

News from Copenhagen

President Tsereteli holds meetings in Vienna ahead of PC address

Ahead of his address to the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council scheduled for Thursday, OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (Georgia) held a number of bilateral meetings in Vienna with Austrian and OSCE counterparts.

President Tsereteli met on Wednesday with the President of the Austrian National Council and Head of the Delegation of Austria to the OSCE PA Wolfgang Sobotka for talks focused on the crisis in and around Ukraine. He also met with Deputy Head of Delegation Reinhold Lopatka and Special Representative on Central Asia Roman Haider to discuss upcoming OSCE PA activities. Discussion also focused on the work of the Austrian Delegation.

In meetings with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and OSCE Representative on Media Freedom



Harlem Désir, discussions focused on ways to further strengthen institutional co-operation and make use of the parliamentary toolbox in support of OSCE commitments and priorities. Tsereteli emphasized the importance of the PA promoting co-operation with the Representative on Freedom of the Media on individual cases.

Third Committee leaders meet in Warsaw with ODIHR Director, staff



The Chair and Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's committee on human rights travelled to Warsaw yesterday for a full day of meetings. Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) and

Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) held a series of meetings with the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ingibjorg Gisladdottir, and senior ODIHR staff aimed at considering additional ways to enhance co-operation between OSCE parliamentarians and the ODIHR.

Accompanied by Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat, the MPs were briefed on work by experts on human rights, democratization, elections, Roma and Sinti issues, and tolerance and non-discrimination. Kiener Nellen and Hadjiyianni noted that the well-established co-operation in the field of election monitoring between the two OSCE institutions should be expanded to other fields of work.

PA participates in opening of OSCE Chairmanship, hosts Slovak ambassador



The OSCE PA actively participated in the opening of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship in Vienna last week, with Secretary General Roberto Montella attending Chairperson-in-Office Miroslav Lajcak's address at the Hofburg on 10 January and meeting with Heads of Institutions. The OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Andreas Nothelle, and PA policy staff participated in regional working groups and other relevant activities.

Programme Officer Farimah Daftary actively engaged in the Central Asia working group, Senior Programme and

Administrative Officer Tim Knoblauch participated in the South Caucasus working group, Amb. Nothelle was at the Eastern Europe working group, and Chief Political Adviser Francesco Paganini represented the PA at the South East Europe working group. Deputy Director of the Vienna Liaison Office Marc Carillet participated in the OSCE's administrative panel.

Secretary General Montella participated in a discussion with the CiO on key issues for field operations in 2019, with Lajcak providing an overview of Chairmanship priorities in the different regions and Heads of Field Operations briefing participants on key issues. Montella also met with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, ODIHR Director Ingibjorg Gisladdottir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Harlem Désir, and High Commissioner on National Minorities Lamberto Zannier.

Following up on the opening of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, Montella hosted Slovakia's Ambassador to Denmark, Miroslav Wlachovsky, at the Secretariat on 14 January for discussions on the Chairmanship's priorities.