

President Tsereteli addresses OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna



OSCE PA President George Tsereteli addressed the ambassadors of the OSCE's 57 participating States on 16 January 2020.

In his address to the Permanent Council, he reiterated the PA's support for the priorities of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and expressed appreciation for Chair-in-Office Edi Rama's stated intention to further strengthen the Chairmanship's work with parliamentarians.

The OSCE region, Tsereteli said, continues to suffer from serious disagreements on key political and security issues, yet it must be understood that multilateralism is the only way forward. "It has been the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's overarching goal to support that objective," President Tsereteli said. "Our ability to collectively support multilateralism has been considerably increased in recent years through wider synergies and deeper collaboration between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and all components of the OSCE executive structure."

The President noted that the PA has been active in Ukraine advocating for practical steps to benefit the people living in areas affected by the hostilities in the Donbas. He discussed his visit to Kyiv last month, an occasion to reiter-

ate the OSCE PA's firm dedication for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through political and diplomatic means and to stand firmly behind Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He noted that what is needed now is to build on this momentum to follow up swiftly, in order to facilitate substantive results at the next meeting of the Normandy Four leaders and keep full implementation of the Minsk agreements high on the agenda of all sides.

Tsereteli highlighted his many conversations with the leaderships of Armenia and Azerbaijan to explore ways parliamentarians can advance peace in the South Caucasus. He also addressed the issue of the illegal borderization in Georgia, which adds to the precariousness and difficulties of daily life in and near the occupied territories.

President Tsereteli highlighted the work of the ad hoc committees on migration and terrorism. He noted that 2019 was a busy year of election observation which concluded with the PA's first-ever mission to Uzbekistan.

He also welcomed Sweden as a new member of the OSCE Troika and expressed his appreciation for Poland's readiness to chair the organization in 2022.

Delegation of Netherlands to the OSCE PA visits the International Secretariat

Members of the delegation of the Netherlands to the OSCE PA paid an official visit to the OSCE PA's headquarters in Copenhagen on Friday 17 January. Led by Head of Delegation Albert van den Bosch, the parliamentarians had the opportunity to be briefed on the Assembly's structure, activities and working methods.

The delegation received introductory briefings by Secretary General Roberto Montella and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares.

Detailed discussions followed on statutory meetings, election observation activities, media strategy and administration and finance.



VP Henriksen appointed Rapporteur of the Third Committee

President George Tsereteli appointed Kari Henriksen (MP, Norway) as Rapporteur of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions in January 2020 to fill a vacancy, in accordance with rule 36.5.

She concurrently serves as Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly.