

News from Copenhagen

PA President and Secretary General visit Italy, Holy See and San Marino



L-R: Nicola Renzi, George Tsereteli, Mirco Tomassoni, Luca Santolini and Roberto Montella in San Marino, 14 Nov. 2018



George Tsereteli and Roberto Montella meet with Pietro Parolin and Paul Richard Gallagher at the Vatican, 13 Nov. 2018.



George Tsereteli and Roberto Montella with the Italian Delegation to the PA led by Paolo Grimoldi, 13 Nov. 2018.

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) and Secretary General Roberto Montella have visited Italy, the Holy See and San Marino this week for a series of meetings and engagements. In meetings at the Vatican Tuesday, President Tsereteli and Secretary General Montella welcomed the contributions of the Holy See in the PA. Tsereteli and Montella met with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, and Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, discussing current challenges in the OSCE area, including conflicts, migration and transnational threats.

The President and Secretary General also met with the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA and congratulated its new head Paolo Grimoldi on his recent appointment.

Tsereteli and Montella visited San Marino Wednesday, meeting with Mirco Tomassoni and Luca Santolini, Captains Regent and Heads of State; Nicola Renzi, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and Oscar Mina and Margherita Amici from the Delegation of San Marino to the OSCE PA.

The President and Secretary General were warmly received by interlocutors and reaffirmed that the OSCE PA attaches

equal importance to all participating States. Strong support was expressed for San Marino's multilateral diplomacy, especially on human rights.

Other topics of discussion included cybersecurity, protracted conflicts, transnational threats, migration, and media issues. The sides also discussed the possibility of organizing an OSCE PA Autumn Meeting in San Marino at a future date.

On Monday, President Tsereteli addressed the opening of the conference on "Developing anti-corruption strategies for the digital age: recent trends and best practices in the OSCE area," held under the auspices of the Italian Chairmanship of the OSCE. The conference was co-organized by the International Affairs Institute and hosted by LUISS University.

In his remarks, Tsereteli emphasized the PA's role as an effective platform to share experiences and best practices, encouraging OSCE participating States to rely on parliamentarians and the PA's acquis to increase efforts in combating corruption. He also stressed that the OSCE PA is currently undergoing a review of its internal Code of Conduct for election observation missions to ensure the highest levels of integrity within the Assembly.

Voridis presents PA's counter-terrorism recommendations to OSCE Security Committee

Makis Voridis (Greece), Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT), was in Vienna on Monday, where he addressed the Security Committee of the OSCE and held a series of bilateral meetings to build synergy between the OSCE's executive and parliamentary structures on preventing and countering terrorism.

At the Security Committee, Voridis presented the OSCE PA's resolution on counterterrorism adopted last summer at the 27th Annual Session in Berlin. The resolution, he said, emphasizes the need for joint and co-ordinated approaches to counterterrorism efforts including through implementing relevant international commitments, and focuses on the need to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthen border control and enhance information-sharing at all levels.

Concerning the issue of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), Voridis reported that the CCT recently launched an initiative aimed at strengthening the implementation of commitments on border security and

information sharing, especially those on Advance Passenger Information, passenger name record data and biometrics contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

He highlighted the Berlin resolution's call to promote deradicalization and increase the involvement of civil society, religious leaders, media, youth, victims of terrorism and the private sector in countering extremist narratives. In bilateral meetings, Voridis highlighted the work of the CCT and stressed the importance of co-operation between the OSCE's executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly.



Makis Voridis addresses the OSCE Security Committee, 12 Nov. 2018.