

News from Copenhagen

Vice-President Tsereteli discusses OSCE PA issues at International Secretariat



L-R: Gustavo Pallares, George Tsereteli, Roberto Montella, Anna Di Domenico, Iryna Sabashuk and Semyon Dzakhaev 17 May.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) visited OSCE PA headquarters in Copenhagen Tuesday for discussions with Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff members of the International Secretariat. In focus was the preparation for the PA's 25th Annual Session, to be held 1-5 July in Tbilisi, Georgia, with Tsereteli stressing his hope that all OSCE participating States will take part in the meeting.

Vice-President Tsereteli raised a range of issues, including ideas for improving ways that delegations can contribute to the

Assembly and developing mechanisms to ensure that OSCE PA recommendations are duly considered by the OSCE's governmental side. He also spoke about the need to enhance the PA's conflict mediation abilities and to increase the role of young people in the PA's work. Regarding the Annual Session, Tsereteli said that it will be a forum for all parties to engage in constructive dialogue with an open approach.

Montella briefed Tsereteli on recent developments in the Secretariat, including new staff rules and regulations that have been adopted, and described his efforts in enhancing the OSCE PA's external relations. He also talked about ongoing staff activities, as well as the work of the OSCE PA's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure, chaired by Vice-President Lord Peter Bowness (United Kingdom), in fine-tuning the working procedures of the Assembly.

While in Copenhagen, Tsereteli is attending the "Women Deliver" Global Conference focused on implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

First Committee Vice-Chair Guliyev holds talks at International Secretariat

The Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan), was in Copenhagen on 12 May to meet with Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Guliyev, who had traveled to Helsinki earlier in the week to meet with Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva, discussed with Montella and PA staff various ideas for enhancing the Assembly's impact in addressing challenges in the OSCE region. PA staff briefed Guliyev, who was appointed earlier this year to head the OSCE PA observation mission to elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on the most recent developments in the country.

Other topics of discussion included preparations for the visit to Azerbaijan later this month by the PA's Special



Azay Guliyev, Roberto Montella and Iryna Sabashuk at PA headquarters in Copenhagen, 12 May 2016.

Representative on the South Caucasus and the situation in the region, as well as preparations for the upcoming Annual Session in Tbilisi.

Montella also briefed Guliyev on his ongoing efforts to modernize the International Secretariat and on recent staffing changes.

OSCE PA staff members visit Minsk for 2017 Annual Session preparation



OSCE PA staff (right) meets with Viktor Guminsky and Belarusian Parliament staff on 11 May 2016.

Representatives of the OSCE PA's International Secretariat were in Minsk last week preparing for the 26th Annual Session to be hosted by the Belarusian Parliament. Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares, Semyon Dzakhaev and Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge, met with Viktor Guminsky, Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives and Head of the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA, as

well as the top administrators of the Parliament including Head of the Secretariat Galina Yurkevich, in order to co-ordinate all organizational and logistical aspects for the Annual Session. Topics of discussion included the Session's possible venue, lodging, transportation, security, protocol, general programme and related events.

During their visit in Minsk the members of the Secretariat also held a meeting with representatives of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry regarding the facilitation of entry visas for participants. The Secretary of the Belarusian Delegation to the PA Andrei Yakauleu, who is co-ordinating the preparations of the Annual Session with the Secretariat, accompanied the conference team during its visit. The Annual Session is expected to be held in Minsk on 5-9 July 2017.