

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 678

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat [@oscepa](#)

15 November 2017

Tsereteli assumes OSCE PA presidency, holds meetings in Copenhagen



George Tsereteli meeting with staff at the Secretariat, 9 Nov.

George Tsereteli (Georgia) succeeded Christine Muttonen (Austria) as Assembly President last week, following the formation of a new Parliament in Austria on 9 Nov. As the most senior Vice-President of the Assembly, Tsereteli will act as President until elections are held for Assembly Officers at next summer's OSCE PA Annual Session in Berlin. Upon taking over as President, Tsereteli thanked his predecessor.

"Christine Muttonen has served the OSCE PA admirably for many years – as a member of the Austrian Delegation,

as a Vice-President, as Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, and as Assembly President for the past 15 months – and we are all sad to see her go," he said. "I hope that I am able to continue leading the Assembly with as much ability, vision and energy as she brought to this position."

President Tsereteli held meetings with Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff on 9 Nov. at the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen, underlining the importance of a smooth presidential transition.

On 10 Nov., Tsereteli met with Pia Kjaersgaard, Speaker of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget), for talks that focused on challenges to the OSCE area and Denmark's contributions to the PA. Tsereteli expressed gratitude to the Danish Parliament for hosting the OSCE PA's International Secretariat. Other topics of discussion included protracted conflicts in the OSCE area and migration. Tsereteli extended an invitation to Speaker Kjaersgaard to participate in PA meetings, including the Bureau Meeting that is held in Copenhagen every spring.

Members of Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism visit Vienna

Members of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) met with officials from the United Nations and the OSCE's executive structures in Vienna this week to learn about their work and promote a stronger parliamentary perspective in counter-terrorism. The visit on 13-14 Nov. was the CCT's first official activity and was led by Committee Chair Makis Voridis (Greece), who addressed the Security Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council on Monday.

A meeting with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger focused on areas where the PA can complement the OSCE's ongoing counter-terrorism work, including by advocating for advancement and harmonization of relevant legislative and policy frameworks and promoting the exchange of best practices. CCT members met with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Desir, and with CPC Director Amb. Marcel Pesko for discussions on ensuring that freedom of expression is upheld while developing efforts to counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and the application of the OSCE's conflict-prevention toolbox to the fight against terrorism. Meeting Tuesday with the Director



Ad Hoc Committee members at the UN in Vienna, 13 Nov.

of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, CCT members emphasized the readiness of the OSCE PA to work together with international partners.

Committee members also met with representatives of the outgoing and incoming OSCE Chairmanships, as well as experts from the UN and civil society. In addition to Voridis, the delegation included CCT Vice-Chairs Stéphane Crusnière (Belgium) and Sofio Katsarava (Georgia), and members Ana Birchall (Romania), Lisa Chambers (Ireland), Ignacio Cosido (Spain), Fatmir Mediu (Albania), and Igor Popov (Ukraine). Also joining the PA's delegation was Secretary General Roberto Montella, Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle, and Liaison Officer and Advisor Marco Bonabello.

PA's Picchi speaks on migrants' political participation at OSCE/ODIHR event in Brussels

Guglielmo Picchi (Italy), Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, participated on Tuesday



Guglielmo Picchi (second from right) at ODIHR event, 14 Nov.

at a roundtable expert meeting on civic and political rights of migrants organized by the OSCE/ODIHR in Brussels. The two-day event is focused on promoting good practices in enhancing migrants' civic and political rights and providing an opportunity for networking and exchange among experts from across the OSCE region.

Picchi spoke about the experience of Italy in promoting migrants' political participation in local councils.