

OSCE PA's counter-terrorism committee conducts official visit to Türkiye



OSCE PA delegation at the Ministry of Treasury and Finance, 6 May 2024

Members of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CCT), led by President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Committee Chair Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), have been in Ankara this week to discuss the Turkish experience in fighting violent extremism and boost international co-operation on counter-terrorism.

During the two-day official visit, the OSCE PA delegation met with high-level representatives of the government and parliament, as well as experts in the field of counter-terrorism. Following meetings at the Turkish Parliament and several Ministries, the OSCE PA delegates attended a Round-Table on Counterterrorism and Artificial Intelligence which included academics from leading Turkish universities. They also met with the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA, led by Selami Altınok.

Commending Türkiye's counter-terrorism work, the OSCE parliamentarians noted that Türkiye is the country most affected by terrorism in the OSCE region, and that there is much to gain from learning about the Turkish experience and exploring

ways to build synergies in this field. The delegates expressed support for Ankara in the struggle against terrorism and noted in particular their solidarity for the terrorist bombing attack targeting the Ministry of Interior on 1 October 2023.

President Kauma underlined that the current volatile geopolitical context, including the situation in the Middle East, is having profound impacts on the OSCE region and in some cases may be fueling violent extremism. CCT Chair Lopatka stressed that Türkiye's resilience against terrorism serves as a practical example for OSCE states in effectively addressing terrorist threats across the region.

Kamil Aydin, a member of the Turkish OSCE PA delegation and Vice-Chair of the CCT, added that artificial intelligence is transforming the security and radicalization landscape in the OSCE area and requires operational frameworks that are fit for purpose. AI development, deployment and utilization should reflect stringent ethical considerations and be fully subject to the rule of law and human control, he said. The CCT intends to submit its policy proposals in this context at the upcoming OSCE PA Annual Session in Bucharest through a dedicated resolution.

In addition to Aydin, Kauma and Lopatka, the delegation included Emanuele Loperfido (Italy), Paula Cardoso (Portugal) Sverre Myrli (Norway), Ricardo Tarno (Spain), and Madeleine Van Toorenburg (The Netherlands). Following their meetings in Ankara, the CCT members traveled to Istanbul to participate in the fifth Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies.

General Committee reports and draft resolutions online

The English versions of reports and draft resolutions to be considered at the 31st Annual Session in Bucharest are now posted online: <https://bit.ly/3CYHC3A> (French and Russian translations will be posted when available.) Delegations are kindly reminded that supplementary items are due by 25 May while amendments to committee draft resolutions must be received by 15 June. The deadline for amendments to supplementary items is 22 June. Secretaries of Delegations should register participants via the Registration Portal by 25 May. In a letter sent to the Standing Committee on Tuesday, President Kauma provided a detailed overview of the situation ahead of the Annual Session: <https://bit.ly/3JSKnXC>

Rules Committee discusses OSCE PA Presidency terms of office

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure was convened by Chair Pascal Allizard (France) on 2 May to consider a proposal to change the OSCE PA President's term of office to a non-renewable mandate of two years. The proposal for a two-year presidency (starting from the 2025 Annual Session) was brought to the committee by OSCE

PA Vice-President Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) following discussions within the Bureau, which provided its input and ideas on the proposal. It is expected that following further discussions, the amendment will be proposed for consideration by the Standing Committee at its meeting at the Autumn Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, in October 2024.

OSCE PA Members observe parliamentary and presidential elections in North Macedonia



Nikoloz Samkhradze addresses observers in Skopje, 6 May

More than 80 observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are in North Macedonia to observe today's parliamentary and presidential elections. Nikoloz Samkhradze

(Georgia) is serving as Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission, and Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) is Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. Working closely with OSCE/ODIHR, PACE and the European Parliament, OSCE PA observers have fanned out to various regions of the country for election day observation. On Monday and Tuesday, they were thoroughly briefed by representatives of the election administration and civil society, candidates, party representatives and experts on the situation ahead of elections. The preliminary findings and conclusions for the elections will be presented at a press conference in Skopje on Thursday.

For further information contact Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry at +45 33 37 80 40 or email nat@oscepa.dk | www.oscepa.org