



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Autumn Meeting Inaugural Session of the Parliamentary Conference

Opening address by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma

Dublin | 2 October 2024

Mr. Speaker,
Fellow parliamentarians,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a profound honour to welcome you all to Dublin for the Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

As we convene in Dublin's Docklands, we are reminded of Ireland's remarkable transformation through peacebuilding, diplomacy, and an unwavering commitment to human rights—themes that resonate deeply with the core values of the OSCE.

Ireland's journey towards peace is a testament to the power of reconciliation.

It shows that even the most entrenched conflicts can be overcome through genuine dialogue and compromise.

The Good Friday Agreement serves as a model of what can be achieved when we approach our differences with empathy, determination, and respect.

It not only succeeded in ending decades of violence but also laid the foundation for lasting stability by embedding the principles of power-sharing, consent, and respect into the fabric of governance.

This spirit of resolution and co-operation is central to our mission within the OSCE.

It must guide us as we debate the enduring relevance of our comprehensive model of peace and security in the midst of its most serious challenge since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

Our host country stands as a symbol of neutrality – not as a withdrawal from global responsibilities, but as a commitment to fostering peace through multilateral engagement and international partnerships.

I applaud Ireland's contributions to international organizations, which underscores a firm belief in collective action and shared responsibility, aligning seamlessly with our collective dedication to achieving security through international co-operation.

Mr. Speaker,

As we will delve into our discussions, I am sure that we will draw inspiration from Ireland's approach. In addressing the complexities of the conflict cycle, for instance, Ireland's own experience can demonstrate how effective dialogue and mediation can pave the way for reconciliation and lasting peace.

This serves as a valuable lesson to enhance our Assembly's efforts in fostering dialogue and supporting post-conflict rehabilitation.

Our conversations on climate action should also benefit from Ireland's proactive stance on environmental issues. With the urgency of climate commitments ahead of COP29, our debate will be crucial to advance our shared goals and drive impactful policies for a sustainable future.

Ireland's transition from a country of emigration to welcoming immigrants offers crucial insights into fostering inclusive and effective migration policies to respond to the social dimensions of security.

Your experience can inform our common approach to sustainable development and the creation of resilient societies.

Looking ahead to our annual Mediterranean Forum on Friday, Ireland's engagement in broader European and global contexts can inspire our approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in this area.

I remain convinced that only through a collaborative and innovative mindset can we contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean and beyond.

Dear colleagues,

As we reflect on the theme of this parliamentary conference, “Fifty Years After Helsinki: The Role of Parliaments in Reinforcing the OSCE’s Comprehensive Model of Peace and Security,” I believe our time here in Dublin offers profound inspiration to reaffirm the enduring relevance of the OSCE.

The Helsinki Final Act laid the foundation for our comprehensive approach to peace, security, and co-operation.

Today, it is our responsibility to uphold and improve this model to meet the contemporary challenges we face — whether they involve conflict resolution, climate change, or migration governance.

Ireland, as a member of the European Union with strong transatlantic ties, serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of parliamentary diplomacy. Its active role on the global stage emphasizes how parliamentary action can drive forward our shared vision for a more peaceful and secure world.

There is an Irish proverb that says that “There is no strength without unity.”

The strength of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly lies precisely in our unity, our commitment to the Helsinki principles, and our dedication to dialogue, co-operation, and meaningful action.

As we embark on our discussions, let us be inspired by Ireland’s example. With this shared resolve, we can address the challenges ahead and build a more secure, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Thank you for your dedication and presence here today.

I wish you all productive and fruitful debates.

Thank you.

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