

News from Copenhagen

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Full calendar of OSCE PA activities as 2019 kicks off

The new year is off to a busy start as the OSCE PA gears up for a full calendar of activities, starting with the opening of Slovakia's OSCE Chairmanship in Vienna this week. OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, OSCE PA Special Representative in Vienna Amb. Andreas Nothelle and several staff members are participating in the opening, with Montella representing the Assembly at the Annual Heads of Institutions meeting and senior policy staff participating in regional working group sessions. Montella will also be meeting with the new Chairperson-in-Office, Slovakia's Foreign and European Affairs State Secretary Miroslav Lajcak, for a discussion of key issues for field operations in 2019.

Next week, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) will address the OSCE Permanent Council and hold a series of bilateral meetings in Vienna. The President also plans to visit Moldova on 21-22 January for discussions in the capital with governmental and parliamentary leaders. The PA will observe the parliamentary elections in Moldova scheduled for 24 February. The PA is also preparing for the presidential election in Ukraine at the end of March.

Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) and Kyriakos Hadjiyanni (Cyprus), the Chair and Rapporteur, respectively, of the PA's human rights committee, will visit OSCE/ODIHR headquarters in Warsaw on 15 January. Elona Gjebrea Hoxha



(Albania), Rapporteur of the PA's economic and environmental committee, will be in Vienna on 21 January.

The Assembly's 18th Winter Meeting will be held 21-22 February 2019 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna. Taking place at the headquarters of the OSCE, the Winter Meeting provides an opportunity for OSCE parliamentarians

to hold discussions on timely issues, to be briefed by high-level OSCE officials, and to meet with representatives of the OSCE's governmental side.

The 2019 Winter Meeting will consist of meetings of the Standing Committee, each General Committee, and joint sessions of the three General Committees. High-level participation is anticipated, with the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office expected, as well as the OSCE Secretary General and several heads of OSCE institutions and committees.

More information, including a registration form and a draft programme for the Winter Meeting, is available at www.oscepa.org. (Delegations are kindly asked to submit completed registration forms no later than 23 January.)

The Annual Session will be held in Luxembourg on 4-8 July 2019 under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments." The PA will meet for the 2019 Autumn Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, on 3-6 October.

Head of UK Delegation and SR on South East Europe visits Secretariat

Mark Pritchard, the Head of the United Kingdom's OSCE PA delegation and the PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, visited the International Secretariat on 3 January for talks with Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff members on ongoing OSCE PA work. The discussion focused on future meetings of the Assembly, upcoming election observation missions, Pritchard's work as Special Representative, and topical issues such as combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE area.

Pritchard mentioned his interest in visiting Pristina in the near future as well as holding a South East Europe-focused side event during the Winter Meeting in Vienna. In a video interview conducted at the Secretariat, Pritchard described his work as Special Representative on South East Europe and his focus on facilitating dialogue in the region to ensure

that mistakes of the past are not repeated and that countries continue on the path of peace and democracy. (The full interview is available on the OSCE PA's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/oscepa)



Mark Pritchard meets with Roberto Montella, Gustavo Pallares and Odile Lelarge in Copenhagen, 3 Jan. 2019.