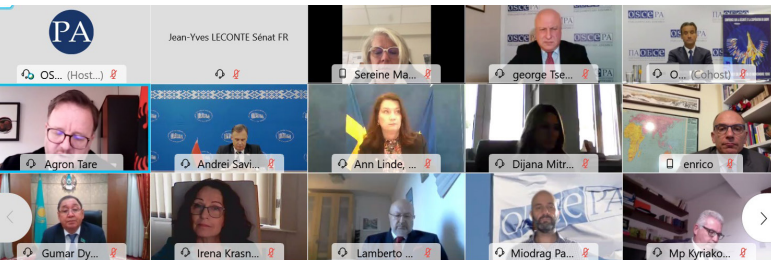


Parliamentarians celebrate Paris Charter's anniversary, urge renewed commitment to principles



The OSCE PA and the French Delegation to the PA held a web-based roundtable on 20 November to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which was adopted on 21 November 1990.

Participants in the event, entitled “The 30th Anniversary of the Charter of Paris: A Parliamentary Perspective,” discussed the relevance of the Paris Charter in the current international context, with a particular focus on the Assembly’s work in supporting the Organization since its inception. Many dedicated parliamentarians want to make the OSCE stronger, it was stressed, and to increase its effectiveness to ensure higher political commitment from governments.

More than 100 parliamentarians, experts and practitioners participated in the event. Moderated by Secretary General Roberto Montella, it featured contributions from Head of the

French Delegation to the OSCE PA Sereine Mauborgne, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic Jean-Yves Le Drian, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli, Vice Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania Agron Tare, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and incoming OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ann Linde, OSCE PA High-Level Expert Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, and former OSCE PA President Joao Soares.

Other contributions included reflections of former Swiss President and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter, delivered by Secretary General Montella, remarks by OSCE PA Vice-President Pascal Allizard, and former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta. In the discussion, PA members recalled the history of the Helsinki process and the role of civil society in moving the process forward. One of the great achievements of the Charter of Paris was the creation of the Parliamentary Assembly, parliamentarians said, and one of its strengths is that it is a forum for open debate.

Following the PA’s event, the Woodrow Wilson Center and US Helsinki Commission held a Paris Charter anniversary event, which featured contributions from Tsereteli and Montella, former Secretary General Spencer Oliver, members of the OSCE PA’s Delegation Ben Cardin and Robert Aderholt, and Helsinki Commission Staff Director Alex Johnson.

PA President to address Permanent Council ahead of Ministerial

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli will address the OSCE Permanent Council on 26 November and the Ministerial Council on 3 December. The Assembly’s Bureau will meet virtually on 2 December, and the PA will hold a side event on the margins of the Ministerial Council, entitled “OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose.”

PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism meets to discuss priorities

Terrorism trends in the OSCE area, including the attack on 2 November in Vienna, were in focus at the ninth meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) Wednesday, chaired by Austrian parliamentarian Reinhold Lopatka.

Seven CCT members were joined in the online meeting by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and representatives of the OSCE’s governmental side, including Amb. Igli Hasani, Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council 2020. Other participants included Wilhelm Sandrisser, Deputy Director General at the Austrian Ministry of the Interior; Nicolas Stockhammer, Political Scientist and Security Policy Analyst at the University of Vienna and Austrian National Defense Academy; Olga Lanchenko, Programme Management Officer

at the Special Projects and Innovation Division of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism; and Moussa Al-Hassan Diaw, Co-founder of DERAD Austria.

In their remarks the keynote speakers and CCT members highlighted new terrorism trends in Europe and the impact of the pandemic. President Tsereteli stressed the continued danger that radicalization and intolerance pose to democratic societies and said that the CCT is making a valuable contribution to OSCE-wide efforts to combat terrorism.

Moderated by the Secretariat’s Marco Bonabello, the meeting closed with a presentation by Georgia Holmer, the Head of the Action Against Terrorism Unit at the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, who briefed members on the OSCE’s governmental efforts in counter-terrorism with a view towards informing the PA’s own work plan for 2021.

Vice-President Cederfelt highlights OSCE PA work at SIPRI seminar

On 19 November, OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) participated at an event during the Stockholm Security Conference, arranged by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The seminar addressed the role of the OSCE in a changing security environment.

In her remarks, Cederfelt pointed out that the OSCE and

its Parliamentary Assembly fill an important role on the global stage. She highlighted that the OSCE has prevented several conflicts from spiralling out of control and that its work, including that of the PA, on election observation mission remains the “gold standard” and serves as a blueprint for other organizations. She further addressed the fight against corruption as an issue of major importance for the OSCE.