

# News from Copenhagen

## Kiener Nellen and Hadjiyianni: Human drama near Ukraine's contact line is intolerable



Kyriakos Hadjiyianni and Margareta Kiener Nellen near the contact line in Ukraine, 1 June 2019

Third Committee Chair Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) and Rapporteur Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) undertook a mission to Ukraine from 30 May to 3 June, visiting the contact line in the east of the country, a centre for internally displaced persons, and medical facilities. The visit was supported by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and included meetings with new Chief Monitor of the SMM Ambassador Yasar Halit Cevik, ICRC Head of Delegation Florence Gillette, and Head of UNHR Monitoring Mission in Ukraine Fiona Frazer, as well as human rights organizations in the region, including the NGO Proliska and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Discussing with interlocutors the international community's efforts to provide assistance to conflict-affected populations in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Kiener Nellen and Hadjiyianni emphasized that renewed conflict resolution efforts, freedom of movement for civilians, and concrete humanitarian measures are urgently needed. When visiting the Stanytsia Luhanska Entry-Exit Checkpoint in the east of the country, they witnessed the long queue of people waiting to cross, the heavily mined surroundings, and the difficult conditions for the elderly and disabled persons.

The PA delegation met in Kyiv with Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Lyudmyla Denisova, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA Second Committee and Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA Artur Gerasymov, and Borys Tarasyuk, a member of parliament and former Foreign Minister. Discussions with Ukrainian officials focused on humanitarian aspects of the conflict and prospects for bringing it to a close. Kiener Nellen and Hadjiyianni stressed the importance of implementing the Minsk Agreements and to pursue a political resolution of the conflict.

## President Tsereteli urges stronger partnership with NATO PA in Bratislava

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) spoke Monday at the Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, calling on both organizations to reinforce their partnership to achieve a safe, secure and undivided Europe. Tsereteli underlined that challenges to the European security architecture – including the continued occupation of Georgia, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the annexation of Crimea and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine – call for greater transatlantic and pan-European co-operation.

“The conflicts that you see as being on NATO's border are at the very heart of the OSCE, both in terms of geography and membership,” said President Tsereteli. He highlighted the OSCE PA's engagement in Ukraine and called on NATO parliamentarians to help alleviate the humanitarian situation on the ground. The address was also an opportunity to outline some of the OSCE PA's work ahead of its Luxembourg Annual

Session, including in the fields of migration, terrorism, and reinforcing partnerships in Central Asia.

On 2 June, President Tsereteli met with NATO PA President Madeleine Moon (United Kingdom) and NATO PA Secretary

General David Hobbs for talks that focused on the conflict in Ukraine and opportunities for the NATO PA and the OSCE PA to deepen their relationship.

Following his trip to Bratislava, Tsereteli travelled to Vienna where he met with OSCE PA Liaison Office staff and Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation Reinhold Lopatka.



George Tsereteli and Madeleine Moon

## PA's de Sena speaks on sustainable development at OSCE Security Day in Vienna



Nilza de Sena addresses OSCE Security Days event, 4 June

Parliamentarians must push for the full implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nilza de Sena (Portugal) said at the OSCE's Security Days event in

Vienna on Tuesday. Speaking on the OSCE's role in promoting the SDGs, de Sena noted that as elected policymakers, parliamentarians are well positioned to both enact laws and communicate directly with constituents about the necessity of these policies. She underlined that there must be a greater sense of urgency on the climate crisis and highlighted that the PA will meet next month for its Annual Session under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments.”