

# News from Copenhagen

## President, SG visit Luxembourg in preparation for Annual Session



George Tsereteli signs the guest book at the Chamber of Deputies, 25 March.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Secretary General Roberto Montella visited the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg this week to finalize the agreement to hold the Parliamentary Assembly's 28th Annual Session in Luxembourg City.

The PA delegation met with Grand Duke Henri, Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, Speaker Fernand Etgen, Foreign

Minister Jean Asselborn, members of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, the Delegation of Luxembourg to the OSCE PA led by Eugene Berger, the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Cooperation, Immigration and Asylum chaired by Marc Angel, and members of the Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg.

Topics of discussion included the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, the situation in Georgia, human rights, OSCE PA activities, and future co-operation between Luxembourg and the PA. Tsereteli and Montella, who were joined by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Chief of Administration and Finance Marieta Samac, voiced appreciation for Luxembourg's steadfast support to the OSCE.

The OSCE PA's Annual Session will be held at the European Convention Center Luxembourg on 4-8 July under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments."

## CCT Chair Voridis speaks at OSCE counter-terrorism conference

Representing the PA at the Slovak Chairmanship's OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Bratislava this week, Greek parliamentarian Makis Voridis spoke Monday on advances and progress in international co-operation in countering terrorism and the implementation of good practices in preventing violent extremism in the OSCE area.

Voridis highlighted the work of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, which he chairs, and emphasized the PA's recently launched initiative calling upon all parliaments in the OSCE region to inquire with their respective governments on the status of implementation of existing commitments on border security and information sharing in the context of the fight against terrorism.

Voridis held a number of high-level bilateral meetings



Makis Voridis addresses the OSCE-wide conference, 25 March.

on the margins of the OSCE conference. He met with the UN Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov and UN Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx, as well as with representatives of the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and the 2020 Albanian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

## Tsereteli on visit to The Hague meets parliamentary leaders and HCNM



George Tsereteli and Khadija Arib, 27 March

President George Tsereteli was in The Hague Wednesday for meetings aimed at reinforcing co-operation with the Dutch parliament and joint work between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

At the Binnenhof, President Tsereteli met with Khadija Arib, President of the House of Representatives, Ankie Broekers-Knol, President of the Senate, and members of the delegation of the Netherlands to the OSCE PA Albert Van den Bosch, Madeleine van Toorenburg and Achraf Bouali. Discussions touched on major international issues including Ukraine and relations with Russia.

In a visit to the HCNM, President Tsereteli was briefed by Ambassador Lamberto Zannier and HCNM staff on current regional and thematic issues. In discussions, President Tsereteli highlighted the importance of the HCNM's work and discussed ways to co-operate with HCNM through country visits and participation in events.