

PA adopts Luxembourg Declaration and elects officers; Tsereteli and Montella re-elected



Voting in plenary on 4 July

The OSCE PA on Monday adopted the Luxembourg Declaration, endorsing a multilateral approach to addressing common challenges in arms control, conflict resolution, the environment and human rights. Following five days of work at the Annual Session in Luxembourg, the parliamentarians adopted the Declaration in plenary by a vote of 94-7, with 11 abstentions. The theme of the Annual Session was “Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments.”

The Declaration urges parliaments to develop legislation with the aim of combating corruption, improving migration governance, and fighting organized crime. It calls on OSCE countries “to place promotion and protection of human rights at the centre of their domestic as well as their foreign policy agendas” and encourages governments to consider requesting that the OSCE/ODIHR prepare legal reviews of laws and draft laws to ensure compliance with OSCE commitments.

Condemning all forms of terrorism and extremist violence, the Declaration calls on parliaments and governments to respond effectively to challenges stemming from returning and relocating terrorist fighters (FTFs). It recommends carbon pricing to account for the environmental harm of CO2 emissions and to move towards clean energy. It urges a cessation of hostilities in eastern Ukraine and encourages the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to intensify their dialogue in the context of the mediation led by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

The Assembly adopted 15 supplementary items, covering topics including migration governance and promoting dignified return policies, the Russian militarization of Ukrainian territory, educating schoolchildren to avoid human trafficking,

energy security, governance of private military and security companies, and the security and human rights situation in Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia.

Speakers at the Annual Session, which took place 4-8 July, included President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg Fernand Etgen, Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, Founding Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Steny Hoyer, OSCE Chair-in-Office Miroslav Lajcak, OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, OSCE PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier, and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

The PA also elected officers for the 2018-2019 term. The PA re-elected George Tsereteli (Georgia) as President and Victor Paul Dobre (Romania) and Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) as Vice-Presidents. Nilza de Sena (Portugal), previously Second Committee Chair, was newly elected Vice-President. The Assembly elected Peter Juel Jensen, the Head of the OSCE PA's Danish Delegation, as Treasurer.

The First Committee elected Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland) Chair, Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania) Vice Chair, and Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania) Rapporteur. In the Second Committee, members elected Sofio Katsarava (Georgia) Chair, Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) Vice-Chair and Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania) Rapporteur. The Third Committee elected Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) Chair along with Vice-Chair Michael Georg Link (Germany) and Rapporteur Susana Amador (Portugal).

In the Standing Committee on 4 July, heads of delegations re-elected Secretary General Roberto Montella to a new five-year term. The mandate begins on 1 January 2021.

Tsereteli and Montella participate in Informal Ministerial in Slovakia, highlight Annual Session outcomes



Participants at the informal gathering in the High Tatras

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Secretary General Roberto Montella were among the high-level participants of the OSCE Informal Ministerial meeting convened Tuesday by Slovak Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajcak in the High Tatras Mountains of Slovakia.

The meeting aimed to facilitate genuine political dialogue and spur a recommitment to the values and the role of the OSCE in the region.

The PA stands ready to provide input to the work of the organization in all fields of security, leveraging the distinct contributions and added value of parliamentarians, said President Tsereteli in his remarks. Montella noted that it is essential to discuss strategic and long-term approaches to respond to the many challenges the OSCE is facing and overcome political stalemates.

On the margins, President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella held bilateral exchanges with a number of foreign ministers.