

**5th REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OSCE PA AD
HOC COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM**

Luxembourg, 8 July 2019

Dear President,

Dear Secretary General,

Esteemed Colleagues,

It is with great honor that I am addressing you today in my capacity as Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to present the fifth report on the work of the CCT.

Since we last met in Vienna in February, the activities of the CCT have been mainly threefold. First, we exercised our policy-making power by putting forward a supplementary item dealing with the priority issue of returning and relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). Second, we continued building strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders to support and profile our Assembly's counter-terrorism efforts, notably by contributing to several international events where we shared our knowledge and engaged in co-operative dialogue. Finally, and only thanks to your support, we actively promoted the implementation of international counter-terrorism commitments by exercising our oversight power in the framework of the PA Initiative on Strengthening Border Security and Information Sharing.

The resolution on *"The Challenges Related to Returning and Relocation Foreign Terrorist Fighters"* puts forth a comprehensive policy framework to address a set of important challenges resulting from the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), a major concern and top priority of the international community over the last few years.

In this context, there is an urgent need for our participating States to set up effective mechanisms that enable prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and their accompanying family members, respectful of international human

rights law. These policies and measures need to ensure national ownership, to be implemented on a case by case basis and to address specific concerns, vulnerabilities and needs of men, women and children.

Building on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN Security Council Resolutions 2178 and 2396, our resolution takes into account the innovative efforts of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and follows up on relevant OSCE commitments and OSCE PA resolutions, including our 2018 resolution on “*Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremisms and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism*”. As such, it lays out concrete measures on border control, criminal justice, information sharing and counter-extremism and urges participating States to enhance partnerships with OSCE governmental structures and other key partners, particularly the UN and its agencies.

In addition, the CCT continued to develop its strategic partnership with key international players in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Our Chair, Mr. Vوريدis, addressed the yearly OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference dedicated to “Taking Stock of Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism as well as Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism in the OSCE Area” in March in Bratislava, where he also held a high-level bilateral program. In April, Mr. Vوريدis and Ms. Lisa Chambers actively contributed to the International Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Conference, which brought together several parliamentary assemblies (e.g. IPA-CIS, OSCE PA, PACE and PAM) with the United Nations in St. Petersburg. Finally, a few days ago, Ms. Lisa Chambers briefed the Counter Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council in New York—the most prestigious multilateral counter-terrorism forum in the world—on our contribution to counter-terrorism.



These events have enabled us to profile our Assembly and its efforts in fighting terrorism and violent extremism, as well as to build closer ties with the OSCE executive structures, regional parliamentary fora, and UN structures that lead international counter-terrorism efforts. The event in New York, for instance, was the very first of its kind organized at the Security Council-level, and it could lead to innovative partnerships where the potential of our Assembly is fully leveraged. Soon, we expect to sign a dedicated Memorandum with the United Nations to build a strong framework for this goal-oriented co-operation.

In my opinion, the very fact that we are regularly invited to contribute to such distinguished events demonstrates that our work is perceived as timely and relevant by our partners. This should encourage us to redouble efforts.

Finally, following your diligent engagement and contribution, we analyzed national parliaments' responses to the PA Initiative on Strengthening Border Security and Information Sharing and compiled them into a comprehensive report.

As you might recall, last September our Assembly circulated a set of questions regarding the status of implementation of API, PNR and Biometrics at national levels in the context of participating States' counter-terrorism efforts. This initiative built on the oversight power of our national Parliaments to monitor and promote the effective implementation of international commitments contained in the UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

With this ambitious initiative, we aim to help bridge the gap between policy and practice by revealing promising practices and persisting challenges across the OSCE region. The report also puts forward policy recommendations for the international community's consideration. We consider this project as the PA's most tangible contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts to date.



I am delighted to report that 21 national parliaments have responded to our call for coordinated parliamentary action, which, when pulled together, represent the interests and needs of over 75% of the OSCE population.

The Initiative's final report was presented to the CCT members during our Committee meeting on Friday. We will now prepare a fully-fledged OSCE PA publication to be officially launched during our upcoming Autumn Meeting in Marrakech and, subsequently, widely shared within and outside the OSCE.

On behalf of the CCT, I would like to thank you all for the enthusiastic support in this unique parliamentary exercise in the area of counter-terrorism!

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the genuine trust and phenomenal support of both our President and Secretary General have been instrumental in achieving everything I've described.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the exceptional leadership and commitment of CCT Chair Voridis, who tirelessly worked at developing and profiling our Assembly's counter-terrorism activities, and who unfortunately could not join us for this Annual Session.

I am ready to discuss further any issue related to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Thank you!