

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Session

Message from the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 22nd Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA) hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in the peerless city of İstanbul, which has played the role of a bridge between two continents

throughout history.

As the world's largest regional security organization, the OSCE has served as a multilateral forum contributing towards the resolution of crises and conflicts by creating an atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation between the East and West since the 1970s.

In recent decades, the challenges and tensions we face around the world have multiplied more than ever to include issues ranging from arms control, nuclear proliferation, confidence and security building measures, human rights, national minorities, combating terrorism, racism and all kinds of discrimination to economic development and environmental protection. In parallel, the OSCE has a significant role and responsibility in responding to such issues, in accordance with its mandate, in order to enhance security in the region.

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the 22nd Annual Session of the OSCE PA has been dedicated to the theme of "Helsinki +40". This will entail a joint effort to make concrete progress towards building a security community by 2015, and will comprise a three year plan to be conducted by three successive Chairmanships - the Ukrainian, the Swiss and the Serbian. We hope that this unique initiative will yield fruitful and constructive results both for our region and the OSCE.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the staff of the International Secretariat, the Head of the Turkish Delegation, Mr. Emin Önen and the staff of the Turkish Delegation to OSCE PA, as well as the administrators and personnel of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for their dedicated and tireless work in organizing this Session.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy, in the course of both the official and social programs, all that the wonderful city of İstanbul has to offer the participants and delegation members.

Cemil Çiçek

Programme Saturday, 29 June

09.00 – 12.00	Meeting of the Standing Committee <i>Rumeli A1</i>
14.30 – 16.00	Inaugural Plenary Session <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i> - OSCE PA President Wolfgang Grossruck - Host officials from government and parliament - OSCE Chair-in-Office Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break and opening of the photograph exhibition "The Humanitarian Tragedy in Syria" <i>Rumeli Foyer</i>
16.30 – 18.00	Plenary Session <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i> - Addresses from Speakers of Parliament - Report from Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) - Address from OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier with Q&A from MPs
20.00 – 22.30	Dinner hosted by H.E. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Garden of the Dolmabahçe Palace-Hasbahçe</i>

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The International Secretariat will be tweeting live updates during the Annual Session using the hashtag #AS2013. Follow the action on our Twitter page @OSCEPA and on Facebook, www.facebook.com/oscepa.