

**Meeting with Delphine Schatz, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Mauro Miedico, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) - New York, 6 November 2024**



On 6 November 2024, MP Eugenio Zoffili, the Head of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held two meetings in New York in his capacity as the Assembly's Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime. The meetings took place on the occasion of the

OSCE PA Election Observation Mission to the United States for the 2024 Presidential Elections and were held at the Headquarters of the Permanent Representation of Italy to the United Nations, in the presence of Ambassador Maurizio Massari (Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations) and the Italian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE PA.

MP Zoffili first met with the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ms Delphine Schatz, who expressed concerns over an increase of the circulation of synthetic drugs and production of cocaine. Demand is growing especially in the ports and airports of large cities where violent organizations

operate. If the latter acquire the chemicals to produce synthetic drugs, these can be manufactured anywhere. In some places, criminal gangs produce large quantities of drugs whilst also engaging in human trafficking. To obtain the necessary funds, they now use new technologies, notably cryptocurrencies.





Zoffili then met with the Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), Mauro Miedico, who focused on the role of parliamentarians in preventing and combating terrorism, and emphasized that cooperation with parliaments is a key priority. He also welcomed the Fourth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on countering the use of artificial intelligence and new technologies for terrorist purposes and the Sixth Meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-terrorism to be held in Rome on 4 and 5 December next. In this regard, he described the Coordination Mechanism as a unique instrument and acknowledged the role of the OSCE Assembly, which was the first Organization to ever set up an *ad hoc* group on terrorism.

In answering a question from Zoffili on terrorist threats in connection with the current developments in the Middle East and relations between organized crime and terrorism, Miedico explained that terrorist groups have long had a well-defined strategy and that there is evidence of the dark web and cryptocurrencies being used for terrorist purposes. The time has come to adopt a different approach and coordinate the response systems, while not underestimating the importance of prevention.