



REPORT OF OSCE PA PRESIDENT PIA KAUMA  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING



2 October  
2024

Dear colleagues,

We reconvene in Dublin for our Autumn Meeting, just three months after the Bucharest Annual Session. This marks the official launch of a new cycle that will bring us together again in Vienna in February 2025, followed by our Annual Session in Porto later that year. The Autumn Meeting offers a valuable opportunity to **assess some of the key challenges facing the OSCE**, engage with Irish representatives and experts, and **begin shaping the critical issues our Assembly will focus on in the year ahead**. I look forward to your active participation and contributions as we set the course for our future work.

Following the Annual Session, I have engaged with Members of the Bureau and several Delegations before proceeding with the **appointments** traditionally made by the elected President. These appointments serve multiple purposes: to ensure the PA has focal points for key OSCE areas; to meet obligations arising from the Declarations adopted by the Assembly; to empower the elected Vice-Presidents with specific responsibilities; and to provide an important mechanism to involve key Delegations, such as France, Italy, or Türkiye, in discussions around the next budget preparation and committee reports and resolutions. A list of those appointments is available in the annex.

Special Representatives are one of the Assembly's most flexible and impactful tools. I want to make sure that their work is as efficient as possible. I am grateful for the financial and logistical support provided by national parliaments, as well as the dedication and expertise of the appointees. **The role of Special Representatives** is part of a broader conversation among Bureau members on how to modernize the Assembly's work, with another informal brainstorming session planned in Dublin.

In early September, I addressed the Permanent Council in Vienna, expressing strong support for the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship in addressing key issues, notably the appointments of new Heads of OSCE Institutions and the chairpersonship of the OSCE after 2025. I emphasized that **the OSCE cannot function without adequate financial, human, and political resources**, and highlighted the importance of a budget consensus for its proper operation. I also informed the PC about our **Bucharest Annual Session**, where we called for greater compliance with international rules, particularly in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, and **outlined upcoming activities**, including election observation missions and efforts in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

My participation in the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in Budapest provided valuable opportunities to **strengthen collaboration between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and EU institutions on key security issues**. It allowed me to advocate for the OSCE's priorities, such as conflict resolution, comprehensive security, and the importance of upholding international law, while engaging in meaningful dialogue on defense coordination, crisis management, and regional stability. By exchanging perspectives with EU parliamentarians, I aimed to enhance multilateral co-operation and **reinforce our shared commitment to peace, security, and democratic governance** across Europe and beyond.

In mid-September, I undertook with Secretary General Roberto Montella a **visit to Israel and the West Bank**. The visit, which included engagements with Israeli and Palestinian officials, as well as meetings with families victims of the 7 October terrorist attack and continued rocket attacks across Israel, provided valuable insights into the region's human and policy challenges. In Jerusalem, I expressed the OSCE PA's **condemnation of the Hamas attacks, recognized Israel's right to self-defense, and called for an end to active fighting to build lasting security**. Our meetings in Ramallah contributed to highlight the OSCE PA's **focus on humanitarian concerns, human rights, and political dialogue**. I am convinced that these will again feature prominently during our Mediterranean Forum in Dublin.

This Autumn will be a particularly busy period for the Assembly, with several key activities planned. These include four **Election Observation Missions** to Moldova, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and the United States, in addition to the mission recently conducted in Azerbaijan. There will also be an **inaugural field visit to Serbia**, focused on the work of OSCE Field Operations, and a conference hosted by the Mejlis of Turkmenistan. This robust program of activities will complement the initiatives already taken by the Network of Young Parliamentarians, in co-operation with the Parliament of Norway, and by South East European delegations to participate in a seminar hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro.

I am pleased to see so many members actively engaged in our activities this Autumn. However, with such a full schedule early in the financial year, we must be mindful of our budget as we move forward. While our current program is extensive, it may limit the Secretariat's ability to take

on additional initiatives later in the year, so **careful planning will be essential to ensure we stay within our financial resources.**

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued dedication and active engagement. **Your commitment to our shared mission is the driving force behind the Assembly's impact.** I am always open to discussing any ideas, concerns, or suggestions you may have, and I encourage you to feel free to approach me at any time throughout our meetings. Together, through open dialogue and collaboration, we can continue to strengthen the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the values we stand for. I look forward to our productive work ahead and to hearing from each of you.

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Pia Kauma

Dublin, 2 October 2024



## Annex:

### List of Special Representatives (until the Porto Annual Session in July 2025):

Special Representative	Name	Country
on the Arctic and High North	Mr. Mark Pritchard <i>(since 2023)</i>	UK
on Artificial Intelligence	Mr. Tine Novak <i>(since 2024)</i>	Slovenia
on Central Asia	Ms. Farah Karimi <i>(since 2023)</i>	Netherlands
on Climate Change	Mr. Pere Joan Pons <i>(since 2023)</i>	Spain
on Combating Organized Crime	Mr. Eugenio Zoffili <i>(since 2023)</i>	Italy
on Demographic Change and Security	Ms. Gudrun Kugler <i>(since 2024)</i>	Austria
on Fighting Corruption	Ms. Irene Charalambides <i>(since 2019)</i>	Cyprus
on Gender Issues	Ms. Hedy Fry <i>(since 2010)</i>	Canada
on Human Trafficking Issues	Mr. Christopher Smith <i>(since 2004)</i>	USA
on Mediterranean Affairs	Mr. Pascal Allizard <i>(since 2017)</i>	France
on Political Prisoners	Mr. Steve Cohen <i>(since 2022)</i>	USA
on South Caucasus	Mr. Luis Graca <i>(since 2024)</i>	Portugal
on South East Europe	Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni <i>(since 2023)</i>	Cyprus
on Youth Engagement	Mr. David Stogmuller <i>(since 2024)</i>	Austria
on Disinformation and Propaganda	Mr. Oscar Mina <i>(since 2023)</i>	San Marino