

OSCE PA delegation visits Kyiv, meeting with Ukrainian officials and SMM



OSCE PA delegation meeting with Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko, 18 December 2019



Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, George Tsereteli Halit Cevik, and Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, 17 December 2019

A high-level OSCE PA delegation, including President George Tsereteli (Georgia), Third Committee Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) and Second Committee Rapporteur Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania), is visiting Ukraine this week. They met Tuesday with Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Dmytro Razumkov, members of Ukraine's PA Delegation, and visited the office of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). Topics of discussion with Razumkov included outcomes from the Normandy Four Summit and appropriate legislative efforts underway in Kyiv.

Meeting with the SMM Chief Monitor Ambassador Halit Cevik, Deputy Chief Monitor Antje Grawe, and Deputy Chief Monitor Mark Etherington, the PA delegation noted that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly stands ready to support the political process in implementing the Minsk agreements. SMM representatives briefed the PA delegation on their monitoring efforts in eastern Ukraine and the current security situation.

They met today with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko, stressing the PA's readiness to support the present

momentum and further steps towards solutions that improve the plight of people in the Donbas. Tsereteli noted that Ukraine is a valued member of the OSCE PA and is represented in the Bureau by Artur Gerasymov, Vice-Chair of the Second Committee. Ukraine's active participation in the PA is vitally important to maximize the OSCE's efforts to resolve the conflict, the President stressed, noting that he hopes it can continue in 2020.

Supported by the OSCE PA's Special Representative Amb. Andreas Nothelle and Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani, the visit comes little more than a week after the Normandy Four Summit in Paris between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents.

In discussions, the PA delegation has welcomed the resumption of high-level dialogue and outcomes from the summit, emphasizing the need to commit to a full and comprehensive ceasefire, exchange of detainees and other decisive steps and confidence-building measures. With interlocutors, the PA delegation has explored possible ways the Assembly can continue to support Ukraine.

Special Representative on Arctic Issues Eidsheim speaks at PACE meeting in Finland

OSCE PA Special Representative on Arctic Issues Torill Eidsheim (Norway) spoke Monday at the Subcommittee on External Relations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), convened in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Concerning the need for international co-operation, she called for increased interaction between Arctic organizations and wider multilateral fora. "If we manage to join efforts and combine the expertise of Arctic organizations with the outreach of organizations such as the OSCE we could truly be able to make a difference and better raise awareness on what is happening in the region," Eidsheim said. She

added that climate repercussions do not concern only Arctic communities but are creating other challenges also in the economic and political spheres, including heightened geostrategic competition. She also advocated greater involvement of parliamentarians in multilateral efforts on the climate, especially considering the disappointing outcomes of the COP25 negotiations in Madrid.

The SR held useful talks with a number of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier, Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, and Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials.

Season's Greetings from the Secretariat

At the end of a busy year in which the Assembly was active across the OSCE area to promote parliamentary engagement on issues high on the international agenda, Secretary General Roberto Montella thanked PA members and wished season's greetings to all friends of the PA. "I would like to wish you and your dear ones a happy holiday period," wrote Montella this week. "May 2020 bring you health, happiness and success." To remember the highlights of 2019 the Secretariat has prepared a brief video: <https://youtu.be/HdVCbzySZKM>

Season's Greetings
from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes for
the New Year

Frohe Festtage
und ein gutes Neues
Jahr

Сердечные
поздравления
и наилучшие
пожелания в Новом
году



Felices Fiestas
y Próspero Año Nuevo

Buone Feste
e Felice Anno Nuovo

Joyeux Fêtes
et Bonne Année