

High-level PA participation in young parliamentarians seminar in Washington

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli and Secretary General Roberto Montella participated in a seminar on “Future Leadership for Political inclusion in the OSCE Region” hosted by the United States Helsinki Commission in Washington on 3-4 February.

The seminar brought together nearly 40 members of parliament from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, along with experts from NGOs and think tanks to discuss the role of young people in peace and security efforts in both national and international fora.

“Young people can play a crucial role in fostering a culture of peace, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in tackling current urgent issues such as climate change, the fight against terrorism and migration,” said President Tsereteli in his closing remarks. “Occasions like this strengthen the role of young leaders in the OSCE region and in the world, and it is my wish that we now find together effective ways to institutionalize this kind of initiative.”

Welcomed and briefed by the Chair of the Helsinki Commis-



Participants at young parliamentarians seminar in Washington, 4 February 2020

sion and Head of the U.S. Delegation Alcee Hastings, participants took part in working sessions led by young parliamentarians and experts that addressed political inclusion for future leadership in the three dimensions of the OSCE. Parliamentarians also had the possibility to participate in breakout sessions on inclusive economic growth, leadership development, and effective engagement in multilateral organizations.

As part of the seminar, Secretary General Montella and Presidential Advisor Loic Poulain engaged with parliamentarians in a discussion on OSCE PA election observation.

President Tsereteli visits Azerbaijan



George Tsereteli and Ilham Aliyev, 30 January 2020

During a visit to Azerbaijan ahead of the 9 February parliamentary elections, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli reiterated the importance of international election observation in assessing and improving electoral processes in the OSCE region. President Tsereteli travelled to Baku on 30-31 January for a series of high-level meetings with officials, electoral stakeholders and representatives of political parties.

The OSCE PA will send a delegation of more than 60 observers to observe the elections. Artur Gerasymov (MP, Ukraine) has been appointed by the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator for the OSCE short-term observer mission and the OSCE PA delegation is headed by Elona Hoxha-Gjebrea (MP, Albania).

Vigenin addresses combating anti-Semitism



Kristian Vigenin addresses OSCE conference, 4 February 2020

Speaking Tuesday at the High-Level Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Region, co-organized by the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), PA Vice-President Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria) commended Albania for placing such a high level of focus on the issue at such an early stage of its Chairmanship.

Vigenin noted that anti-Semitism is not only on the rise but has new means of spreading through the misuse of social media. He also emphasized the many resolutions the OSCE PA has adopted condemning anti-Semitism and highlighted the work of the PA's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, Ben Cardin (United States).

Vice-President Cederfelt appointed Acting Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

Margareta Cederfelt, an OSCE PA Vice-President and Deputy Head of the Swedish Delegation, was appointed by President Tsereteli as Acting Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration on 22 January.



Roberto Montella and Vladimir Voronkov in New York, 3 February

PA and UNOCT formalize co-operation

On 3 February, UN Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the co-operation between the two organizations in countering terrorism. The MoU aims to foster parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.