

## Counter-terrorism in focus during OSCE PA field visit to Norway



OSCE PA delegation prior to boarding the boat to Utøya, 14 January 2020.



Members pay tribute to the 77 victims of the 22 July 2011 terror attacks in Norway, 14 January.

An OSCE PA delegation including President George Tsereteli, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Abid Raja and Secretary General Roberto Montella has been on a field visit in Norway this week to learn more about the 22 July 2011 terror attacks and pay tribute to the attack's 77 victims.

During the visit, which took place 14-15 January, several CCT members were joined by other relevant stakeholders from the OSCE PA and partner organizations, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the OSCE Action Against Terrorism Unit. They met with members of the Storting, representatives of the municipality of Oslo, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Norwegian Correctional Services, and the Norwegian Police Security Services.

Interlocutors described how the Norwegian criminal justice system and legislative framework have been improved to address emerging threats. Members discussed the need to harmonize legislation among OSCE countries and improve mechanisms for data exchange.

The delegation also met with members of the Workers Youth League (AUF) and family members of victims of the 22nd July Attack, as well as Norwegian Prime Minister Erna

Solberg. The visit highlighted the vital role that victims and their families play in promoting justice and reconciliation, underlining the duty to provide victims with adequate support.

Raja, a Norwegian parliamentarian, highlighted the way that Norway united in the wake of the 2011 attacks and noted that its response should serve as an example to other countries dealing with the threat of terrorism. Tsereteli emphasized that at times of increasing political divides and rising extremism, it is important to be vigilant not to lose sight of our common goal to protect citizens from terrorist threats. He said that the visit to Norway will go a long way in helping to build resilience against extremist violence and to promote an effective international counter-terrorism strategy.

In meetings, Raja described the CCT's efforts to develop partnerships with the OSCE executive structures and the UN, and support national parliaments to fully realize their counter-terrorism potential. In this context, he stressed the need to continue to focus on themes such as border security, FTFs, use of the internet for terrorist purposes, radicalization and de-radicalization, and links with other forms of crime.

Raja will report on the visit at the Winter Meeting next month in Vienna.

## PA participation in OSCE Chairmanship opening underlines parliamentary support

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Amb. Andreas Nothelle, and PA policy staff participated in the opening of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship in Vienna last week, attending CiO Edi Rama's address at the Hofburg on 9 January, meeting with Heads of Institutions, and participating in regional working group sessions.

Montella participated in discussions with the Chair-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General on key issues for OSCE field operations and priorities for the Organization as a whole. Montella assured the Chairmanship of parliamentary support for Albania's priorities for 2020, including making a difference on the ground, honoring OSCE obligations, and



Edi Rama and Roberto Montella, 9 January

advancing a common agenda and a shared political vision.

Senior OSCE PA staff actively engaged in the working group sessions on Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and South East Europe.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli is expected to address the OSCE Permanent Council on Thursday.

## OSCE PA human rights leaders meet counterparts in Bundestag

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PA's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions met in Berlin on Wednesday with the German Parliament's Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) and Michael Georg Link (Germany) presented the PA's work on human rights, and discussed follow-up and implementation of OSCE PA recommendations.

Key recommendations from the PA's recent Declarations were discussed, as were OSCE PA field activities, including election observation. The dialogue included interventions and questions by all factions represented in the Bundestag. Hadjiyianni and Link also met to discuss ongoing work by the Committee, together with DSG Andreas Nothelle and Andreas Baker from the Secretariat.