

## OSCE PA leaders meet ahead of Ministerial Council to discuss priorities



OSCE PA Bureau meeting in Bratislava, 4 December 2019

The OSCE PA's Bureau met Wednesday in Bratislava on the eve of the OSCE's 26th Ministerial Council for discussions on OSCE-related work. Bureau members heard from Assembly President George Tsereteli (Georgia), Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen (Denmark), Secretary General Roberto Montella, and Lukas Parizek, Special Representative for the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship.

Following welcoming remarks by Head of the Slovak Delegation Peter Osusky, Tsereteli reported on his activities since the OSCE PA's Autumn Meeting in Bishkek, noting his participation in Council of Europe, European Parliament and Inter-Parliamentary Union events in Strasbourg and Belgrade. He highlighted efforts to strengthen ties with these organizations, including by exploring possibilities for holding joint events.

State Secretary Parizek focused his remarks on the main priorities of the Slovak Chairmanship, including conflict prevention, building a safer future and promoting effective multilateralism. Parizek expressed his conviction that parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in all of these efforts, pointing out that the OSCE PA's ideas inspire the work of the organization. Parliamentarians are the link between the OSCE and the people, he noted, stressing in particular the important role that the OSCE PA plays in election monitoring.

In a question and answer session, Bureau members raised issues related to Crimea, freedom of expression, recent developments related to Transnistria, and the Stanytsia

Luhanska bridge in eastern Ukraine. Parizek responded by outlining the Chairmanship's efforts in these areas.

During an open discussion of current international issues, members raised concerns about the state of the global economy, lagging efforts to address climate change, Cyprus, and Ukraine.

Treasurer Juel-Jensen reported on the financial health of the Assembly, noting that the International Secretariat continues to provide strong financial management and that the Assembly functions efficiently under a tight budget.

Vice-President Peter Bowness, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices, spoke about possible refinements for ensuring that statutory meetings of the Assembly are efficiently run. He reported on a meeting held earlier in the day in which Sub-Committee members discussed procedural matters related to supplementary items and providing guidance on how quorums are established.

SG Montella noted the importance of setting strategic priorities that enable the Assembly to work effectively on behalf of the citizens of the OSCE area, keeping in mind the PA's limited resources. Earlier in the day, he attended an OSCE Heads of Institutions Meeting to build synergy with other branches of the OSCE.

President Tsereteli will address the opening of the Ministerial Council on Thursday and has several bilateral meetings scheduled on the margins.

## OSCE PA's Bonabello participates in PAM counter-terrorism meeting in Rome



PAM meeting in Rome, 29 November 2019

OSCE PA Senior Advisor Marco Bonabello attended the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean's Co-ordination Meeting of the Special Committee on Counter-Terrorism in Rome on 29 November.

The one-day event was attended by approximately 120 participants, with many parliamentary delegations from the Mediterranean region, top Italian counterterrorism experts and several partner organizations, including the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Participants shared views on the evolving threats posed by terrorism and considered opportunities for reinforced co-operation at all levels. The Italian anti-terrorism system – comprising an advance mix of legislative, institutional and operational measures – was also highlighted.

OSCE PA counter-terrorism work triggered the interest of several participants, with both PAM and the UN welcoming the contribution of the PA. On the margins, Bonabello discussed strengthening ties with PAM and the UN, as well as with relevant Italian security authorities.