

Pres. Tsereteli urges greater attention to OSCE at Ministerial Council, PA holds side event



Speaking at the opening of the 27th Ministerial Council, held online on 3-4 December, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli urged the Foreign Ministers to increase the level of political interest in the organization and focus on implementation of OSCE commitments.

Pointing to the numerous challenges facing all OSCE countries, President Tsereteli implored the governments of the OSCE to invest in multilateralism. “Are we all investing enough into common efforts regarding these issues instead of wasting resources on a renewed arms race, hybrid warfare, violations of international borders and occupation, manipulated elections, and the oppression of the opposition?” Tsereteli asked the ministers. The President noted that as an organization in which every participant is accountable to the others, the OSCE must address the issues where there is failure to comply with

international commitments. He underlined the importance of Foreign Ministers engaging on a regular basis with ambassadors at the OSCE in Vienna, in order to develop diplomatic groundwork and advance solutions to common challenges.

Highlighting the PA’s initiative launched last week, a “Call for Action: Reaffirming our Common Purpose,” which has been endorsed by more than 50 former and present OSCE leaders, Tsereteli stressed that the PA wants to make full use of the OSCE’s potential to help build a safer and more stable future.

Later in the day, the OSCE PA held a side event on the margins of the Ministerial Council featuring participation by more than 100 parliamentarians and diplomats. At the event, OSCE PA High-Level Expert Ambassador Lamberto Zannier presented the Call for Action, underlining its timeliness and political significance. “It is a very strong message from the leaders of the OSCE over the last 30 years, calling for more effective multilateralism and for a stronger investment in dialogue,” Zannier said.

The PA’s Call for Action aims to stimulate the work of the OSCE and reaffirms the importance of governments implementing their key commitments. It proposes a set of considerations aimed at strengthening the role of the organization in addressing contemporary challenges, including through the promotion of genuine political dialogue.

OSCE PA President and SG welcome appointments of OSCE leaders

On 4 December, PA President George Tsereteli and SG Roberto Montella welcomed the appointment of the new OSCE Secretary General, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, High Commissioner on National Minorities, and Representative on Freedom of the Media. Read the statement here: <https://bit.ly/3700Zdp>

Assembly members participate in events on migration, corruption

Members of the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Migration joined PACE members in a web conference hosted by the British House of Lords on 4 December, entitled “Voluntary relocation of child refugees and other vulnerable refugees: achievements and future challenges.”

Lord Alf Dubs (United Kingdom) co-chaired the meeting and spoke about the need for European solidarity. Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) who serves as Acting Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, noted that there have been some encouraging developments in recent months, with the expansion of the voluntary relocation scheme from Greece initiated by the European Commission last spring. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) underlined the significant migratory

challenges that his country was experiencing, and called for an increase in relocations.

On 9 December, the OSCE PA’s Special Representative on Fighting Corruption, Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), addressed an event organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) marking International Anti-Corruption Day. Addressing the webinar, entitled “Open Data in Action: Beneficial Ownership and Public Procurement,” Special Representative Charalambides highlighted the role of parliamentarians in building political will and proactively safeguarding the independence of key anti-corruption national stakeholders from interference.

OSCE PA Special Representatives appointed to work on regional issues

OSCPE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) has appointed Special Representatives to cover the important portfolios of the South Caucasus, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe. The Special Representatives will serve as focal points for the PA’s work in the regions, provide advice, and regularly report back to the President and the Assembly.

Ditmir Bushati, Head of the OSCE PA’s Albanian Delegation and former Foreign Minister of Albania, has been designated Special Representative on the South Caucasus. His mandate includes following the overall political situation

in the region and seeking to promote dialogue in all segments of society. Reinhold Lopatka, Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE PA and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, has been appointed Special Representative on Central Asia. Daniela De Ridder (Germany) will serve as Special Representative on Eastern Europe, with a mandate to serve as the primary point of contact within the OSCE PA on issues pertinent to the region.

All the mandates expire at the end of the OSCE PA’s Annual Session in Bucharest, in July 2021.