

Presidential visit to Armenia underlines democratic reforms and regional dialogue

Concluding a visit to Yerevan, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) welcomed sustained efforts to firmly establish democratic institutions and practices in Armenia.

President Tsereteli met on 25-26 November with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Speaker Ararat Mirzoyan, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, and Members of the Armenian Delegation to the OSCE PA led by Hayk Konjoryan.

Discussions addressed the deep and comprehensive reforms launched by Armenia following a peaceful transition of power in 2018, including efforts to increase political transparency, support greater gender representation in politics, strengthen the rule of law and an independent judiciary, and combating corruption.

“With expectations so high, and reforms so broad, it can be challenging for the pace of change to meet the expectations of society,” said Tsereteli. “Bearing in mind the complexity of implementing such a wide package of reforms, it is also up to the international community to help manage these expectations and offer its expertise to fully support Armenia’s democratic transformation.”

The PA President encouraged Armenia to continue working closely with all OSCE institutions, and offered the assistance of the Assembly’s Special Representatives and Rapporteurs on relevant issues.

“The PA strongly values the enthusiasm of Armenian parliamentarians in all our activities. I look forward to strengthening our joint work and warmly welcome the National Assembly’s invitation to hold an OSCE PA Annual Session in Armenia in the foreseeable future,” said Tsereteli.



George Tsereteli meets the Delegation of Armenia to the OSCE PA, Yerevan, 26 Nov. 2019. Photo: Parliament of Armenia

The meetings in Yerevan further offered an opportunity to discuss the status of negotiations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and assess the added value of parliamentary diplomacy in this context. All interlocutors agreed on the need to build mutual confidence in order to foster an environment conducive to greater regional co-operation.

“The work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is often a useful complement to existing OSCE mechanisms, and when it comes to conflict mediation and resolution, I firmly believe that parliamentarians are ideally placed to prepare the grounds for peace,” said President Tsereteli. “While negotiations must carry on through the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, the goodwill of OSCE parliamentarians can also be harnessed to push the process forward through carefully crafted activities.”

Underlining the PA’s support for the work of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Tsereteli also stressed that responsibility for concrete progress ultimately lies with the political leadership of the parties involved, and encouraged all sides to renounce inflammatory public statements.

Meeting with OSCE PA Treasurer focuses on Assembly finances



Peter Juel-Jensen and Roberto Montella

At the Assembly’s headquarters in Copenhagen on 26 November the OSCE PA’s Treasurer, Danish parliamentarian Peter Juel-Jensen, met with OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Chief of Administration and Finance Marieta Samac, Chief ICT Stephen Paul and the OSCE PA’s external independent auditor Pernille Dupont to review the OSCE PA’s financial status for the current fiscal year.

Recent videos highlight OSCE PA activities in Belarus and Egypt

In recent weeks, the OSCE PA has produced videos documenting a presidential visit to Egypt and election observation in Belarus. The videos can be found on the PA’s Facebook page and YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/oscepa

Featured tweets @oscepa

OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) tweeted this week on the topic of gender-based violence as part of the #16days campaign. “No more gender based violence!” tweeted Cederfelt. “Now it’s time to stop violence against women and girls.” Fry urged the adoption of laws and policies to protect victims of gender-based violence.



Dr. Hedy Fry
@HedyFry

Gender-based violence continues to be one of the most pervasive forms of discrimination against women and an obstacle to equality. As the @oscepa’s Special Representative on Gender Issues, I urge the adoption of laws and policies to better protect victims. #16days ♀