

# OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 20th Autumn Meeting



# Contents

**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's  
20th Autumn Meeting**

**Warsaw, Poland**

**24-26 November 2022**

- 1** Summary
- 4** Parliamentary Conference Opening Session
- 7** Session One - The war against Ukraine: Impact on the OSCE, lessons learned to safeguard the Organization's toolbox and comparative advantage
- 13** Session Two - Promoting economic and environmental security amid the current crisis
- 21** Session Three - Protecting fundamental rights and freedoms in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis
- 27** Closing Session
- 29** Standing Committee Meeting
- 30** Ad Hoc Committees on Migration and Countering Terrorism

# Summary

Some 170 parliamentarians from 46 OSCE participating States gathered on 24-25 November in Warsaw for debates held under the general theme of “The War in Ukraine: The Role of the OSCE and National Parliaments.” In focus were questions of how best to respond to the war in a way that brings it to a rapid and just conclusion, upholds OSCE commitments, safeguards fundamental freedoms and human rights, and protects economic and environmental security.

The opening session included speeches by Marshal of the Sejm Elzbieta Witek, Marshal of the Senate Tomasz Grodzki, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Poland Zbigniew Rau, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt, and a video address by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. In his remarks, Zelensky urged politicians to intensify pressure to stop the Russian invasion before it results in even more devastation for his country.

President Cederfelt stressed the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that Ukrainians are able to live in peace, highlighting the need to maintain strong solidarity and provide support to Ukraine’s security and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, as well as providing assistance to those who have sought refuge in other countries. She reiterated, however, that the responsibility is on Russia to restore peace and insisted that Moscow must be held accountable for its actions. The first session of the Autumn Meeting’s

Parliamentary Conference was devoted to a discussion on the impacts of the war on the OSCE itself, with panelists stressing that the war in Ukraine has led to multiple crises, including by impacting agriculture. In the second session, parliamentarians focused on promoting economic and environmental security amid the current crisis. The third session focused on protecting fundamental rights in situations of armed conflict.

At the closing of the Parliamentary Conference, the lights were turned off in the Sejm to express solidarity with Ukrainians who have lost power due to attacks on energy infrastructure, and OSCE parliamentarians observed a moment of silence. OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, President Cederfelt and Head of the OSCE PA’s Polish Delegation Barbara Bartus recalled the urgency of the discussions in Warsaw and the need to maintain clarity in messaging.

The PA’s Ad Hoc Committees on Migration and Countering Terrorism met to discuss current events and upcoming activities. The Standing Committee met on 25 November and debated a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure that would establish a mechanism to suspend participation in the PA’s work of countries that commit gross violations of the Helsinki Final Act. With no consensus reached on the proposal, the amendment was sent back to the Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure. The Bureau of the Assembly met on 26 November.





# Parliamentary Conference Opening Session

**T**he OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 20th Autumn Meeting, held under the theme "The War in Ukraine: The Role of the OSCE and National Parliaments," opened with strong statements of support for the people of Ukraine and calls for "unity of purpose" among OSCE countries to bring the Russian Federation's war to an end.

The opening session included speeches by Marshal of the Sejm Elzbieta Witek, Marshal of the Senate Tomasz Grodzki, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Poland Zbigniew Rau, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), and a video address by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

# Opening Session



## **Margareta Cederfelt, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

President Margareta Cederfelt highlighted the focus of the meeting, namely Russia's war against Ukraine, and how the OSCE and national parliaments can respond to the conflict and assist in future reconstruction. She stressed the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that Ukrainians are able to live in peace, highlighting the need to maintain strong solidarity and provide support to Ukraine's security and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, as well as offering assistance to those who have sought refuge in other countries.

Cederfelt reiterated, however, that the responsibility is on Russia to restore peace and insisted that Moscow must be held accountable for its actions. "Russia started this war of aggression," the President said. "It must be convinced – one way or another – that it must put an end to it and vacate the Ukrainian territory that it occupies."

## **Elzbieta Witek, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland**

Marshal Witek said that when Russia attacked Ukraine on 24 February 2022, it trampled all the values to which it has agreed as an OSCE participating State. She urged all OSCE parliamentarians to do what they can to support Ukraine and to pursue concrete solutions. Parliamentary diplomacy, she said, is finally coming to the fore, recalling that parliamentarians are accountable to the people and have a duty to use any format they can to pursue peace. Witek noted that the Polish Parliament is becoming a venue for a strategic debate at a critical moment in contemporary history and asserted that there must be confirmation of the right to sovereignty of every State, peaceful settlement of disputes, and full application of international law.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is a venue, she continued, where concrete solutions can be proposed, but that is not enough. For proposals to have meaning, there must be political will to act, she said, and hopefully this meeting will advance that purpose. Witek noted that we are doing everything we can to ensure the support to Ukraine is constant, and stressed that the aggression isn't stopped, it will continue further.

## **Tomasz Grodzki, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland**

All OSCE participating States, Grodzki stated, must strive for a just peace and support the struggle of the Ukrainian people. Grodzki said: "Everyone who has seen Bucha, who has seen burnt houses in the cities and villages of Ukraine, who observes the devastating effects of the war on the world economy, everyone who sees the famine caused by the blockade

of Ukrainian grain deliveries must ask – have we failed? To some extent, yes.”

The task of the OSCE is to prevent armed conflict and build indivisible and comprehensive security, he said, noting that this indivisible security covers not only military aspects but also economics and human

rights. Unfortunately, he pointed out, these objectives have been questioned and trampled by one of the OSCE’s participating States. Political leaders are responsible to their voters, he said, and must look for a way out and fight for peace and stability. At the same time, he stressed that Russia will have to bear the consequences for war crimes.


### **Zbigniew Rau, Foreign Minister of Poland and OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

In his speech, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Rau noted that the feeling of safety and security has decreased dramatically in the OSCE area since 24 February 2022. “In the OSCE’s history we have not experienced an equally fundamental crisis as the current war in Ukraine started by Russia,” said Rau. “I continue to believe in our partnership, and to believe in the power of our collective effort. Through co-operation I know we can confront, and together tackle, the threats we face. Together we can undo some of the harm done, together we can return to prog-

ress, and to peace.”

Noting that the 2022 Polish Chairmanship was drawing to a close, Rau highlighted that Poland

has stood up for the principles of international law, and has also striven to preserve the OSCE as a forum for ideas and facilitating dialogue. However, the future of the OSCE hinges on the condi-



Together we can undo some of the harm done, together we can return to progress, and to peace.

- OSCE Chairman-in-Office  
**Zbigniew Rau**

tion that all participating States abide in good faith by the norms that they have agreed to.

### **Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine**

Joining by video link, Volodymyr Zelensky urged the assembled parliamentarians to intensify pressure to stop the Russian invasion before it results in even more devastation for his country. Russia is daily bombarding Ukraine with missiles, Zelensky said, asking how the OSCE’s credibility and validity can be upheld when one of its participating States attacks another. The Ukrainian president called for the full use of OSCE procedures and tools to achieve peaceful settlement of disputes and ensure that the principle of “might makes right” does not prevail.

He further expressed his gratitude to the OSCE PA, and to all those national delegations that are helping to protect shared values, and appealed for that principled approach to be extended with a view to reforming the OSCE.

# Session One

## The war against Ukraine: Impact on the OSCE, lessons learned to safeguard the Organization's toolbox and comparative advantage

Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Pascal Allizard (France), session one was devoted to the theme "The war against Ukraine: Impact on the OSCE, lessons learned to safeguard the Organization's toolbox and comparative advantage." The session included presentations by Barbara Bartus, Head of the OSCE PA Polish Delegation, Arthur Dmochowski, Special Envoy of OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and Amin Awad, former United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine.

## **Pascal Allizard, Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Vice-President Pascal Allizard opened the session by recalling that the OSCE PA has consistently condemned the Russian Federation's violations. "The situation is dire," Allizard said. "We are witnessing on a daily basis destruction of vital infrastructure, isolated communities and enormous human suffering not only on the frontlines, but on both sides of the lines and in those territories that have changed hands." He presented recent OSCE PA activities, namely, field visits to Ukraine, Moldova and Poland. In

the trip to Moldova and Poland, PA Members were accompanied by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey, and focused attention on the need to prevent human trafficking and other forms of exploitation related to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Allizard stressed that the Birmingham Declaration is a useful tool in promoting the end of the war in line with the international commitments alongside the adopted resolutions.



## Barbara Bartus, Head of the Delegation of Poland to the OSCE PA

Barbara Bartus started her presentation by stressing that the war in Ukraine was the most serious violation of the international order since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act. She highlighted the major human rights and humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian Federation's aggression. She recalled the words of the former Polish President Kaczynski in 2008 after Russia's war against Georgia: "Today, it is Georgia, tomorrow Ukraine, the day after tomorrow the Baltic countries, and then perhaps the time will come for Poland."

Bartus further underlined that horrible war crimes and gross violations of human rights were happening just 300 kilometers

away from the place where parliamentarians convened in Poland. She stated that the OSCE does act in favor of peace and has many valuable instruments for monitoring and documenting war crimes. In this regard, she called on the OSCE PA to pursue its denunciation of Russia's infringement of international law and human rights.

## Arthur Dmochowski, Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

In his presentation to the Assembly, Arthur Dmochowski stated that the war waged by

the Russian Federation threatens the security not only of Ukraine but also of neighboring nations, and indeed, the OSCE region as a whole. He added that by defending Ukraine and countering the aggressor, the OSCE is defending the rules-based order and its fundamental principles. He regretted that neither early warning mechanisms nor the confidence- and security-building measures of the OSCE managed to prevent the full scale invasion of Ukraine in February. He noted that the conventional arms control regime lacks

effectiveness, considering that Russia has ceased to implement its commitments under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) since 2007, with-

drew from the Open Skies Treaty in 2021, and conducted a very selective implementation of the Vienna Document. He stressed that each day new evidence of war crimes, torture and executions are added to the human cost of the Russian war against Ukraine.

Dmochowski also emphasized the importance of preserving an OSCE presence in Ukraine and strongly welcomed the support programme to Ukraine while insisting that the field operations of this organization remain an essential input to regional security. In the long-term perspective, "the set of trust-build-

The situation is dire. We are witnessing on a daily basis destruction of vital infrastructure, isolated communities and enormous human suffering not only on the frontlines, but on both sides of the lines and in those territories that have changed hands.

- OSCE PA Vice-President Pascal Allizard

ing instruments, military and CBMs, and conflict cycle mechanism should be preserved," he said. He added that the OSCE principles are not negotiable and that it is a collective responsibility to maintain the organization's mandate in order to fulfill its fundamental goal of preventing war and building trust and co-operation among participating States.

### **Amin Awad, former United Nations Crisis Co-ordinator for Ukraine**

The former United Nations Crisis Co-ordinator for Ukraine, Amin Awad, expressed gratitude to the OSCE PA for reinforcing constructive co-operation, as well as for President Cederfelt's initiative to reinforce the toolbox in an operational manner through the appointment of Special Representatives and visits to Ukraine. He addressed the implications of the unfolding war in Ukraine, especially the massive displacement within and beyond the country, food insecurity, inflation, and

dramatic damage to the agriculture sector. Awad also pointed to the increase in attacks on energy facilities and the importance of the establishment of the energy platform to monitor and strengthen co-operation in the energy sector worldwide.

### **Discussion**

In the discussion, parliamentarians recalled the importance of unity in condemning violations of the Helsinki Final Act and Charter of Paris. They urged the need for solidarity with the Ukrainian people and noted that the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine were spreading not only across Europe but also to North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the OSCE's advantage of inclusive dialogue was emphasized by several Members. They added that conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities need to be strengthened.







# Session Two

## Promoting economic and environmental security amid the current crisis

Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), the second session included presentations by Amb. Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; Dr. Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera, President of Forum Energii; Kazimierz Kleina, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA, and an active discussion featuring the participation of more than three dozen OSCE parliamentarians.





### **Irene Charalambides, OSCE PA Vice-President**

Opening the second session of the Parliamentary Conference, OSCE PA Vice-President Charalambides highlighted the dramatic economic and environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine. She highlighted, in particular, the irresponsible sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines and the repeated attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

“Needless to point out that any nuclear ‘accident’ would have disastrous environmental, economic and health consequences for decades,” Charalambides said. “In this regard, I call for the immediate creation of safe zones around all nuclear power plants and I welcome the direct involvement of the IAEA in this context.”

She pointed out that Ukraine’s biodiversity, which represents about 35 per cent of the total European biodiversity, is threatened by forest destruction, soil and water pollution. She

added that the Russian invasion deepened the energy crisis, driving oil and gas prices to their highest levels in years. Charalambides underlined the emerging food crisis will impact 1.7 billion people across the globe, according to the UN.

### **Amb. Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)**

Amb. Hasani pointed out four key areas for the work of the OSCE’s regarding the current crisis: inflation, environmental risks, energy security and the green transition process. He emphasized the severe humanitarian effects on the poorest households. Amb. Hasani stressed that the rapid return of energy demand after the lockdowns and the consequences of the war in Ukraine destabilized the energy market, threatening power shortages for many European countries.



He underlined the OCEEA actions, including the assessment of the environmental impacts of the war in Ukraine, and the “Innovative policy solutions to mitigate money laundering risks of virtual assets.” Hasani called for a more resilient and sustainable energy sector reconstruction with a transition to renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. He expressed the OCEEA’s readiness to support Ukraine in managing this energy transition within a robust, socially just and gender-sensitive framework.

### **Dr. Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera, President of Forum Energii**

Dr. Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera expressed the urgent need for technical support to restore the continuity of electricity and heat in Ukraine, following the massive recent attack on the energy infrastructure. She emphasized that cutting off the supply of Russian fossil fuels will lead to higher prices for energy resources and fierce competition to acquire

them for several years. Dr. Mackowiak-Pandera stressed the importance of reducing energy demands and developing renewable energy sources to address price pressures and fuel shortages. She argued that because Europe shares its economy and energy markets, it must unite for this energy transition. She concluded by noting the shift of energy security definition from the diversification to the stability of energy supply that should be clean and local.

### **Kazimierz Kleina, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA**

Kazimierz Kleina stated that the Russian invasion of Ukraine violates all the principles in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and 1990 Charter of Paris. He recalled that since the beginning of the war, at least 6,000 civilians have lost their lives, including 400 children. He stressed the significant economic impact of the war, which has resulted in a 35 per cent decline in the Ukrainian GDP this year, with 25 per cent

## Session Two



inflation, according to the World Bank. Kleina argued the first priority is to focus on short-term financial assistance in order to avoid bankruptcy in Ukraine. He noted the need for 750 billion euros recently assessed by the Ukrainian authorities to reconstruct their country, expressing support for the implementation of international financial assistance.

Highlighting the ecological disaster caused by the war, Kleina mentioned the pollution of the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea and the Dnipro River by dangerous toxins from artillery.

### Discussion

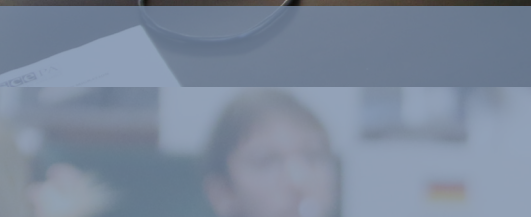
Members expressed their support for Ukraine, stressing the severe humanitarian situation of millions of people in the country living without electricity, water, heat and connection to the rest of the world. It was also outlined that secu-

rity and environmental threats do not stop at the Ukrainian borders, as demonstrated by the power outage in part of Moldova. Some delegations underlined the economic and environmental consequences of all protracted conflicts in the OSCE region.

Members' statements included points on energy, environment, economics and food security. The need to end dependence on Russia's energy supply through a transition to renewable energy was highlighted. Members expressed their willingness to increase their energy exports. OSCE PA delegations argued energy stability was a matter of global security. Several delegations discussed the importance of ensuring the transport of grain from Ukraine to the countries dependent on their supply, including by adapting national maritime and land infrastructure.







# Session Three

## Protecting fundamental rights and freedoms in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis

In session three of the Parliamentary Conference, chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), Members heard presentations by Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Matteo Mecacci and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sejm, Radoslaw Fogiel.



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

INTER

## Session Three

### Reinhold Lopatka, OSCE PA Vice-President

Opening the third session on protecting fundamental rights in situations of armed conflict, OSCE PA Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) said that the Russian attack against Ukraine has resulted in violations of human rights and freedoms on a massive scale, highlighting

the destruction of civilian infrastructure, unlawful killings, sexual violence, and enforced disappearances, torture, and ill treatment.


Noting that the United Nations has documented thousands of civilian casualties and that millions more have been forcibly displaced, Lopatka called this war a violation of the most basic right to life.

"This war is an affront to the principles of our Organization, but it is first and foremost an attack against people," Lopatka said. "I hope we can have their best interests in mind today."

### Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Matteo Mecacci emphasized the need to keep the human costs of the war at the forefront of discussions, noting that since the invasion in February 2022, ODIHR has collected evidence

on violations of human rights, war crimes and other breaches of international law. He highlighted that while both political and diplomatic efforts are needed, it is equally important to uphold OSCE commitments and hold governments accountable for violations.



This war is an affront to the principles of our Organization, but it is first and foremost an attack against people.

I hope we can have their best interests in mind today.

- OSCE PA Vice-President  
Reinhold Lopatka

Stressing the need for a stronger relationship between the PA and ODIHR, Mecacci noted that human rights have to be kept at the centre of discussions. He expressed gratitude for the support that the ODIHR received from the PA for a number of ODIHR programmes and activities, such as parliamentary integrity, violence against women, including violence



against women who are involved in politics, the rule of law, hate crimes, and election observation activities.

Speaking about the impact of war, Mecacci stressed the need to protect civilian lives and said there should be space for a resolution of the conflict to restore security. Mecacci particularly emphasized that every conflict must ensure the protection of civilians and respect of international humanitarian law while seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts. In this context, he added that accountability for those who are responsible for human rights violations must be ensured. He also stressed that peace can only be achieved when human rights, the right to life and the right to justice are respected.

### **Radoslaw Fogiel, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sejm**

Radoslaw Fogiel noted that Russian aggression has shined a spotlight on human rights violations in times of armed conflict, emphasizing that destruction of cities, sexual violence, unlawful detention and forced deportation have become tragically commonplace in Ukraine. He underlined that the consequences of the war pose challenges to the concept of comprehensive security that was developed in the OSCE region and stressed that there is no international security without human rights. Co-operation is needed among States at the international level, he said, to effectively protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. He added that while monitoring and documenting human rights violations

in the context of armed conflicts, a particular focus should be given to civil society.

Fogiel further argued that the violation of right to life, health and education will affect the situation of civilians in Ukraine for coming months, if not years, and urged parliamentarians to strengthen efforts to fully observe human rights during the times of armed conflict.

## Discussion

In the debate, Members raised strong concerns about serious violations of human rights, including sexual violence against women and girls, being committed in Ukraine.

There were calls for investigations and prosecutions for all war crimes. The suffering of the civilian population of Ukraine, it was stressed, must not only lead to legal accountability, but also to the creation of a mechanism of protection of human rights in times of armed conflicts, as well as financial reparations by the violator.

Members also proposed to ensure accountability for war crimes and the crime of aggression by establishing a mechanism for an international tribunal, as well as promoting the application of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security to the war in Ukraine.





# Closing Session

**A**t the closing of the Parliamentary Conference, the lights were turned off in the Sejm to express solidarity with Ukrainians who have lost power due to attacks on energy infrastructure, and OSCE parliamentarians observed a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives in the war. OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Head of the OSCE PA's Polish Delegation Barbara Bartus recalled the urgency of the discussions in Warsaw and the need to maintain clarity in messaging.

President Cederfelt underlined the need to maintain unity of purpose regarding the war in Ukraine and more broadly to defend the

European security order established with the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. She thanked colleagues for their active participation in the debates, and expressed her gratitude to the Polish hosts. She noted that the meeting has provided an opportunity to debate the consequences for European security of Russia's war, and noted that we have to continue to strive for the respect of the European security order.

She highlighted that there are also other issues of high importance for us to discuss,

underlining the need to prevent new conflicts and pointing out that parliamentarians have a responsibility to do this to the best of their abilities. Underscoring the high level of competence of the speakers at the Autumn Meeting, Cederfelt noted that the debates in Warsaw focused on ways for the PA to help keep the OSCE fully functional.

PA Secretary General Montella expressed his gratitude to Barbara Bartus and the Polish Parliament for hosting the meeting, pointing out that they organized it in a very short time

frame and went above and beyond in pulling it together. SG Montella also thanked the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and noted that the Polish people have shown incredible solidarity to help the incoming

refugees from Ukraine, noting that the work Poland has done hasn't gone unappreciated.

Secretary General Montella stressed that the PA has been consistent in its condemnations of Russian actions in Ukraine since 2014, and highlighted the continued attention that the PA is devoting to the issue, pointing out that the PA has had no doubt when it comes to calling out who is the aggressor and who is the victim.

**We, as Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, resolutely condemn the heinous war by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the mounting atrocities carried out against the people and deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure of Ukraine.**

**- OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt**

# Closing Session

Montella also thanked ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci, noting that the PA and ODIHR work very well together, and expressed his gratitude to the staff of the International Secretariat.

Barbara Bartus, Head of OSCE PA Polish Delegation, noted that there are moments when the question must be asked whether everything possible has been done to prevent a bloody massacre, and whether the right lessons have been learned from previous wars. Bartus noted that unfortunately history is forgotten very easily, and stated that this vile attack on Ukraine has woken up many politicians.

She further stressed that lessons need to be learned from this aggression and reiterated that the international community needs to work co-operatively to prevent such conflicts, recalling the solidarity of the international community against this brutal war.

Bartus noted the historical significance of the Autumn Meeting taking place in Warsaw, a city that was razed to the ground during World War II, and is a living monument of people's will to survive and overcome evil. She expressed confidence that this courage will remain strong in the hearts of European people.



# Standing Committee Meeting

The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, Autumn Meeting and Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget and appoints the Secretary General.

## Report of the President

Margareta Cederfelt reported on her recent activities, highlighting visits to New York and the Helsinki +50 event organized by the Parliament of Finland. She noted that she was proud to lead the election observation mission to the United States in early November, which was the largest PA mission ever.

## Report of the Treasurer

The current world economic situation presents serious challenges with inflation, OSCE PA Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen said, noting that financial stability becomes difficult to predict. Nevertheless, the PA finished the fiscal year 2022 within the approved budget, noting that the PA must continue its work. The FY 2023 budget ensures that the PA can continue to pursue activities, Juel-Jensen said, expressing gratitude to parliaments hosting PA meetings in 2023.

## Report of the Secretary General

Secretary General Roberto Montella reported to the Standing Committee on progress finding venues for future meetings, noting that the PA is all set at least until 2025. He expressed gratitude to President Cederfelt for shepherding the OSCE PA in very difficult times and managing various pressures, in-

cluding the existential threats posed to the OSCE. All of the fundamental principles under the Helsinki decalogue have been violated, including inviolability of frontiers, refraining from use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes. The rules need to be enforced if they are to remain relevant, Montella said.

## Report of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure

OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure Pascal Allizard presented the work of the committee, focusing on the proposed rules change to suspend the membership in the OSCE PA of any OSCE participating State that commits a serious violation of OSCE principles. A military attack that violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a state would qualify, he said, but he noted the imperative of ensuring a readmission procedure so that the suspension is not permanent.

Standing Committee members debated the proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure that would establish a mechanism to suspend participation in the PA's work of States that commit gross violations of the Helsinki Final Act. With no consensus reached on the proposal, the amendment was sent back to the Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure for further consideration.

# Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committees

The OSCE PA established the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration in 2016 to serve as a focal point for the OSCE PA's work in the field of migration in all three dimensions of the OSCE Winter Meeting. To bring increased focus to its counter-terrorism efforts and strengthen the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians in addressing violent extremism and radicalization, in July 2017 the PA established the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism.

## Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism

President Cederfelt welcomed all participants to the 13th Meeting of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and Secretary General Montella thanked the members for their dedication in contributing to international counter-terrorism efforts. Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, gave an overview of recent activities, including the UN Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism, organized by the United Nations on 8 to 9 September, in New York, and the bilateral meeting with UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Johannes Heiler, Adviser on Anti-Terrorism Issues at the OSCE/ODIHR, gave an overview of the work of ODIHR in promoting human rights in countering terrorism. Heiler recommended measures to encourage human rights protections, for example, through the review of draft laws, and regular review of current laws related to counter-terrorism, to ensure that they are human rights-compliant.

Members discussed upcoming activities, including the Third Co-ordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies on Countering Terrorism on 30 January, and the Official Visit to Switzerland, which will take place on 21 to 22 March 2023.

## Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

President Cederfelt delivered welcome remarks, emphasizing the importance of a cross-dimensional approach to migration issues, and Secretary General Montella encouraged Members to tackle migration issues with a long-term perspective. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, OSCE PA Vice-President Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), noted that while so much focus was rightly on Ukraine, it should not be forgotten that there is still migration pressure in North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Syria. He also remarked that if governments could improve how they carry out their foreign policy, migration could be somewhat mitigated.

Attending the meeting as an observer, Pavlo Frolov (Ukraine) expressed appreciation for the leadership displayed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and its co-ordinating role in supporting Ukrainians fleeing from Russia's war. Member of the Delegation of the Czech Republic Lucie Potucková, attending as an observer, presented a short overview of the current situation of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic in anticipation of the committee's upcoming visit. The Migration Committee also heard from Members of the Polish, Moldovan and Slovak OSCE PA Delegations.







Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

[www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)

[osce@oscepa.dk](mailto:osce@oscepa.dk)

## **OSCE PA International Secretariat**

Tordenskjoldsgade 1  
1055 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

Tel: +45 33 37 80 40

Fax: +45 33 37 80 30