

News from Copenhagen

High-level OSCE PA delegation holds meetings in New York and Washington



Wrapping up a two-day visit to UN headquarters in New York last Friday, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Secretary General Roberto Montella underlined the importance of continued close co-operation among international actors to assist in resolving protracted conflicts.

President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella held a series of meetings including with the President of the UN General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak; Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, UN Counter-Terrorism Office; Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenca; and Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, among others.

“The OSCE and the UN are natural partners in so many

fields of work, and as we all work for more peace, security and development, it’s crucially important to capitalize on each others’ strengths,” said Tsereteli. “As OSCE parliamentarians continue work on issues such as countering terrorism, finding sustainable solutions to migration flows, and seeking solutions to unresolved conflicts, I’m pleased that we can build on excellent work in all these fields by the United Nations.”

The meetings in New York served as an opportunity to explore areas for further co-operation in priority fields of work. Of particular focus in the meetings were issues related to the crisis in and around Ukraine, unresolved conflicts in the South Caucasus, developments in Central Asia and South East Europe, as well as humanitarian concerns, migration and terrorism, with President Tsereteli highlighting the work being done within these fields by OSCE parliamentarians.

Following the visit to UN headquarters, Tsereteli and Montella continued to Washington for a series of meetings with members of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA, staff of the Helsinki Commission, and U.S. State Department officials. The Washington leg of the visit continues through Friday.

In Brussels, OSCE parliamentarians discuss Belgium’s migration experience

Members of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Migration were in Brussels on 5-6 February to learn more about Belgian migration, asylum and integration policies. Extensive discussions addressed, in particular, the different reception options available to unaccompanied foreign minors. Committee members noted that it was now possible to implement the needs-based approach which seeks to provide adapted care suited to the needs of the individual, pointing out that a number of challenges remain regarding procedures for determining the age and best interests of the child.

The programme included briefings with officials from the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil), the Brussels Integration Agency, as well as representatives from the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons and the Immigration Office working with unaccompanied minors. Members also met with officials from the European Commission, European External Action



Service, International Organization for Migration and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to follow up on the Committee’s recommendations and assess progress in implementing the European Agenda on Migration.

The delegation to Brussels was led by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, Swiss parliamentarian Filippo Lombardi. The visit was organized by Ad Hoc Committee member Nahima Lanjri, a member of the Belgian Parliament.

OSCE PA Vice-President Santos participates in trafficking event in Vicenza

On the invitation of Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE PA Vice-President Isabel Santos (Portugal) took part in the OSCE project “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes” in Vicenza, Italy, on 25 January.

The visit included a tour of a training simulation’s command and control room, and visits to the offices of various

stakeholders, including law enforcement, prosecutors, labour inspectors, the media, a shelter, and NGOs. Santos and Jarbussynova also visited simulated crime scenes.

