

President Tsereteli stresses effective multilateralism at OSCE Permanent Council

In a speech to the Permanent Council last week, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli appealed to strengthen co-operation between all OSCE institutions in an effort to close the gap between what governments have committed to and what they do in practice. Recalling the fundamental changes that took place in Europe 30 years ago, Tsereteli noted that the OSCE has made a substantial contribution to positive developments over the past three decades. He noted, however, that the initial spirit of optimism has soured.

“We all know what today’s reality is: growing tensions between former partners and even allies, war on our continent, unfulfilled promises in many regions of the OSCE, and renewed illiberal and anti-democratic tendencies sponsored by governments that cling to power – but also opposition forces that resort to violence and other undemocratic means or preach the end of liberal democracy,” Tsereteli said.

He called for a greater role for the OSCE in providing a remedy to the heightened geopolitical tensions, protracted conflicts and democratic backsliding. “Our success is measured in terms of how we manage to improve the everyday situation of the peoples in our countries,” he said.

He highlighted the Assembly’s efforts in Ukraine and welcomed recent positive steps toward progress in the country.

He also drew attention to the suffering of Georgians as a consequence of the continued illegal occupation of territories of their country, and the urgent need for progress regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



President Tsereteli highlighted the work of the Parliamentary Assembly, including its ad hoc committees and special representatives, and recent visits he has undertaken. He pointed out that the Assembly sees it as its task to raise awareness about the good work being done by the OSCE, and toward this end has conducted numerous visits to OSCE institutions and field presences this year, including in The Hague, Warsaw, Bishkek, Kyiv, Nur Sultan, and Belgrade.

Following his speech, President Tsereteli fielded replies by delegations from the Russian Federation, European Union, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, United States, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkey, Armenia, and Uzbekistan.

On the margins of the Permanent Council meeting, Tsereteli met with many OSCE ambassadors to develop co-operation on issues of common concern.

High-level OSCE PA participation at the 2019 Nordic Council in Stockholm



PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Special Representative on Arctic Issues Torill Eidsheim (Norway) represented the Assembly at the 2019 Meeting of the Nordic Council, which took place at the Riksdag, the Swedish Parliament, in Stockholm on 29-31 October.

In her address to the plenary session, Vice-President Cederfelt highlighted the many areas of common interest between the OSCE PA and the Nordic Council and praised the

efforts of Nordic countries on important international issues.

Attention also focused on the increased engagement of the OSCE PA on the Arctic, especially with the appointment in May 2019 of a Special Representative on Arctic Issues, which followed a high-level PA visit to the Svalbard Islands. Special Representative Eidsheim reiterated that addressing the environmental dimension of the Arctic is the main priority for the region.

On the sidelines, the OSCE PA delegation discussed issues with the Swedish Nordic Council President Hans Wallmark (Sweden) and with the incoming President Silja Dögg Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland), agreeing on enhancing the exchange of information between the two organizations and on providing input to each other’s work.

Eidsheim held a bilateral meeting with representatives of the Nordic Sustainable Development Committee, exchanging views on the needed action in the international arena and discussing the role of parliamentarians.

Ambassador Nothelle represents the PA at OSCE forums in Slovakia and Hungary

The PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, has participated in OSCE events in recent weeks, representing the Assembly at a Symposium on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in Budapest, Hungary, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and the Ambassadorial Retreat in Rajecké Teplice, Slovakia. At the Budapest Symposium, Nothelle highlighted the PA’s long-time engagement on the Code of Conduct and its recent recommendations to establish and strengthen parliamentary bodies for scrutiny of public and private security providers.



At the Ambassadorial Retreat, Nothelle encouraged all OSCE ambassadors to look at the wealth of PA recommendations ahead of the OSCE Ministerial Council in December.