

News from Copenhagen

PA President Tsereteli welcomes Kryrgyzstan's engagement with the OSCE

In his first visit to Kyrgyzstan as Assembly President, George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia), commended Bishkek's strong engagement with the OSCE and called for sustained efforts to advance security and stability in the region.

President Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella participated in the meeting of the OSCE's Heads of Field Operations in Central Asia, held in Bishkek. The President also visited the OSCE Academy for a lively exchange with students on the role of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly in addressing current challenges.

During the Heads of Field Operations meeting, President Tsereteli underlined the importance of good co-ordination both within the OSCE and with international partners, including the EU and the UN, to successfully tackle Central Asia's challenges. He also offered the expertise of OSCE parliamentarians to support international efforts.

President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella welcomed the active engagement of Kyrgyzstan in the PA and discussed preparations for this year's Autumn Meeting, to be held in Bishkek on 3-6 October.



This visit was also an occasion to follow-up on domestic developments since last October's presidential election. President Tsereteli's visit coincided with significant political developments as a new government was formed.

Meeting with the Head of the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE PA and leader of the parliamentary majority Isa Omurkulov, as well as representatives of the Ombudsman and civil society, Tsereteli recognized Kyrgyzstan's achievements in consolidating democratic values, while calling for continued vigilance and sustained progress on reforms.

The President was accompanied by Gustavo Pallares and Farimah Daftary from the International Secretariat.

Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Chair Voridis speaks in Vienna



Makis Voridis, Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, spoke at the Security Committee of the OSCE in Vienna on 16 April. He provided an overview of the Assembly's work in the field of counter-terrorism and underlined the importance of promoting synergy between all relevant bodies of the OSCE and within the broader international community.

"Terrorism constitutes one of the biggest challenges to

security, freedom and to all those values that underpin our lives, founded on democracy and on the rule of law," Voridis said. "Terrorist networks usually operate at a transnational level and are very adaptable to the situation on the ground. To respond to such challenges and to their evolving nature, we are called to ensure inclusion and comprehensive approaches."

He stressed that the OSCE PA is ideally placed to promote dialogue and co-operation in this field.

Voridis discussed the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and outlined several themes that have surfaced during the Committee's work. These include the need for strengthening co-ordination and information sharing between different counter-terrorism stakeholders, promoting counter-terrorism security measures in full respect of human rights norms and the rule of law, addressing threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and preventing radicalization.

OSCE PA's work on human trafficking highlighted at OSCE conference in Vienna

The valuable work of the OSCE's Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Amb. Madina Jarbussynova, and the PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking, Chris Smith (United States), was highlighted Tuesday in Vienna. OSCE PA Liaison Officer and Advisor Marco Bonabello spoke at the OSCE's human trafficking conference entitled "Everyone has a Role: How to make a Difference," applauding the dedicated efforts of Smith and Jarbussynova in combating this crime.

CORE representatives visit PA HQ

Frank Evers and Cornelius Friesendorf, from the Centre for OSCE Research, met at the OSCE PA Secretariat with Secretary General



Roberto Montella and staff on Tuesday. Discussion focused on the role of the PA in defining approaches to the OSCE human dimension, including through developing methods of co-operation between OSCE participating States.