

OSCE parliamentarians to gather in Bucharest for 31st Annual Session



Hundreds of parliamentarians from North America, Europe and Central Asia will meet next month in Bucharest, Romania, for the 31st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Taking place from 29 June to 3 July 2024 at the Palace of Parliament, the Annual Session will be held under the general theme “The Role of the OSCE in the Current Security Architecture: A Parliamentary Perspective.”

Following several days of committee work, the Annual Session will culminate in the adoption of the Bucharest Declaration on 3 July, containing recommendations to national governments, parliaments and the international community in the fields of security, human rights, and economic and environmental concerns. The largest event on the Assembly’s calendar, the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine will top the agenda of the Annual Session, along with new security challenges such as artificial intelligence.

Other important issues to be covered at the meeting include:

- The situation in the Middle East
- Disinformation and propaganda
- Climate change and water scarcity

- Countering the proliferation of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids
- Antisemitism in the OSCE region
- Corruption and foreign policy
- Migration
- Human trafficking
- Civil society
- Environmental protection in armed conflicts

With opening addresses by representatives of the Romanian parliament and government, as well as high-level officials from the OSCE, the Annual Session will include a number of side events, as well as elections for committee officers and vice-presidents. OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) is seeking re-election and Secretary General Roberto Montella is seeking a renewal of his mandate. Also on the agenda are meetings of the OSCE PA’s ad hoc committees dealing with migration issues, counter-terrorism and parliamentary support for Ukraine, as well as the annual working lunch on gender issues. The OSCE PA’s Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations is scheduled to meet on the opening day, and will decide the allocation of supplementary items to general committees. The Standing Committee will also hear reports by Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) and the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure, Pascal Allizard (France).

Programmes, reports, draft resolutions and 16 proposed supplementary items are available at the OSCE PA’s website. Delegations are kindly reminded that amendments to committee draft resolutions must be received by the International Secretariat by 15 June and amendments to supplementary items are due by 22 June.

Lisbon OSCE PA Conference highlights posted online



A summary of the Lisbon Conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on “Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” which took place in the Portuguese Parliament on 20 May 2024, is available at the OSCE PA’s website: <https://bit.ly/3V6QX1L>

The conference brought together around 170 participants, including 70 parliamentarians from 27 OSCE participating States, to explore the security impact of artificial intelligence.

CORE researchers visit OSCE PA’s Vienna Office

Preparing publications on various aspects of security and co-operation in Europe, Dr. Cornelius Friesendorf and Dr. Frank Evers, researchers from the CORE Centre at the University of Hamburg, visited the OSCE PA’s Vienna Office last week. The OSCE PA Special Representative, Ambassador Miodrag Pančeski, and Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani briefed them about the work of the Parliamentary Assembly, the parliamentary delegations of OSCE participating States, and the International Secretariat’s offices in Copenhagen and Vienna. The discussions were particularly focused on the impact of regional conflicts on the work of the PA and on the relations between parliamentarians. Talks also touched on possible areas of co-operation between CORE and the PA.



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