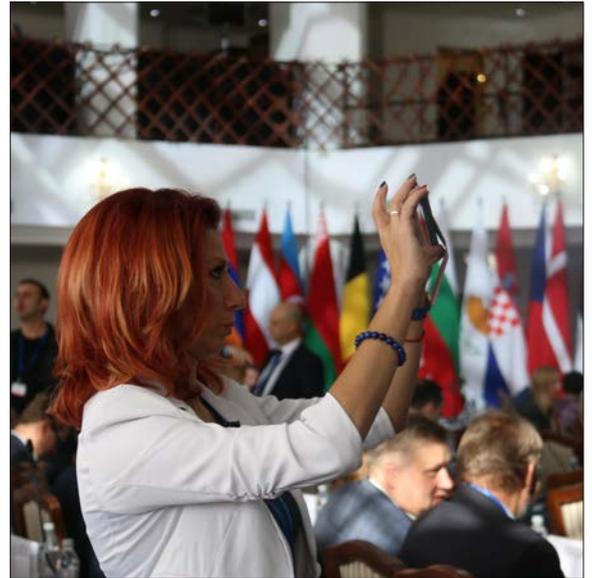
Dastanbek Dzhumabekov

Speaker Dzhumabekov said that although Kyrgyzstan has experienced various challenges, it is firmly on the path of parliamentary democracy. He thanked international partners for contributing to democratic development and noted that the Jogorku Kenesh is the center of decision-making in the country, stressing that its goals of sustainable development are enhanced by legislative action.

The main goal, he said, is to improve the quality of life of the citizens, noting the importance of respecting international commitments. The Speaker lauded the United Nations' founding and the OSCE's creation as an effort to promote international security in the widest sense and called for a new commitment to global peace. Considering the transnational nature of many of the challenges faced by the region, including drug trafficking and violent extremism, he noted that the stability of Central Asia is key to the security of the whole OSCE region.



2018 Autumn Meeting ♦ Bishkek



Parliamentary Conference: Session One



The first session of the Parliamentary Conference was held on 4 October under the theme “Countering new challenges and threats in border areas through confidence-building and regional co-operation.” OSCE PA Vice-President Kari Henriksen (Norway) chaired the session, which was addressed by Erlan Abdyldaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ambassador Gyorgy Szabo, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, and Fabio Piana, Acting Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe.

**Kari Henriksen,
OSCE PA Vice-President**

In her opening remarks, Vice-President Henriksen noted that responding to common transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, and cybersecurity have had the effect of strengthening ties between the Central Asian countries.

“This increased co-operation has materialized in the form of a number of bilateral agreements on confidence-building measures at borders with a view to boosting regional security and stability,” she said. “The OSCE is particularly well positioned to address the challenges and threats associated with border areas and to strengthen regional co-operation thanks to its comprehensive security concept.”

She noted that the OSCE offers a platform for multilateral diplomacy and enhancing dialogue and co-operation among its members. The OSCE has been at the forefront of employing non-military confidence-building measures as

essential tools in increasing transparency and building and maintaining the level of trust with the aim of preventing conflict or to pave the way for lasting conflict settlement, she said.

**Erlan Abdyldaev,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Kyrgyz Republic**

Foreign Minister Abdyldaev said that co-operation is achieving new momentum in the region. Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to advancing agreements on regional co-operation, he emphasized, noting that progress is becoming more sustainable with rules being set out for trade, harmonizing national legislation, energy policies, and transport.

Co-operation must rest on the proper establishment of state borders, the minister stressed. Concerned with the spread of ISIS and other radical groups that are recruiting youths, we are confronted with foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) that seek to perpetrate terrorist attacks, he said. He noted that Kyrgyzstan is in close proximity to conflict areas, most notably Afghanistan. This needs to be resolved with an inclusive approach and policies must be formulated for peace and to build up trust in the region, Abdyldaev said, noting that this requires a comprehensive approach including combating drug trafficking and money laundering.

**Gyorgy Szabo, Head of OSCE
Programme Office in Astana**

The OSCE Programme Office in Astana

Parliamentary Conference: Session One

has long prioritized border security in its programmatic activities, Ambassador Szabo said in his presentation. He identified several key challenges on border security and related issues in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region: trafficking in human beings, the use of falsified travel documents, trafficking in drugs, the return of FTFs from conflict zones, and Kazakhstan's lack of an Advance Passenger Information system or equivalent.

Szabo noted that Kazakhstan has a strategic aim of being a transit country between China and Europe, to attract transit trade, and to have an ambitious national airline. He noted that the source of much drug trafficking is next door in Afghanistan, so each Central Asian country must focus on countering this problem. In this respect, there is close co-operation with the EU and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, he said.

Combating trafficking in human beings is an ongoing effort, Szabo said, noting that simulation exercises involving 200 people from all Russian-speaking countries of the OSCE area had taken place to train people and create structures that have better interaction between stakeholders in this field. Document security is another area of focus for the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, he highlighted, noting that trainings and seminars have been organized to boost capacity of the host country.

Fabio Piana, Acting Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Piana noted that on 1 July 2017, the

OSCE Office in Tajikistan became the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, operating under a new mandate. The office, he said, covers all regions of Tajikistan in all three dimensions of security. It works towards security and stability by tackling transnational threats and organized crime, building national capacity, and pursuing activities based on mutual understanding and common agreement with the host government.

He discussed the regional outlook and main challenges facing Tajikistan, noting the continuously deteriorating security situation in northern Afghanistan, with which Tajikistan shares a border, as well as incidents on Tajikistan's border with Kyrgyzstan. He also noted increasing regional co-operation between Central Asian States, economic development and migration, and building institutional capacity.

Debate

In the debate, Kyrgyzstan's delegation focused on building regional co-operation as a way to promote security, noting that transborder co-operation is very relevant in this regard. Building trust and developing the economy will provide a basis to counter extremists, members noted. It was stressed that globalization cannot be separated from global contemporary problems such as extremism, intolerance, and radicalization. The OSCE PA is a key forum to build up confidence and co-operation in the OSCE area, parliamentarians said.

Other topics highlighted by PA members included border security, economic development and connectivity, money laundering, inviolability of frontiers, religious extremism, and terrorism. It was noted that while the international community is rightly focused on combating terrorism in Syria, attention must also be placed on Afghanistan, where there is a large number of foreign terrorist fighters.



Fabio Piana, Acting Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, addresses the Autumn Meeting in Bishkek, 4 October 2018

Session Two: OSCE PA 2018 Mediterranean Forum



Pascal Allizard and Katarina Zakova on the Mediterranean Forum panel.

work remains to be done in responding to the crisis of migrants and refugees. "As we can see, the migration crisis in Europe is not yet over," he said, "and we cannot say with certainty whether the 'worst' has passed or is yet to come. What I do know, however, is that it is not an ordinary crisis, one that we can expect to settle with half measures."

The Mediterranean Forum met during session two of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 4 October under the theme "Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Mediterranean: Addressing Migration, Trade and Environmental Challenges." Representatives from Algeria, Israel, Morocco and the Palestinian Legislative Council participated in the Mediterranean Forum, which was chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France) and heard remarks from Ambassador Katarina Zakova, representing the 2018 Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

He stressed that an effective response to the crisis must include efforts to address these conditions, while ensuring that the reception of refugees and asylum seekers be done under the best conditions.

**Ambassador Katarina Zakova,
2018 Chairmanship of the OSCE
Contact Group with the Mediterranean
Partners for Co-operation**

Ambassador Zakova reported on the activities of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, noting that the Slovak Chairmanship was building on the successful work of the Italian Chairmanship. Together with the Mediterranean Partners, she said, the Contact Group has chosen positive, constructive and forward-looking themes that explore common opportunities and address common concerns. She outlined the five Contact Group meetings of 2018, noting in particular the themes of energy security, cybersecurity, education, and security sector governance and reform.

**OSCE PA Special Representative
on Mediterranean Affairs
Pascal Allizard**

In his opening remarks, Special Representative Allizard discussed his efforts to enhance the Mediterranean dimension of the Assembly's work, noting that European security is directly linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean region. He described his work in maintaining contacts with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, pointing out that he had held meetings in Rabat and Vienna, and outlined the priority issues for the region, including combating human smugglers and traffickers, the fight against radicalization and violent extremism, and migration management.

She said that energy is an area that underlines the indivisibility of Mediterranean and European security. On cybersecurity, she stressed the importance of co-operation between the OSCE and Mediterranean Partners in implementing confidence-building measures in information communications technology. Information technologies have become a new platform for spreading extremism and radicalization, and therefore co-operation at all levels is essential.

It is time to deal with challenges rationally, Allizard said, drawing attention to the exploitation of migrant workers and noting that much

Session Two: OSCE PA 2018 Mediterranean Forum

Education, she highlighted, is also a means of combating radicalization and minimizing the influence of violent extremism, exploring ideas of how to make education a real tool in this regard. She also discussed security sector governance and reform and highlighted the importance of the link between the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE working on Mediterranean affairs.

Addresses by the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and the Palestinian Legislative Council

Head of the Algerian Delegation Hachemi Djiar expressed concern over the security situation in the Mediterranean region, including the challenges stemming from the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. He emphasized readiness to share practices on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, based on principles furthering human rights and gender equality, such as solidarity and social justice. Djiar raised several questions on how to build trust and mutual confidence for lasting peace and security in the region.

Anat Berko, Head of Delegation from Israel, spoke about counter-terrorism and the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. She objected to the way that Palestinian refugees are categorized by the international community and questioned the notion of a right of return to Israel for Palestinians, urging a uniform treatment of all internationally recognized refugees. She also disputed the concept of foreign terrorist fighters, or FTFs, which she argued should be better understood as "jihad tourists." She emphasized the imperative of preventing terrorism in all its forms.

Mohamed El Bakkouri, Head of the Moroccan Delegation, underlined the need to strengthen co-operation in the security area through multilateral policies and north-south dialogue, bringing long-term solutions to common problems. He assessed the situation in the Maghreb as challenging, with weak economies and a lack of regional security co-operation, and noted its efforts in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Abdelrahim Barham, representing the Palestinian Legislative Council, discussed the question of Palestinian refugees, noting that there is an international definition of what constitutes a refugee. He regretted that the situation for the Palestinians is deteriorating rapidly, pointing out that homes are routinely being demolished, people are being imprisoned, and land is being confiscated. He criticized the Jewish Nation-State law recently enacted in Israel and urged the holding of meaningful talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides to advance the peace process.

Open Debate

During the discussion, delegates discussed counter-terrorism, climate change, promoting stability in Syria, Libya and Iraq in order to reduce human suffering and stem the flow of refugees, as well as the importance of promoting a just resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The most important way to address migration is to remove the causes of migration in the social economic field and establishing links between humanitarian aid and development, it was stressed. Some delegates argued that the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe is largely due to interference in the affairs of countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

A delegate from Cyprus spoke about challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean region, including unilateral intervention in states' internal affairs. The Cyprus conflict must be resolved in accordance with international law and ensure human rights of all Cypriots, it was stressed. An Armenian delegate noted that Armenia has taken a large number of refugees, granted them citizenship and is working on promoting their integration.

A delegate from Italy lamented the unintended consequences of intervention in Libya, noting that the war has been particularly cruel, with tribal warfare taking hold in the country now. When rescuing migrants at sea, we have to take people to the closest safe port (Malta), the Italian MP said. Rules to regulate immigration and clamp down on illegal migration are needed, it was stressed.





Parliamentary Conference: Session Three



Hedy Fry chairs session three of the Parliamentary Conference on 5 October.

The third session of the Parliamentary Conference was held on the theme “Strengthening citizens’ engagement in building secure societies.” Chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), the session featured presentations by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Acting Head of the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry

Opening the session, Fry noted that as Special Representative on Gender Issues, she is acutely aware of the gap in representation of women in public life. Similar challenges exist for minority groups, she said, including the Roma in many countries. She urged full participation for all segments of society.

“When you have everyone in a country all able to move towards the same goals in the same fashion, you have a secure nation,” Fry said. “When you exclude minorities from equal participation and access they will rise up and you will have insecurity. Society must be based on the core principle of citizen participation.”

Her remarks also focused on increasing youth participation in political life, noting that 18-24 year-olds are the least likely to vote in Canada. She stressed the importance of finding ways to activate and empower young people, and to give citizens a more active role in policymaking.

Ambassador Pierre Von Arx, Head, OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

Ambassador Von Arx spoke about recent experiences of the Kyrgyz Republic in strengthening citizens’ engagement in society. He recalled that Kyrgyzstan has recently gone through two revolutions and has undergone a number of reforms. Kyrgyzstan is a positive example of co-operation, he said, with the OSCE participating as a genuine partner with the government in advancing agendas of electoral reform, women’s participation in peace and security, strengthening community cohesion and delivery of public services, regulatory reform and open government partnership.

Since 2010, Kyrgyzstan has worked to ensure that all citizens can exercise their electoral rights, he said, with the Central Election Commission (CEC) undertaking a number of reforms in line with OSCE recommendations. These include introduction of new voting technologies, increasing funding transparency of political parties, enhancing awareness of citizens and addressing vote-buying. He noted that the Programme Office in Bishkek and the NGO Civic Platform enjoy excellent long-term co-operation with the CEC.

Almazbek Musabekov, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic

Musabekov emphasized that Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance into implement-

Parliamentary Conference: Session Three

ing new technologies in education, health and state management, as well as its electoral system. He stated that one of the major tasks for Kyrgyzstan is to ensure free, democratic elections, and to this end it has implemented a new electoral system that lists and identifies voters using biometric data, as well as automatic vote counting with automatic voting boxes. He said that this new system had been successfully implemented in recent elections.

Musabekov highlighted that in order to build an open and transparent state, raise living standards, and improve the business environment in the Kyrgyz Republic, a nationwide programme of digital transformation called Taza Koom was launched. He explained that Taza Koom is a key component of the National Sustainable Development Strategy which is based on human capital and innovations in harmony with the environment. He mentioned that Taza Koom could also become an efficient tool to eradicate corruption in the government sector by minimizing human error through automation of administrative processes and procedures and providing digital public services. Musabekov further called upon all countries to deepen co-operation in implementing the digital economy.

Hans-Ullrich Ihm, Senior Project Officer, Acting Head of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Hans-Ullrich Ihm started by highlighting the long-term struggle of citizen participation in security matters. He assured that the OSCE supports the building of a secure society in Uzbekistan but specified that this requires taking a comprehensive approach to security. He underlined the new Uzbek approach to regional co-operation and briefly described different programmes launched by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan to shape a secure Uzbek society: a female manager programme, sustainable transportation (including the promotion of cycling), and assistance to civil society.

Ihm concluded by thanking the Uzbek government and other authorities for supporting the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and neighbouring OSCE field operations with whom they co-ordinate.

Open Debate

Discussion in the session touched on issues such as free communication and movement, fighting corruption, the work of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, combating violence and discrimination against women, increasing youth and minority participation in public life, and promoting open government initiatives.

Members underlined the importance of freedom of communication and movement, and the necessity of taking more effective measures against threats, building institutions, creating cultural exchanges and holding sporting events. The work of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek was applauded for the networking opportunity it provides for young people meeting and facilitating the development of ideas for advancing democracy and human rights. Issues of corruption, fake news and freedom of the media, as well as threats to judicial independence were raised. For a free and democratic society, more openness and transparency are needed, parliamentarians said. Members stressed the importance of a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, noting that enlisting civil society in the fight against corruption is essential.

Women's inclusion was also part of the debate, with members highlighting the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the necessity of eliminating violence against women, stopping forced marriages and building open societies where discrimination against women is not tolerated. Where legal instruments exist in this regard, we must apply them, it was stressed. Members also highlighted freedoms of assembly, association, religion and belief as inalienable rights.



Hans-Ullrich Ihm

Closing Session



Isa Omurkulov, George Tsereteli and Roberto Montella on the closing panel of the 17th Autumn Meeting.

Following session three, Head of Kyrgyzstan’s OSCE PA Delegation Isa Omurkulov and OSCE PA President George Tsereteli took the floor to close the 17th Autumn Meeting, thanking participants for their active engagement.

Head of Kyrgyzstan’s OSCE PA Delegation Isa Omurkulov

Isa Omurkulov, Head of Kyrgyzstan’s Delegation to the OSCE PA, thanked the parliamentarians for their high level of participation and for their high estimation of the organization of the Autumn Meeting in Bishkek. He highlighted that the topics discussed have great importance for countries and people all around the world. The Head of Delegation expressed hope that the meeting would give impetus for providing the security to which all States aspire.

Delegates to the Autumn Meeting had met as colleagues but are parting as friends, Isa Omurkulov said, expressing the Kyrgyz Delegation’s sincere gratitude to the OSCE PA leadership, the International Secretariat, staff, interpreters, and all who had made the Autumn Meeting a success.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli

On behalf of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Tsereteli extended gratitude to the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE PA

and the Jogorku Kenesh for the organization of the Autumn Meeting. He also thanked the participants for travelling to Kyrgyzstan and for actively participating in discussions. “After three days of learning from each other and debating the way forward for the OSCE region, we know this conference has been fruitful,” he said.

President Tsereteli highlighted the discussions that had taken place in Bishkek, noting that the PA had analyzed how confidence-building and regional co-operation can help counter new challenges and threats. OSCE parliamentarians, Tsereteli said, noted that the Mediterranean and Central Asia can learn from each other to address migration, trade, and environmental challenges. The importance of engaging our citizens to provide a comprehensive answer to all these challenges was also debated in Bishkek, he said.

Tsereteli reiterated his statement from the opening ceremony, noting that “action is dearly needed to make the results of our discussions most meaningful.” As OSCE parliamentarians return to their capitals and to their parliaments, he emphasized the importance of transforming these ideas into concrete plans and actions.

“We must carry on holding our governments accountable, and pushing them to live up to their commitments,” President Tsereteli said. “With a deterioration of trust across the OSCE area, we parliamentarians have this crucial role to play to encourage dialogue.”

“As we return to our national parliaments, we must turn these ideas into concrete plans.”

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President George Tsereteli



Standing Committee Meeting



President George Tsereteli chairs the Standing Committee meeting on 5 October.

The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, Autumn Meeting and Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget and appoints the Secretary General.

President George Tsereteli called the Standing Committee meeting to order on 5 October.

The President reported on his recent and planned upcoming activities, noting his participation in the Leinsweiler seminar in July, a conference in Udine the following week, the OSCE's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September, and a visit to Rome ahead of the OSCE's Ministerial Council. He discussed ongoing efforts to modernize the OSCE PA's working practices with a view toward making the Assembly more visible and more effective, and thanked the PA Vice-Presidents for their input in this regard.

The Standing Committee held a discussion on current international political issues, with members from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Switzerland taking the floor. Peter Osusky (Slovakia) presented a report on the OSCE PA's election observation mission to the 24 June 2018 early presidential and parliamentary elections in Turkey and President Tsereteli informed the Standing Committee of upcoming observation missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and the United States.

On the President's proposal, the Standing Committee agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee on Strengthening OSCE Engagement Through Transparency and Reform, the Working Group on Belarus, and the Parliamentary Team on Moldova had concluded their activities and would therefore be dissolved.

Sofio Katsarava (Georgia), Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, presented a report to the Standing Committee, as did Special Representative on South East Europe Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure Peter Bowness (United Kingdom). On Bowness's recommendation, the Standing

Committee agreed in principle that Rule 24 of the OSCE PA Rules of Procedure on the Validation of Signatures should be amended.

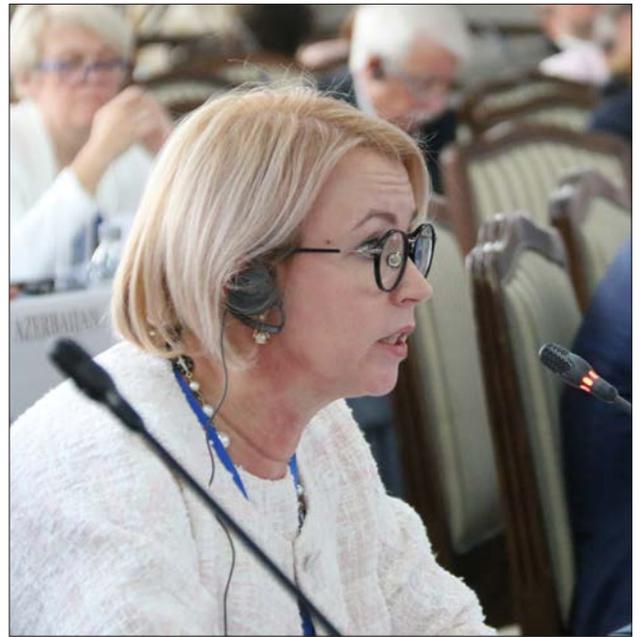
Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) reported that the finances of the PA continue to be in good order. The PA functions in a very cost-effective way, she said, but continuous support is needed from national delegations to ensure that it can continue its programme of activities. She therefore urged delegations that have not yet hosted a meeting of the Assembly to do so. She warmly thanked Kyrgyzstan for hosting the Autumn Meeting, and expressed gratitude to all the member parliaments that have hosted, or will host, Assembly meetings and events.

The Standing Committee heard a report from OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, who noted that the Berlin Annual Session was a real opportunity for serious debate on significant OSCE issues. The approval in Berlin of the Assembly's 2018-2019 budget proposed by Treasurer Barnett has provided the International Secretariat with adequate resources to serve the members for the coming year, he said. Montella highlighted the significant contribution of the PA to the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September and underlined the high level of activities by the PA's ad hoc committees and Special Representatives.

The Standing Committee also heard reports on preparations for future OSCE PA meetings, with the Standing Committee members agreeing to set the dates for the Autumn Meeting in Marrakech as 3-6 October 2019. The Head of the Moroccan Delegation, Mohamed El Bakkouri, took the floor to report on the preparations for the Autumn Meeting and the President informed the Standing Committee of discussions regarding the hosting of upcoming statutory meetings.

The holding of the 2021 Annual Session in Romania was confirmed.









OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2018 Autumn Meeting Bishkek, 3-6 October

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2018

17:00 – 18:00 OFFICIAL INAUGURAL SESSION

(venue: “Ala-Archa” State Residence)

THURSDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2018

09:00 – 10:00 Time reserved for meetings of various groups

<p>Parliamentary Conference on “<i>PROMOTING SECURITY DIALOGUE IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND</i>”</p>

10:00 – 13:00 **SESSION 1: *Countering new challenges and threats in border areas through confidence-building and regional co-operation***

Chair/Moderator: Ms. Kari Henriksen, Vice-President of the OSCE PA (Norway)

Keynote Speakers:

Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev , Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ambassador Gyorgy Szabo, Head, OSCE Programme Office in Astana

Mr. Fabio Piana, Acting Head, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Open debate

15:00 – 18:00 **SESSION 2: Mediterranean Forum: *Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Mediterranean: Addressing Migration, Trade and Environmental Challenges***

Chair/Moderator: Mr. Pascal Allizard, Vice-President, OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs (France)

Keynote Speakers:

Ambassador Katarina Zakova, 2018 Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Open debate

FRIDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2018

10:00 – 13:00 **MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Parliamentary Conference on “*PROMOTING SECURITY DIALOGUE IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND*” – Continuation

15:00 – 17:45 **SESSION 3: *Strengthening citizens’ engagement in building secure societies***

Chair/Moderator: Dr. Hedy Fry, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues (Canada)

Keynote Speakers:

Ambassador Pierre Von Arx, Head, OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

Mr. Almazbek Musabekov, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Hans-Ullrich Ihm, Senior Project Officer, Acting Head, OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan

Open debate

17:45 – 18:00 **CLOSING SESSION**

18:00 – 18:30 **PRESS CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2018

11:00 -14:00 **CULTURAL PROGRAMME – KYRGYZ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**



Secretary General
Roberto Montella

The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Roberto Montella, and has a permanent staff of 19, including four staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



Deputy Secretary General
Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary General
Semyon Dzakhayev



Special Representative
Andreas Nothelle



Chief of the Executive Office
Andreas Baker



Head of Document Services
Dana Bjerregaard



Senior Advisor and Liaison Officer
Marco Bonabello



Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office
Marc Carillet



Programme Officer
Farimah Daftary



Executive Assistant
Anna Di Domenico



Senior Programme and Administrative Officer
Tim Knoblaue



Head of Conference Services
Odile Lelarge



Chief Political Advisor
Francesco Pagani



Head of Communications and Press
Nat Parry



Chief ICT
Stephen Paul



Presidential Advisor
Loic Poulain



Head of Administration for Election Observation
Iryna Sabashuk



Chief of Administration and Finance
Marieta Samac



Administration and Logistics Officer
Dimitrije Todoric



Bringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and seminars are designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions are deployed to areas of latent or active crisis.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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