

## Special Representative Lopatka discusses Ukraine at Paris and Washington meetings

OSCEPA Vice-President and Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) participated this week in a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)'s Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy in Paris. A related event, organized by PACE's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, focused on the legal aspects of Russia's aggression. While in the French capital, Lopatka attended a meeting of the European Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly. The meeting included a briefing by Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, who described the difficult situation in Ukraine.

Last week, Lopatka was in Washington for an international conference, where he spoke with former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, as well as Erna Solberg and Scott Morrison, former prime ministers of Norway and Australia, respectively.



Erna Solberg and Reinhold Lopatka in Washington, 8 December

Discussions focused on the war in Ukraine and authoritarian challenges to democracy.

## Op-ed published on the role of parliamentary diplomacy in Ukraine

In an op-ed published on 9 December, Special Representative for Parliamentary Diplomacy on Ukraine Reinhold Lopatka advocated for a strong and inclusive OSCE in order to ensure accountability for Russian Federation's war in Ukraine. The article also provides a history of the PA's engagement in Ukraine since early 2014. To read the op-ed, please click here: <https://link.medium.com/QzrsNhRmCvb>

## OSCE PA's Padreny speaks about youth perspective at PACE meeting in Paris



Roger Padreny addresses PACE meeting on 13 December

Speaking Tuesday at PACE's Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy in Paris, Roger Padreny (Andorra) described the work of the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Youth Engagement and the activities of its informal network of young parliamentarians. Padreny, who helped launch this network in late 2021, provided background on the growing

attention to youth issues within the PA, and recognition of the need to establish a platform for young parliamentarians to serve as a connecting bridge between youth and members of parliament. In order to provide an ongoing platform to discuss the challenges of young people and to represent their interests, Padreny explained, the informal network has held six different meetings over the past year.

In addition, members of the youth network organize events with young people and civil society organizations on the national level, contribute to various events dedicated on youth issues as guest speakers, and keep the youth perspective high on the agenda of their governments, Padreny said. Many young parliamentarians, he pointed out, directly work on youth issues and policies in their own countries but have lacked proper channels of exchange of the information and communication. The informal network of young parliamentarians, complemented by the work of OSCE PA PA's Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi, has provided this channel for them, Padreny said.

## Parliamentarians from Uzbekistan, PA Treasurer visit Vienna and Copenhagen offices



Delegation from Uzbekistan in Vienna, 13 December

A parliamentary delegation from Uzbekistan visited the OSCE PA's Vienna Office on Tuesday as part of a broader bilateral visit to the Austrian Parliament on matters of security sector reform. The legislators emphasized the crucial role of a comprehensive approach to security in the Central Asian region and multilateral diplomacy, while member of the Uzbek Delegation to the OSCE PA Dilorom Fayzieva emphasized growing parlia-



OSCE PA Treasurer in Copenhagen, 13 December

mentary ties in Central Asia.

Also on Tuesday, OSCE PA Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen (Denmark) visited the PA's International Secretariat in Copenhagen for discussions with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and other relevant staff members for talks that focused on year-end financial matters.