



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Mr. Roberto Montella

AUTUMN MEETING

Morocco, 4 – 6 October 2019

REPORT OF OSCE PA SECRETARY GENERAL ROBERTO MONTELLA

Marrakech, October 2019

It is the **first time** that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly holds a statutory meeting in a **partner country and I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco** for hosting us. Many of the challenges that the OSCE region is facing are intrinsically twined with global challenges. By organizing such an important meeting at the frontier of the OSCE region, the OSCE PA and its partner countries wish to send a clear message: we must **make use of all forms of co-operation to revive effective multilateralism**, to address common threats and to benefit from common opportunities.

Since my last report in July this year, the International Secretariat has continued to **support the activities of our Members**, to fine tune our excellent **co-operation** with the governmental branch of the OSCE and to further upgrade our co-operation with our external partners. I have also focused on **streamlining and optimizing** some of our internal operational **procedures and human resources** to better adapt to evolving needs.

Activities of the International Secretariat in support of Members

Our President and Members have continued to be very active in the last three months. After the Annual Session, I accompanied President Tsereteli to the High Tatras region of Slovakia for a **meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers** which aimed at holding an **informal and more direct discussion on current challenges** and on promoting convergence over the way forward. With the governmental branch of the OSCE suffering from a misuse of the consensus rule and a zero-nominal growth in its financial resources, I see a stronger role profiling for parliamentary diplomacy and its exclusive toolbox.

On 16 September, **President Tsereteli** addressed the **opening of the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM)**, a unique event that brings together governments and civil society from all participating States to evaluate progress and outstanding challenges related to democracy and human rights in the OSCE region. Our President was joined by the Chair of the Third Committee, Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, and by our newly appointed Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement, Pia Kauma. At the margins of the HDIM, our Assembly organized for the **first time a side event focused on human rights recommendations by parliamentarians**. The event managed to raise awareness on their vital contribution to the consolidation of democratic processes and the upholding of human rights.

We have also supported the **President's visits** to Kyiv, Ukraine, on the occasion of the **inauguration of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada** and to enable a number of high-level meetings with local dignitaries as well as with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator and the OSCE SMM; to Copenhagen, Denmark, for a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and our **own Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen**; to Andermatt, Switzerland, for the meeting of the **PA Silk Road Support Group**; to Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, for an address to the **Conference of Eurasian Speakers of Parliament** and high-level meetings with the country's authorities; and to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for an important international **seminar on parliamentary oversight** (an issue increasingly under our lenses for future activities), and other productive bilateral meetings. **Vice-President Lord Peter Bowness** represented the Assembly at an OSCE **Security Sector Governance and Reform** event in London, while **Vice-**

President Margareta Cederfelt represented the PA in the **29th Economic Forum** in Krynica, Poland as well as in the **Cetinje Parliamentary Forum in Montenegro**.

In July, **Third Committee Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni** travelled to **Mariupol, Ukraine**, to follow-up to on previous **fact-finding missions** which looked at the dire humanitarian situation in conflict-affected areas. Together with **former Chair Margareta Kiener Nellen** and accompanied by the SMM, he accessed villages directly on the line of contact to gain first-hand information and updates on the most pressing humanitarian needs. He also met with the main humanitarian stakeholders operating in the region.

Our new **Special Representative on fighting Corruption, Irene Charalambides**, started her mandate by paying an **official visit** to **Vienna** on 17-18 September, holding meetings with relevant **OSCE executive structures and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** to open new avenues for co-operation on this important priority for the OSCE, as clearly stated in the Luxembourg Declaration.

During this reporting period, the Secretariat also organized an important **Election Observation Mission for the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine** on 21 July. It has been a great effort, with an overall participation of over fifty PA members deployed all around the country under the leadership of Special Co-ordinator **Ilkka Kanerva** and Head of Delegation **Sereine Mauborgne**.

Strengthening the OSCE PA's functioning

I thank the Standing Committee for approving our 2019-2020 budget and I take the opportunity to **express the deepest gratitude to former Treasurer Doris Barnett** for her outstanding contribution in ensuring an adequate planning and supervision of our financial resources over the past years. I also **wish a productive mandate to our new Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen**.

The additional resources provided to the International Secretariat enable us to better support the vast range of activities embarked upon by the OSCE PA. In this regard, I continue to be grateful to Italy and Germany for seconding respectively three and one staff member to our Copenhagen and Vienna offices. In August, Junior Professional Officer **Manuchekhr Salokhudinov from Tajikistan** joined our Secretariat and two other vacancies are currently in the process of being filled. While I am glad to welcome new and motivated staff who will continue to strengthen the quality of the work we deliver to our members, I also wish to thank **Deputy Secretary General Semyon Dzakhaev**, who is retiring at the end of this year, for his service to the Assembly.

Attached to this report, you can find a document that outlines the composition of our staff and the different responsibilities covered by each of them. We are a **multitasking staff performing a vast range of duties**. This is the nature of a small yet engaged International Secretariat. You will notice that I have tried to strengthen our **election component**, also considering that other organizations are constantly looking at us to provide leadership in EOMs, as well as our **media outreach**. In fact, we have been prioritizing efforts to raise our impact and visibility, and I am confident that our new strategy, which is based on a wiser use of our tools and of our public messaging, will show its results. For instance, you will have noticed a hype in communicating the views of our leadership on relevant current issues.

I am also very glad that the **OSCE PA Events APP** we launched ahead of the Annual Session was a great success. We have collected many inputs and feedback in order to continue to improve it for upcoming activities, possibly also adding new functionalities such as topic sections.

Another very important ongoing **reform process concerns our Rules of Procedure**. Recent amendments have indeed added clarity. However, the voting process during the Luxembourg Annual Session showed that there is a need for further optimization and revision. The International Secretariat stands ready to support the work of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure under the leadership of **Vice-President Lord Peter Bowness** in enhancing their transparency and effectiveness. The objective is to present a reform proposal to be voted by the Standing Committee in Vienna in February 2020 and allow amendments to be in force in time for the upcoming Annual Session in Vancouver.

Co-operation within the OSCE and with external partners

Co-operation with participating States, the Executive Structures, Institutions and Field Operations of the OSCE continues to be excellent and is enriched by regular interactions at all levels, first and foremost by our Vienna Liaison Office. The presence of the PA leadership in events such as the OSCE Informal Ministerial or the HDIM is aimed at offering a specific parliamentary contribution and added value to the overall efforts of the Organization. I am glad that such contributions are increasingly welcomed and actually sought by our counterparts. As a matter of fact, **we work collegially and with the OSCE's collective interest in mind**. This approach has proven useful in a number of instances. I am determined to continue this way given the all-around positive assessment by our Members and by our governmental counterparts as well as the overarching recognition that our internal and external co-operation has increased both in quantity and in quality.

Co-operation of course extends to our partners also outside the OSCE framework. In this regard, while I will mention later some important activities planned for the upcoming weeks, I wish to draw the attention on one particular event: the **brainstorming meeting** I organized in August in Snekkersten, Denmark **with our main election observation partners: PACE, NATO PA, the European Parliament and of course ODIHR**. The good atmosphere of the retreat allowed frank and constructive talks, and I am glad that they all stressed that co-operation is now running at its best. We discussed how to make the parliamentary briefings and the press conference more appealing to MPs and the media; how to revise and make more effective the structure of the press statement; how to improve mutual understanding of the different nature of organizations comprising the EOMs and the challenges deriving from combining the technical and political expertise; how to better follow-up and implement EOM recommendations. We also exchanged views on our revised code of conduct and guidelines which will continue to be tested in our upcoming observation exercises.

Upcoming events

The **President** will continue to be very active in the next months. On 14-15 October, he will pay a **visit to Serbia**, while in November he will travel to **Ukraine and Albania**. In Tirana, he will confirm the Assembly's engagement to lend support to the upcoming Albanian 2020 OSCE Chairmanship. He will also join the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, **Pascal Allizard**, in a visit to **Egypt**: yet another practical manifestation of our determination to boost co-operation with our partner countries. Moreover, we are working to identify a suitable period for a Presidential visit to **Armenia**, following an invitation by authorities. President Tsereteli, as well as many of our Special Representatives, will also take part in a number of other events and international conferences throughout the OSCE region.

We will deploy **Election Observation Missions** for the Parliamentary Elections in **Belarus** (17 November) and the Parliamentary Elections in **Uzbekistan** (22 December).

Our interaction with the executive structures of the OSCE will also continue steadily. Besides the day-to-day co-operation undertaken by the Vienna Liaison Office, there are three noteworthy appointments. On 31 October, President Tsereteli will deliver his second **address to the OSCE Permanent Council** this year. On 13 November, we will receive a **visit from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Lamberto Zannier**, to explore avenues of co-operation with parliamentarians in this critical field and, the day after, I will address an important conference marking **the 20th anniversary of the Lund recommendations** on the Effective Participation of National Minorities **organized by his office in Sweden**. Finally, the OSCE year will as usual culminate with the **Ministerial Council in Bratislava on 5-6 December**, where our President will address the opening session and our Bureau is expected to attend. We are working hard, especially through the VLO, to ensure that the many recommendations adopted in Luxemburg can foster additional decisions by OSCE Ministers.

With regards to external partners, on 16 October I will attend with President Tsereteli the 125th Assembly of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Belgrade**, while on 23-25 October we will be in Strasbourg for meetings with the leadership of the European Parliament and to attend the **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, organized by PACE**, which our President will also address, while I will take part in the meeting of Secretaries General.

Our **Ad Hoc Committees** are also engaged in implementing their work plans. The Committee on Countering Terrorism is finalizing the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office on Countering Terrorism (UNOCT), with the aim of providing a distinct parliamentary contribution to wider global efforts, and its **new Chair Abid Raja** will address the OSCE Security Committee on 11 November. On that occasion, he will also present the final report, which has been turned into a **fully-fledged publication, of the parliamentary oversight initiative** on border control – a pilot initiative which proved extremely successful. The Migration Committee is also working hard on targeted initiatives and is considering **important field visits** to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta and, next year, to Canada as well as the U.S.-Mexico border.

Finally, our conference team is already working to prepare our **2020 statutory meetings** in Vienna (Winter Meeting), Vancouver (Annual Session) and San Marino (Autumn Meeting).

In conclusion, I can assure you that I will spare no efforts in trying to raise the impact of our Assembly and in tailoring activities to enable our Members to provide a distinct parliamentary added value to the work of the OSCE. As I noted in my remarks to the Plenary Session of our Assembly in Luxembourg, the PA is well-placed to have a long-term impact. Very often political life in our countries has short-term targets and is hijacked by the electoral cycle. While this is of course the flavour of democracy, it sometimes hinders strategic vision and long-term planning. In the OSCE PA, the short-term pressure of elections, as well as constraints of political ideologies, are no obstacles to assuming a more future-oriented posture and perspective when elaborating policies and recommendations. This great asset, if fully exploited, allows us to better deliver to the end-users of the OSCE product, the citizens of the OSCE region *from Vancouver to Vladivostok*.

Finally, I also wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Standing Committee for re-electing me as Secretary General until the end of 2025. It is for me an honour and a privilege to guide this International Secretariat at the service of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Members.

Annex I

THE OSCE PA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT:
Internal structures and responsibilities

Leadership

- Roberto MONTELLA, Secretary General
 - Gustavo PALLARES, Deputy Secretary General
 - Semyon DZAKHAEV, Deputy Secretary General
 - Andreas NOTHELLE, Ambassador, Special Representative (Vienna Liaison Office)
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Senior Management

- Francesco PAGANI, Chief Political Advisor
 - Marieta SAMAC, Chief Administration and Finance
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- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Executive Advisor
 - Andreas BAKER, Head of Elections (and Director of Human Security)
 - Marco BONABELLO, Senior Advisor (and Director of Economic and Environmental Security)
 - Dana BJERREGAARD, Head of Document Services
 - Marc CARILLET, Senior Advisor
 - Farimah DAFTARY, Senior Programme Officer
 - Anna DI DOMENICO, Communications and Press Officer
 - Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer
 - Odile LELARGE, Head of Conference Services
 - Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Election Officer
 - Nat PARRY, Head of Communications and Press
 - Stephen PAUL, Head, ICT Service and Support Section, Deputy CAF
 - Loic POULAIN, Presidential Advisor
 - Iryna SABASHUK, Election Administration Officer
 - Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Programme Officer
 - Dimitrije TODORIC, Administration and Logistics Officer
 - Chief Diplomatic Advisor - vacant
 - Media Support Officer - vacant

Office of the OSCE PA President

- Francesco PAGANI, Head and Policy Advice
- Loic POULAIN, General Coordination
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Support

Office of OSCE PA Secretary General

- Francesco PAGANI, Head and Policy Advice
- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, General Coordination
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Support
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Administration, SG's support
- Anna DI DOMENICO, support

Election Observation Department

- Andreas BAKER, Head and General Coordination
- Iryna SABASHUK, Deputy, Administration and Logistics
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, support
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Support
- Loic POULAIN, Support
- Regional and Country Coordinators and Experts provide political guidance and advise
- On a rotating basis all staff are involved in election observation missions

Press and Communications

- Nat PARRY, Head and General Coordination
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Deputy, OSCE PA APP, Website,
- MEDIA SUPPORT OFFICER, Support -

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Marieta SAMAC, Head and General Coordination
- Stephen PAUL, Deputy CAF, Chief, ICT Service and Support Section
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Head of Document Services
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer
- Odile LELARGE, Head of Conference Services
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Support

Conference Services

- Odile LELARGE, Head and General Coordination
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Administration and Logistics Officer

Document Services

- Dana BJERREGAARD, Head and General Coordination
- Farimah DAFTARY, Support
- Tim KNOBLAU, Support
- Iryna SABASHUK, Support

Information Technology

- Stephen PAUL, Head and General Coordination
- New Media Support Officer, Support

Research Assistants Programme

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Marco BONABELLO, Programme Coordinator (Vienna)
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Support
- Tim KNOBLAU, Support

VIENNA LIAISON OFFICE

- Andreas NOTHELLE, Ambassador, Special Representative
- Chief Diplomatic Advisor - vacant
- Marco BONABELLO, Senior Advisor (and Director of Economic and Environmental Security)
- Marc CARILLET, Senior Advisor
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer
- Francesco PAGANI, Chief Political Advisor

STATUTORY ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

- Gustavo PALLARES, Director
- Loic POULAIN, Support
- Andreas NOTHELLE, Member of the Vienna PC based FSC and 1ST Committee

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

- Semyon DZAKHAEV, Director
- Marco BONABELLO, Director and Member of the PC based 2nd Committee (as of 01/01/2020)
- Vienna JPO, Support
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Support

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

- Andreas BAKER, Director
- Farimah DAFTARY, support
- Marc CARILLET, Member of the Vienna PC based 3rd Committee

Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices

- Semyon DZAKHAEV, Director
- Andreas BAKER, Coordinator (as of 01/01/2020)
- Gustavo PALLARES, Advisor
- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Support
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Support

Counter-terrorism

- Marco BONABELLO, Programme Coordinator
- Vienna JPO, Support

Migration

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Support

Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova)

- Andreas NOTHELLE, Programme Coordinator
- Francesco PAGANI, Programme Coordinator
- Loic POULAIN, Programme Coordinator

Gender Issues

- Gustavo PALLARES, Programme Coordinator
- Marc CARILLET, Support

South East Europe

- Andreas NOTHELLE, Programme Coordinator
- Francesco PAGANI, Support
- Marc CARILLET, Support

Mediterranean

- Gustavo PALLARES, Programme Coordinator
- Marc CARILLET, Support
- Marco BONABELLO, Support
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Support
- Loic POULAIN, Support

Central Asia

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Support

South Caucasus

- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme Coordinator
- Iryna SABASHUK, Support

Fighting Corruption

- Marco BONABELLO, Programme Coordinator

Arctic Issues

- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Programme Coordinator

Civil Society Engagement

- Andreas BAKER, Programme Coordinator

Disinformation and Propaganda

- Anna Di DOMENICO, Programme Coordinator

Digital Agenda

- Anna Di DOMENICO, Programme Coordinator