

PA President visits Copenhagen, holding meetings at Secretariat, Parliament and Foreign Ministry

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) is in Copenhagen this week, holding a series of meetings at the International Secretariat, the Danish Parliament (Folketinget), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Topics of discussion have included the PA's schedule of autumn activities, including the Marrakech Autumn Meeting, scheduled for 4-6 October, PA participation in the upcoming Silk Road Support Group meeting and the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and visits to a number of OSCE participating States.

Joined in meetings at the Folketing by Secretary General Roberto Montella and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, President Tsereteli thanked the Danish Delegation for its continued support to the Assembly, noting that as the host of the International Secretariat, Denmark is the single biggest contributor to the OSCE PA's budget. Tsereteli also expressed appreciation for Head of Delegation Peter Juel Jensen's new role as Assembly Treasurer. The sides discussed plans for next month's Autumn Meeting in Marrakech, being held under the theme "Promoting Security Across the Euro-Mediterranean Region: The Role of the OSCE and its Partners."

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the discussion focused largely on the consensus rule in the OSCE and how this can



George Tsereteli addresses OSCE PA staff on 4 Sept. 2019.

be misused to block action and create gridlock. Tsereteli noted that it has been a longstanding recommendation of the PA to explore possibilities for modifying the consensus rule. The sides also discussed ongoing conflicts in the OSCE area and the situation in Georgia.

On Wednesday, Tsereteli participated in an all-staff meeting at the International Secretariat. He spoke to the staff about his upcoming activities as well as the work of the OSCE PA Special Representatives and new appointments he has made. Tsereteli emphasized the importance of maintaining gender balance in the PA and discussed new ideas he is developing.

OSCE PA Special Representatives appointed

President Tsereteli has renewed the mandates of several OSCE PA Special Representatives and appointed new ones on Arctic Issues, Civil Society Engagement, Disinformation and Propaganda, and Fighting Corruption. For more information, please visit www.oscepa.org.

Vice-President Cederfelt represents PA at Economic Forum in Poland

OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) spoke at the opening plenary of the 29th Economic Forum, taking place 3-5 September in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland. She underlined the importance of international co-operation, noting that with trust and leadership it is possible to overcome today's challenges. She noted that the OSCE PA is working for peace and security through dialogue.

Cederfelt also took part in a session on security in the Baltic Sea region. Stressing the importance of international co-operation, she noted that the PA has developed inter-regional dialogue through a Nordic-Baltic format. She discussed the topic of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, highlighting how divided international opinion is on this subject. Other important issues for the region are cyber security and fake news as well as integrity and respect for each countries' territories, Cederfelt said.

Some 4,000 people from politics, academia and business are participating in the Economic Forum.



Margareta Cederfelt (third from left) at Economic Forum in Poland, 3 Sept. 2019.

PA organizes Informal Brainstorming meeting on Election Observation in Denmark

Representatives of the OSCE PA, OSCE/ODIHR, NATO PA, European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe attended an informal brainstorming meeting on election observation on 22-23 August in Snekkersten, north of Copenhagen. Organized by the OSCE PA International Secretariat, the meeting explored ways to make the parliamentary briefings more useful for parliamentarians and the press conference more appealing to the media and thereby increase visibility. Regarding the briefings, the aim was to reduce excessively 'obligatory' remarks and duplication between different members of the leadership, and rather focus more on election day procedures and on political matters.



Participants at the informal brainstorming meeting in Denmark, 23 Aug. 2019.