

## High-level OSCE PA participation at Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw

Addressing the opening of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on Monday, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) said that four decades after the Helsinki Final Act, the struggle to respect and promote human rights and human security remains a challenge in the OSCE area. Noting that the past decade has represented a downward trend, Tsereteli stressed that the human dimension requires increased dedication and focus by all.

“This forum,” he noted, “should be seen as an opportunity for discussion and self-reflection, rather than an arena for finger-pointing and self-justifications. But, of course, honest discussions and debates need a practical follow-up. We need political will to put all these ideas into practice.”

Also participating from the OSCE PA at the HDIM were the Assembly’s human rights committee Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), OSCE PA Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Pia Kauma (Finland), and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella. Several bilateral meetings have taken place on the margins of the HDIM. The Members took the opportunity of the HDIM to hold a range of individual meetings including with civil society groups active within the OSCE region.

In his opening remarks, President Tsereteli highlighted relevant recommendations from the PA’s recent Luxembourg



Roberto Montella, Pia Kauma, George Tsereteli and Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, Warsaw, 16 September 2019

Declaration, adopted at the Annual Session in July. He also noted that in order to strengthen the OSCE PA’s engagement with civil society and promote anti-corruption efforts, he has recently appointed new Special Representatives to focus on these issues.

He highlighted the OSCE’s consensus rule as an embodiment of the inclusiveness of the Organization and one of its strengths, but stressed that it cannot be allowed to become its weakness.

The HDIM, organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, is taking place 16-27 September in the Polish capital. This year’s conference includes more than 1,500 participants from across the 57 countries of the OSCE.

## OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption visits Vienna



Irene Charalambides meets with representatives of the Slovak Chairmanship in Vienna, 17 Sept. 2019.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) was in Vienna this week for meetings with representatives from the United Nations and OSCE. Charalambides explored with counterparts avenues for co-operation and developing ways for OSCE parliamentarians to counter corruption’s detrimental effects.

Charalambides met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov,

as well as with the Director of the Economic Crime Branch, Brigitte Strobel-Shaw. The UN representatives showed a strong interest in developing a co-operative relationship with Charalambides.

Charalambides also met with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the OSCE, to discuss the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship’s anti-corruption work, and Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Chairperson of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee. With OSCE representatives, Charalambides discussed concrete initiatives through which parliamentarians could add value in this complex field.

Meetings were also held with Ambassador Igli Hasani, Head of Permanent Mission of Albania to the OSCE, for discussions on anti-corruption priorities of the upcoming Albanian OSCE Chairmanship; Paul Bekkers, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General; Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Director of the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities; and several members of the OSCE Secretariat working in the economic and environmental dimension.

## Side event in Warsaw highlights OSCE PA human rights work



OSCE PA side event at 2019 HDIM, Warsaw, 17 September 2019

On Tuesday, OSCE PA Members organized a side event at the HDIM in Warsaw focused on ‘priority human rights

recommendations from OSCE parliamentarians.’ President George Tsereteli and Third Committee Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni presented an overview of recent work of the Assembly in the human dimension, followed by commentary by the Director of ODIHR Ingibjorg Gisladottir and by Philippe Dam from Human Rights Watch.

The event provided a useful opportunity to discuss priorities in the field of human rights promotion and particularly to seek input on Assembly work from civil society actors and others.