



**Closing remarks by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma
21st Autumn Meeting | Yerevan, 19 November 2023**

Dear Roberto,
Dear Sargis,
Dear colleagues,

Let me begin by thanking you all for your strong engagement in our Autumn Meeting.

Our time together has been brief.

But our debates have been very interesting.

I truly appreciate that you have taken the time to come all the way to Armenia this weekend to support and defend the OSCE.

Our discussions over the past two days have made it very clear that the OSCE has strong advocates throughout our region.

But, today, we are all worried.

We are tired of the Organization's Rules being abused.

We are concerned that no budget has been adopted for over two years.

We regret that the OSCE's field presence keeps on shrinking.

The present situation is not acceptable.

All this is clear.

I will relay your very serious concerns directly to the Foreign Ministers who will gather in Skopje.

But what has also been made very clear in our discussions is that our Assembly is not paralyzed.

It is alive and kicking.

I am proud of it.

Our Assembly continues to meet.

Our Members continue to observe elections.

Our debates continue to produce very strong political documents.

We need to remember this.

Being the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE does not mean that we have to replicate the disagreements that we see in Vienna.

We don't need to stoop down to that level.

We need to remain positive so that we can remain influential.

I do not think that there is a more relevant place to say this than in Armenia.

For three decades, the OSCE has provided a mechanism to search for sustainable peace.

Today, we are faced with new security realities.

But, as you have heard from our hosts yesterday, and as I discussed in Baku earlier this week, now is the time for peace.

Both countries seem ready for this.

But they need us - the international community - to accompany them towards a long-awaited peace agreement.

Our mission is simple.

We need to encourage parliamentarians to add their voice to the peace efforts.

We need to continue offering this unique platform to contribute towards this.

Rather than remaining spectators, we must actively contribute to confidence-building.

I am confident that - despite all the problems in Vienna - our Assembly can play this role.

Your strong engagement proves it.

Before I conclude, let me once again thank our hosts and the International Secretariat for organising this meeting.

Thank you to the National Assembly of Armenia.

Thank you to all the staff.

Let's give them a round of applause.

We will meet tomorrow morning for our Mediterranean Forum.

Until then, I declare this conference closed.