Lisbon conference focuses on security in the age of artificial intelligence

On Monday, the second Lisbon Conference of the OSCE PA was held in the Portuguese capital, aiming to raise awareness about artificial intelligence’s profound security implications, facilitate dialogue among policymakers and key stakeholders, and explore effective policy frameworks and international co-operation avenues to mitigate AI-related threats. Organized by the Portuguese Parliament and co-hosted by the OSCE PA, the conference brought together around 170 participants, including 70 parliamentarians from 27 OSCE participating States, and numerous experts from academia, the private sector, and international organizations.

The opening session featured addresses by José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, President of the Assembleia da República of Portugal; Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE PA; Helga Maria Schmid, OSCE Secretary General; and Paula Cardoso, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA.

The conference included three main sessions devoted to the threats stemming from AI, its role in enhancing democracy and development, and the regulatory challenges surrounding AI. Conference participants advocated for a cohesive global approach, emphasizing the necessity for synchronized efforts among all key stakeholders. The conference concluded with remarks from Portugal’s Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, Deputy Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA Luís Graça, Vice-President of the Assembleia da República and Vice-President of the NATO PA Marcos Pere-strello and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Kauma urges greater co-operation on security concerns at PAM Plenary Session

On 16 May, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) addressed the 18th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in Braga, Portugal, highlighting the intrinsic security link between the OSCE region and the Mediterranean region and the need for enhanced co-operation to tackle security challenges of common concern. President Kauma underscored the longstanding partnership between the OSCE and Mediterranean countries, noting the valuable exchange of experiences and best practices facilitated by the OSCE with its Mediterranean Partners since the inception of the organization.

“Climate change, counterterrorism, and migration are among the myriad security concerns impacting both OSCE participating states and Mediterranean countries alike,” she said. “As parliamentarians, it is crucial we confront these challenges collectively, striving for sustainable solutions that can foster peace, stability, and prosperity in our regions.”

President Kauma also had the honor of accepting the PAM Prize posthumously awarded to Martti Ahtisaari, the former President of Finland, and held a number of bilateral discussions, including with PAM President and Speaker of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco Enaam Mayara.

OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Members visit Türkiye

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration are in Türkiye this week to learn more about how the country is managing to host the largest refugee community in the world and identify examples of best practice as well as areas where support is needed. Led by Committee Chair Daniela De Ridder (Germany), the delegation began the visit on Monday with briefings by representatives of migration management authorities, various Turkish ministries, and Türkiye’s Coast Guard command.

The activities in Türkiye continued Tuesday with a visit to Adana Sarıçam Temporary Accommodation Centre, the largest camp in the country, currently accommodating about 12,500 Syrians under Temporary Protection. The delegation was briefed by Sarıçam Provincial District Governor Murtaza Dayanc and the Vice-Director of the Centre Mesut Akhan Erdemir about services provided to Syrians hosted in the facility. Today, the delegation is meeting with representatives of international and non-governmental organizations in Gaziantep and visiting a camp for victims of the 2023 earthquake in Islíahiye. The migration committee’s visit continues until Thursday.