

# News from Copenhagen

## PA delegation urges focus on Arctic, new Special Representative appointed

A delegation of OSCE parliamentarians concluded a visit to the Arctic last week with meetings in Oslo, where they stressed that Arctic countries need to maintain concerted efforts to safeguard the High North as an area of peaceful co-operation, while all OSCE countries must commit to the protection of the nature and biodiversity of the Arctic region.

The PA delegation led by President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) included Vice-President Kari Henriksen (MP, Norway), Economic and Environmental Committee Chair Nilza de Sena (MP, Portugal), and Secretary General Roberto Montella. They met Friday with Storting President Tone Trøen, Minister for Climate and Environment Ola Elvestuen, and Foreign Affairs State Secretary Marianne Hagen.

The meetings in the Norwegian capital on 24 May took place following a field visit north of the Arctic Circle, where PA Members explored the local and global impact of climate change. Parliamentarians discussed challenges emerging from Arctic warming, including busier maritime traffic, increased demand for safety and assistance services, and potential new



George Tsereteli, Torill Eidsheim, Nilza de Sena and Roberto Montella, 24 May 2019

tensions related to economic competition.

In order to support international co-operation and security dialogue in the High North, President Tsereteli appointed on 24 May Torill Eidsheim (MP, Norway) as Special Representative on Arctic Issues. The new Special Representative will work to raise awareness on issues impacting the High North, particularly those related to climate change and security, and to increase the OSCE PA's joint work in the region with other international organizations.

## PA's Tirana workshop kickstarts co-operation ahead of 2020 Albanian Chairmanship



Andreas Nothelle addresses the workshop in Tirana.

In close co-ordination with the OSCE Presence in Albania, and with Ditmir Bushati, Head of the Albanian delegation to OSCE PA, and Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, the Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Second Committee, the OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna Amb. Andreas Nothelle held a workshop this week in Tirana intended to lend the PA's practical and onsite support to the incoming Albanian OSCE Chairmanship. Nothelle provided an overview of the PA's

main activities, its election observation work, the relationship between the PA's acquis and Ministerial Council decisions, co-operation with the OSCE's executive structures, and areas of joint work between the PA and the Chairmanship.

Nothelle held meetings in Tirana with the Speaker of Parliament, Gramoz Ruci, the Head of the Socialist Party Parliamentary Group, Taulant Balla, the SG of Parliament, Genc Gjocaj, the Minister for Relations with Parliament, Elisa Spiropali, and the Head of the OSCE Presence, Ambassador Bernd Borchardt. The topics of discussion revolved around the 2020 Chairmanship with Ruci welcoming PA's support and confirming the parliament's willingness to co-operate with the PA.

The PA and the OSCE Presence in Albania will continue supporting the Albanian parliament's efforts to modernize their resources and capacities, it was stressed.

## OSCE PA hosts meeting with ODIHR to explore ways to enhance co-operation

OSCE/ODIHR Director Ingibjorg Gisladdottir and staff visited the OSCE PA's headquarters in Copenhagen on Wednesday for a meeting focused on expanding co-operation in the human dimension, promoting synergies in public communication, and enhancing co-operation on election observation. Secretary General Roberto Montella and several PA staff members discussed with ODIHR avenues for deepened co-operation, including work with parliaments and legal reviews of legislation.

Also discussed were methods and modalities of election observation, including related to public outreach.



PA-ODIHR meeting in Copenhagen, 29 May 2019