

## Voridis and Chambers address UN Security Council on PA's counter-terrorism work



Lisa Chambers speaks at the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, New York, 2 July 2019

In a briefing on the counter-terrorism work of parliamentarians before the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, Makis Voridis (Greece) and Lisa Chambers (Ireland) spoke Tuesday about the role played by the OSCE PA in this field and ways to further the engagement of parliamentarians in countering terrorism.

In his video address, Voridis, the Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT), noted that the greatest asset that parliamentarians hold is the power of oversight to ensure public scrutiny of governmental action, including the development and implementation of counter-terrorism policies and legislation.

"By co-ordinating this incredible power across all our parliaments, the OSCE PA is adding real value," he said.

Chambers, a member of the CCT, informed the 15 Security Council members about the pioneering work of the PA in counter-terrorism. "Within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, we act as a bridge between our constituents and the Organization overall. We do this by building political momentum for the Organization's efforts through our

policymaking, oversight and convening powers," Chambers said.

Speaking at UN Headquarters in New York, she highlighted that the overall strategic goal of the CCT is to bring a distinct parliamentary contribution to countering terrorism and violent extremism in the OSCE area by determining the most pressing needs, sharing lessons learned, providing focused policy guidance, and promoting the swift implementation of existing counter-terrorism frameworks. As an illustrative example, she drew attention to the recently completed OSCE PA initiative on strengthening border control and information sharing in the context of UNSC resolution 2396.

The closed briefing of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee was entitled "Strengthening the role of parliaments in enhancing Member States' counter-terrorism efforts" and was intended to facilitate the UN engagement with parliamentary assemblies as well as to identify practical approaches towards ensuring that Member States' counter-terrorism legislation complies with relevant Security Council resolutions and international standards, codes and best practices.

Participants included UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee Chair Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Observer of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) Qazi Shaukat Fareed, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to the United Nations in New York Patricia A. Torsney, Deputy Executive Director of the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate Weixiong Chen and the Chief of Special Projects and Innovation Division of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Mauro Miedico.

Chambers was accompanied in New York by Senior Advisor Marco Bonabello from the International Secretariat.

## PA's Annual Session set to begin in Luxembourg

Some 500 participants, including nearly 300 parliamentarians, are arriving this week in Luxembourg, where the 28th Annual Session will take place on 4-8 July under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments." Following several days of committee work, the Annual Session will culminate in the adoption on 8 July of the Luxembourg Declaration, containing recommendations to national governments, parliaments and the international community in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment, human rights and humanitarian questions.



Hosted by the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, the Annual Session will take place at the European Convention Center and will include participation from 56 national delegations.



Margareta Cederfelt  
@MCederfelt

Following

Immunity facilitates ability of MPs to perform duties and maintain independence. Removing this must be done with caution and care. The hasty decision to strip Nika Melia's immunity in #Georgia places burden of transparent and credible investigation into allegations.

@oscepa

## Featured tweets @oscepa

OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) tweeted on 28 June about the decision to strip Nika Melia's immunity in Georgia. She called the decision hasty and said that removing parliamentary immunity should only be done with caution and care.