

President Tsereteli and SG Montella engage with PACE and EP in Strasbourg



L-R: Cristina Castagnoli, Ignacio Sanchez Amor, Roberto Montella, Isabel Santos, George Tsereteli, Tonino Picula and Gustavo Pallares

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, Secretary General Roberto Montella and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares were in Strasbourg last week, participating in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 24-25 October. They also took part in the European Parliament's plenary session seating on 23 October, and held numerous bilateral meetings with representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and Speakers of Parliament.

Meeting with Klara Dobrev, Vice President of the European Parliament, and Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, David McAllister, the sides discussed OSCE-EU relations and the state of co-operation between the OSCE PA and the European Parliament.

The PA delegation held useful meetings with a number of MEPs from across the region, as well as Cristina Castagnoli from the EU's Directorate for Democracy Support, Democracy and Elections Actions. They met with former members of the OSCE PA leadership, including now Commissioner **Christos**

Stylianides and MEPs **Isabel Santos, Ignacio Sanchez Amor, Tonino Picula** and **Roman Haider**.

President Tsereteli addressed the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament on 24 October. Speaking at the session on "Our common European home: the next 70 years," President Tsereteli called for investing in international co-operation and advocated an increased role for parliamentary diplomacy in the current challenging geopolitical context.

On the sidelines of the Conference, President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella had fruitful exchanges with a number of Speakers of Parliament from across the OSCE region, including those of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine. They also met with Inter-Parliamentary Assembly President Gabriela Cuevas Barron, as a follow-up to their recent participation in the IPU Assembly in Belgrade.

The OSCE PA delegation met with the President of PACE, Liliane Maury Pasquier, the Secretary General of PACE, Wojciech Sawicki, and with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejcinovic Buric. The sides stressed the excellent co-operation they enjoy and discussed areas of common engagement, such as election observation and human rights promotion, and the challenges the two organizations face in addressing effectively current political and security issues.

OSCE PA Secretary General Montella and Deputy Secretary General Pallares participated in the meeting of secretaries general focused on increasing parliamentary participation and impact. Montella addressed the meeting, highlighting the need to increase participation and impact of parliamentarians at all levels.

Special Representative Charalambides urges greater political will in fighting corruption



Irene Charalambides addresses OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Anti-Shell Companies, Bratislava, 24 Oct.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) spoke on 24 October at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Anti-Shell Companies' Law in Bratislava. Opened by Paola Severino, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating

Corruption, the seminar focused on the development of legal frameworks to increase corporate transparency and promote economic security.

Charalambides outlined the challenges of fighting corruption, stressing the need for greater political will. She noted that in order to combat corruption it is necessary to work together and co-ordinate efforts, highlighting Slovakia's Anti Letterbox Legislation as a good practice that can be replicated in other national parliaments.

While in Bratislava, Charalambides held a bilateral meeting with Severino in order to build synergy between the Parliamentary Assembly and the governmental side of the OSCE. She also discussed pursuing co-operative efforts with other participants at the seminar.

VP Cederfelt speaks about sustainable development at OSCE Mediterranean Conference

PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) represented the Assembly last week at the 2019 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Tirana. Consisting of a high-level political session and three subsequent working sessions, the event marked the 25th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Contact Group, exploring its achievements, challenges, and future opportunities for the Mediterranean Partnership.

Cederfelt spoke at the session on the role of connectivity, digitalization, sustainable development and economic growth in advancing common security in the Mediterranean. She stressed the important role of new and exponential technolo-

gies, the digital economy, artificial intelligence and science in solving environmental problems and facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Margareta Cederfelt addresses OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Tirana, 25 Oct.