

News from Copenhagen

Albanian President, OSCE SG address Bureau meeting in Copenhagen



Members of the Bureau, Secretaries General Thomas Greminger (centre) and Roberto Montella (right), and Head of Danish Delegation Peter Juel Jensen (fourth from right) at Kommandantgarden.

The OSCE PA Bureau met Monday in Copenhagen, hearing remarks from Albanian President Ilir Meta related to Albania's upcoming Chairmanship of the OSCE, as well as OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, and Head of the OSCE PA's Danish Delegation Peter Juel Jensen. The Bureau also unanimously endorsed the renewal of the mandate of Roberto Montella for a second five-year term as OSCE PA Secretary General. The Bureau's proposal will be voted on by the Standing Committee in Luxembourg on 4 July 2019.

In his opening remarks, PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) noted the importance of overcoming the political differences that have stood in the way of principled discussions and removing obstacles that continue to delay the OSCE budget from being adopted in a timely fashion.

President Meta discussed preparations underway in Albania for its assumption of the 2020 OSCE Chairmanship, stressing the importance of the OSCE remaining a strong forum for dialogue, security and confidence-building. Secretary General Greminger discussed ways to make the best use of the unique set of OSCE structures and institutions, including the PA, to tackle current challenges.

In an open discussion with President Meta and Secretary

General Greminger, Bureau members raised issues including the challenges related to South East Europe, resolving protracted conflicts, and addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine. Members also expressed significant concern about the state of discussions related to financing the OSCE, with delays and differences threatening to halt the important work done by the Organization.

Secretary General Montella urged the continuation of constructive dialogue within the OSCE and assured President Meta of the PA's continued support as Albania assumes the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Rapporteurs of the three general committees presented their ideas for the reports and draft resolutions they are preparing for the Annual Session. Bureau members offered comments on the rapporteurs' draft reports, feedback which the rapporteurs will now take into consideration in finalizing the documents for debate at the Luxembourg Annual Session.

Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) presented the proposed budget for 2019/20, which was unanimously endorsed for presentation to the Standing Committee for approval in Luxembourg. Other items on the agenda included reports from Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committees.

Albanian President Meta holds talks with Pres. Tsereteli and SG Montella



Roberto Montella, George Tsereteli and Ilir Meta, 8 April

Ilir Meta, the President of Albania, held talks at the International Secretariat on Monday with OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

The main topics of discussion included Albania's preparations for assuming the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2020 and Albania's EU integration process. The sides also discussed domestic challenges such as judicial reform and the political situation in Albania, which they noted requires national dialogue and readiness for compromise.

Featured tweets @oscepa



Thomas Greminger @gremingerosce · Apr 8

At @oscepa Bureau meeting: we should look for ways to increase synergies b/n PA and the Organization. Also hope Parliamentarians would be influential allies in highlighting the very real consequences of budget delays.

