

News from Copenhagen

Tsereteli and Montella visit Washington, meet with members of US delegation



PA President George Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella at event in Washington on South East Europe, 5 February 2019.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Secretary General Roberto Montella are in Washington, DC, this week, participating in forums and holding a series of meetings, including with members of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA. On Tuesday, Tsereteli addressed a seminar held at the U.S. Senate on the challenges facing South East Europe and the Russian Federation's role in the region, which was promoted by Fatmir Mediu (Albania) and attended by OSCE PA Members including Robert Aderholt (United States), Speaker of Montenegro's Parliament and Head of Delegation

Ivan Brajovic, and Head of Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Vladimir Gjorcev. In his remarks, Tsereteli noted that continued instability means that the Western Balkans is reliant on external actors and therefore it is vital to facilitate peace and stability in the region.

Tsereteli also attended the U.S. President's State of the Union Address on Tuesday night. On Wednesday, Tsereteli and Montella are attending the Transatlantic Leadership Network event, "The Western Balkans: How to Overcome Obstacles on the Road Towards the EU," and meeting with senior staff of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and congressional leadership.

On Thursday, they are scheduled to attend the National Prayer Breakfast and meet with several members of the U.S. Delegation to the PA, including Alcee Hastings, Roger Wicker, Ben Cardin, Richard Hudson, Steve Cohen and Sheila Jackson Lee.

Tsereteli will report on his visit to Washington at the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting in Vienna on 21-22 February.

Special Representative Pritchard stresses Belgrade-Pristina dialogue in field visit

In a visit to Pristina, Mitrovica and Gracanica last week, the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), encouraged active dialogue, including parliamentary diplomacy, to support reconciliation and co-operation in the region. Pritchard met on 31 January and 1 February with leaders including Ramush Haradinaj, members of parliament and religious figures, as well as representatives of the OSCE's Mission in Kosovo.

In meetings, Pritchard conveyed full support to the European Union-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, while reiterating the OSCE PA's status-neutral approach. The Special Representative emphasized that effective regional co-operation is important for South East Europe and the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue plays a key role in this respect.

In meetings at OSCE Mission in Kosovo offices in Pristina and Mitrovica, as well as in Gracanica, Pritchard expressed support for the Mission's work in various fields. The Mission's



Mark Pritchard and Ramush Haradinaj in Pristina, 31 Jan. 2019

work in supporting the implementation of agreements stemming from the EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade is vital, he said.

He highlighted examples of the OSCE PA's work in the region, including the visit of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration to Serbia on 10-12 June 2018, and a visit of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 5-8 June 2018.

PA Vice-President Cederfelt participates in Europe-Ukraine Forum

OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) participated in the 12th Europe-Ukraine Forum, held in Rzeszow-Jasionka, Poland, on 24-25 January 2019. The forum, entitled "Ukraine After 2019. A Change or a Continuation?," explored topics related to reform and modernization in Ukraine and the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019. Also participating in the event was Gordana Comic, former Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, and now Deputy Speaker in Serbia.



Margareta Cederfelt, with Gordana Comic on her left, addresses Europe-Ukraine Forum in Poland.