

News from Copenhagen

PA to deploy nearly 110 observers to Ukraine for 31 March election



Ilkka Kanerva

Some 110 observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will deploy next week to Ukraine for the 31 March presidential election, making it one of the largest election observation missions ever organized by the PA.

OSCE PA President Emeritus Ilkka Kanerva (Finland) will serve as Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission, following an appointment by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajcak. Kanerva, who also serves as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Mediation, has led a number of observer missions in the past, including to Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

As Special Co-ordinator, Kanerva will deliver the joint statement of preliminary findings and conclusions at a press conference in Kyiv on 1 April.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) has appointed Assembly Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) as Head of the PA's observer mission. Barnett has served as Head of the OSCE PA election observation mission in two previous elections – in Ukraine in 2014 and Azerbaijan in 2013.

Tsereteli and Barnett conducted a pre-electoral visit to Ukraine last month, which also included OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and Special Representative



Doris Barnett

Andreas Nothelle. The PA delegation met in Kyiv with Andriy Parubiy, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, and the Head of the OSCE PA Delegation Artur Gerasymov. They held talks with presidential candidates Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuriy Boyko and MP Svitlana Zhalichuk representing Anatoliy Grytsenko.

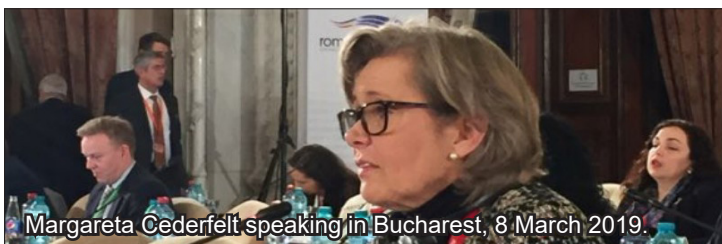
For the 31 March presidential election, the OSCE PA will work closely with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the European Parliament.

This will be the 14th time that the OSCE PA has observed electoral processes in Ukraine since 1994.

Deadline reminder

Delegations are kindly reminded that the deadline for registering to observe the 21 April presidential election in North Macedonia is Friday **29 March**. To register, applicants must return a completed Observer Nomination form, as well as a signed Statement of Nominated PA Observers and Code of Conduct together with a passport copy and a digital photograph to eom@oscepa.dk.

VP Cederfelt speaks at EU inter-parliamentary conference in Bucharest



Margareta Cederfelt speaking in Bucharest, 8 March 2019.

PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) spoke on 8 March at the EU's Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign, Security Policy and Defence Policy, where she described the PA's support for peace, democracy and rule of law in South East Europe. The conference was held in Bucharest on 7-8 March and was attended by parliamentarians from EU Member States and the European Parliament.

[@oscepa](#) Featured tweets

On Twitter, PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee Makis Voridis (Greece) and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance Ben Cardin (United States) condemned the attack in New Zealand last week and offered their condolences.



George Tsereteli
[@GTsereteli](#)

Following

This terrible tragedy, [#ChurchchristMosqueAttack](#), is a clear signal, that we need not only strict laws to tackle hate, [#radicalization](#) and [#terrorism](#), but more efforts to promote [#love](#), respect and [#tolerance](#). We pray for the victims and their families.. [#NewZealand @oscepa](#)