

## OSCE PA President Tsereteli speaks on parliamentary oversight in Bishkek



George Tsereteli addresses OSCE Academy on 27 Sept. 2019.

On 27 September, President George Tsereteli delivered a keynote speech at an international seminar in Bishkek on strengthening parliamentary oversight.

“Even if oversight is embedded in law, the political will to drive the process forward remains a key requirement for effective implementation,” said President Tsereteli.

The two-day seminar, organized by the UNDP in Kyrgyzstan, together with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the OSCE/ODIHR, and the Bishkek-based Legal Clinic “Adilet,” took stock of the current status of parliamentary oversight functions in the Kyrgyz Republic and in other countries. Participants discussed progress made and shared best practices that specific national parliaments have taken to engage in oversight of government activity.

The international seminar brought together more than 120

participants from 10 different countries.

The President highlighted the important work of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of oversight of the security sector. He touched upon the OSCE PA’s resolutions calling for strengthening parliamentary oversight in the field of combating crime and corruption which has led to the appointment of a Special Representative of the President on Fighting Corruption to complement the OSCE’s efforts in this area.

In a bilateral meeting with the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, Tsereteli underlined the Kyrgyz Republic’s strong engagement within the OSCE PA, as demonstrated by its hosting of the 2018 Autumn Meeting in Bishkek and its commitment to strengthening democracy and parliamentarism.

Noting challenges in the media environment in the run-up to the 2017 presidential election, Tsereteli expressed hope that Kyrgyz authorities would continue to address outstanding issues so as to ensure the full respect for freedom of the media and expression.

The President also visited the OSCE Academy to meet its leadership and the new cohort of students. He met with Amb. Pierre Von Arx, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek to discuss how the PA can further support the work of the OSCE in the country.

Tsereteli will report on the visit during the OSCE PA’s Autumn Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, on 3-6 October.

## Vice-President Cederfelt represents PA at Parliamentary Forum in Montenegro

Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt participated as a keynote speaker at the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, Montenegro, on 29-30 September 2019. Speaking on the theme “Parliament and the media – reality of mutual expectations,” Cederfelt noted that information technology and lack of professionalism in the media are polarizing public debates, influencing public opinion through fake news and eroding public confidence in the press and the institutions. “Strong, independent, investigative journalism can expose wrongdoing in business and government, helps combat corruption, and keeps politicians honest,” she said. “As parliamentarians we can assist quality journalism by using our oversight capabilities in parliament to further investigate issues that are brought to light by journalists.”

Cederfelt also used the opportunity to meet with Ivan Brajovic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of the Delegation of Montenegro to the OSCE PA.



Margareta Cederfelt speaks in Cetinje on 30 Sept. 2019.

## Amb. Nothelle speaks at seminar focused on implementation of election-related commitments



Andreas Nothelle (second from right) at seminar in Vienna, 1 Oct.

The OSCE PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, spoke at a seminar on Tuesday reviewing implementation of election-related commitments in OSCE participating States, with a focus on electoral dispute resolution. The seminar also featured the participation of Slavomír Kantor, representing the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, and ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Gisladóttir.

In his remarks, Nothelle highlighted the close co-operation between the OSCE PA and ODIHR in election observation, noting the continuous efforts to pursue effective follow-up mechanisms. This co-operation brings together different kinds of expertise and degrees of legitimacy, he said.