

Pres. Tsereteli hails progress in Transdniestrian settlement process



OSCE PA President Tsereteli meets Moldovan President Igor Dodon in Chisinau, 25 June 2018.

Concluding his first visit to Moldova on Tuesday, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) lauded recent achievements in the Transdniestrian settlement process and encouraged both Chisinau and Tiraspol to sustain the momentum of progress to create conditions for a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of the conflict.

He noted that at a time when European security and stability are threatened, Chisinau and Tiraspol are setting a positive example for the rest of the OSCE area, where conflict resolution has too often been characterized by lack of progress.

President Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella met in Chisinau on Monday with a range of officials, including President Igor Dodon, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Cristina Lesnic, Secretary General of State for Foreign Affairs and European Integration Mihail Capatina and the Moldovan delegation to the OSCE PA led by Serghei Sirbu. In Tiraspol, they held meetings with Transdniestrian leader Vadim Krasnoselsky and the Speaker of the Transdniestrian legislature, Alexander Shcherba. They also met with extra-parliamentary opposition leader Maia Sandu, civil society representatives and members of the international community.

In visits to the OSCE Mission to Moldova in Chisinau and Tiraspol, Tsereteli praised the valuable work of its team led by Amb. Michael Scanlan, as well as the constant engagement of successive OSCE Chairmanships, for moving the process forward.

The Moldova trip was supported by Presidential Advisor Loic Poulain.

Observers: Genuine choice in Turkish elections, but unequal conditions



Ignacio Sanchez Amor delivers post-election statement in Ankara, 25 June 2018.

The international election observation mission to Turkey – a joint endeavor including an OSCE PA delegation led by Peter Osusky (Slovakia) and delegations from the OSCE/ODIHR led by Amb. Audrey Glover and PACE led by Olena Sotnyk – concluded Monday with a press conference in Ankara. The observers noted that voters had a genuine choice in the 24 June early presidential and parliamentary elections, but the conditions for campaigning were not equal, with the incumbent president and ruling party enjoying an undue advantage, including in excessive coverage by government-affiliated media outlets.

According to the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions delivered by Special Co-ordinator Ignacio Sanchez Amor (Spain), the legal framework and powers granted under the ongoing state of emergency restricted freedoms of assembly and expression, including in the media. Nonetheless, citizens demonstrated their commitment to democracy by participating in large numbers in campaign rallies and on election day. Election day procedures were generally followed, although important legally prescribed steps were often omitted during the counting and tabulation of ballots.

The OSCE PA's mission consisted of 67 parliamentarians and staff who deployed across Turkey for election day observation. Two members were precluded from participating as observers. From the International Secretariat, the mission was supported by Francesco Pagani, Iryna Sabashuk, Tim Knoblaue, Firuze Demir and Nat Parry.

Special Rep. Allizard addresses OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group on Cybersecurity

Speaking at the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group on Cybersecurity on Monday, OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France) noted that cyberspace is the latest battlefield in the fight against terrorism and that proper tools, including those found in the OSCE toolbox, are required to meet this challenge. He stressed the importance of combating online radicalization, as well as protecting national economies and infrastructure from malware attacks.

Allizard participated in the meeting at the invitation of

Slovak Ambassador Radomir Bohac, Chairperson of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, and used the opportunity to meet several actors within the OSCE Mediterranean partnership. He held discussions with Faouzia Mebarki, Ambassador of Algeria, and Mohamed Mezghani, newly appointed Ambassador of Tunisia to Austria and the OSCE.

Last week Allizard received in Paris Moroccan Senators Mohamed El Bakkouri and Abdelkrim El Hams, respectively Chair and Member of the Moroccan OSCE PA Delegation.