

## PA President Tsereteli and SG Montella build co-operation with IPU in Belgrade



Participants at IPU Assembly in Belgrade on 14 October 2019.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President George Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella have wrapped up a visit to Belgrade, where they held a series of bilateral meetings and participated in the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. President Tsereteli addressed the IPU, speaking about the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and strengthening international law. He stressed that he is concerned about “a renewed potential for international conflicts, a deteriorating human rights situation globally, and the breakdown of multilateralism in general.”

“Parliamentarians must continue to be a voice of de-escalation and offer creative and concrete solutions,” Tsereteli said. He also advocated a stronger role for civil society organizations, and called for advancing gender mainstreaming and youth participation in international organizations.

Tsereteli and Montella met with President of the Serbian National Assembly Maja Gojković, Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić, representatives of the political opposition, civil society, the Serbian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and the OSCE Mission to Serbia leadership and staff.

They also met with the President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Mustafa Şentop, for discussions that touched on the growing international concern over Turkey’s military operation in northeastern Syria. Notwithstanding the complex

issues involved, particularly terrorism and border control, President Tsereteli emphasized the need to normalize the situation in northeastern Syria and expressed hope for a quick end to the military operations. Montella noted the challenges that Turkey has faced in recent years, but stressed that it is expected to comply with international obligations.

On 16 October, President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella met with Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, for discussions on how to enhance co-operation between the OSCE PA and the IPU. The sides discussed plans for a joint meeting, with SG Chungong informing Tsereteli of a regional conference scheduled for next year on counter-terrorism that the OSCE PA could participate in.

Chungong also invited the OSCE PA to participate in the Speakers’ Conference to take place in Vienna 17-20 August 2020. In addition, they discussed practical matters including the IPU’s mechanism of donations used to fund IPU activities.

This week, President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella, joined by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, are in Strasbourg, holding meetings with high-level officials of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

Tsereteli is expected to address the Council of Europe on Thursday and is attending on Friday the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

## OSCE PA staff attend conference in London to explore developments in technology



Stephen Paul and Anzhelika Ivanishcheva at London conference.

From Monday to Wednesday last week, staff members of the OSCE PA International Secretariat were in London to attend a technology conference.

Anna Di Domenico, Anzhelika Ivanishcheva, Stephen Paul and Dimitrije Todoric participated in training sessions on mobile app technologies to enhance the OSCE PA Events App’s user experience. They also explored innovative ways to improve OSCE PA conference services, including learning about online registration systems and industry efforts to make conferences more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

### Featured tweets @oscepa

The OSCE PA’s Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, Chris Smith (United States), marked Anti-Slavery Day 2019 with a call for redoubling efforts to end trafficking. He noted the 20 OSCE PA resolutions and five US laws he’s authored.



Rep. Chris Smith  
@RepChrisSmith

On #AntiSlaveryDay2019 we redouble our efforts to end #humantrafficking. @OSCEPA has been on the forefront, pushing key initiatives and adopting my 20 resolutions similar to the 5 US laws I've authored, offering real strategies to combat this nefarious trait.