

## Outgoing Special Representative on Arctic Issues presents final report to successor

OSCE PA

Final Report of the  
Special Representative on Arctic Issues  
Torill Eidsheim



2019-2021

On 30 September, former OSCE PA Special Representative on Arctic Issues Torill Eidsheim (Norway) held a meeting with her successor, Bryndis Haraldsdottir (Iceland), for a virtual handover of a report covering activities from May 2019 - July 2021. Eidsheim and Haraldsdottir exchanged views on the PA's work on the Arctic, agreeing that climate change is the region's greatest challenge.

The report features an overview on climate change's effects

in the Arctic and on the relevance for the rest of the planet, an annotated summary of the activities conducted during the mandate, and a set of recommendations to parliamentarians for further work.

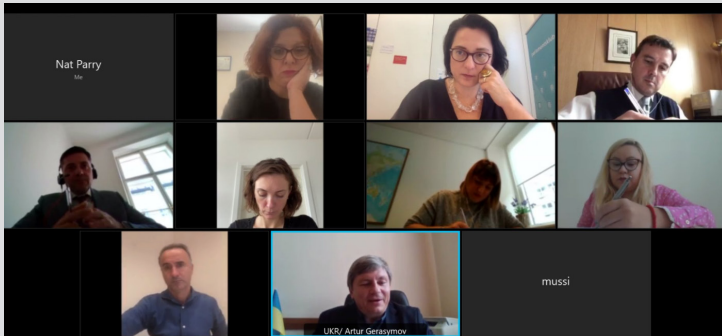
The new and former Special Representatives also agreed on the need to support the excellent work of the Arctic Council and its efforts in maintaining the Arctic an area of peace and co-operation.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella thanked Eidsheim for her engagement and noted the efforts of the International Secretariat to support her work, starting with the 2019 visit to the Svalbard Islands. Montella also underlined the need to redouble the efforts on the climate change agenda, including by supporting the work of the Second Committee.

## Amb. Nothelle represents PA at Permanent Council for last time, Amb. Pančeski takes over

Thursday, 30 September, was the last time that the PA was represented at the Permanent Council by Amb. Andreas Nothelle. After 19 years, Nothelle has stepped down as Special Representative, a role that will now be filled by Amb. Miodrag Pančeski. Nothelle will continue as an external advisor to the PA. In addition, Daria Boyarskaya has assumed the role of Head of the OSCE PA Vienna Office.

## Second Committee leadership meets to discuss priorities and upcoming work



The bureau of the Second Committee met on 1 October to define top priorities and lay out a workplan for the coming months. Leaders discussed issues such as the climate crisis, the PA's contribution to the COP26, post-COVID green recovery, public health, good governance, migration, and pollution. Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania) shared lessons learned as former Rapporteur and offered several ideas on future priorities. Following up on these discussions, Chair Pere Joan Pons (Spain) will contribute to the upcoming Rome Parliamentary Meeting on COP26 on 8-9 October.

## OSCE PA engagement continues with Belarusian stakeholders

Secretary General Roberto Montella has remained engaged with Belarusian stakeholders reiterating previous offers to have the PA serve as platform to facilitate dialogue. To this end, he received a call this week from exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Thikanouskaya, in which the situation in Belarus was discussed. The sides exchanged views on human rights in the country, prospects for constitutional reform,

and the set of recommendations stemming from OSCE's Rapporteur's Report under the Moscow Mechanism. Montella emphasized the inclusive nature of the OSCE PA as a platform and highlighted readiness of the Assembly to engage with all stakeholders to support Belarus and its people. The SG is also in regular contact with the Head of the Belarusian Delegation to the PA, Andrei Savinykh.

## OSCE PA's Conference Team visits Birmingham to prepare for 29th Annual Session

On 20-22 September, several members of the International Secretariat were on an assessment visit in Birmingham ahead of the 29th Annual Session, scheduled to take place 2-6 July 2022. Gustavo Pallares, Odile Lelarge, Stephen Paul and Dimitrije Todoric met with staff of the UK Parliament to discuss preliminary details and begin preparations for the meeting, which will be the first in-person Annual Session since 2019. During the visit, the team visited hotels and assessed logistical and security concerns related to the Session. It was agreed that the Annual Session will take place at the Birmingham International Convention Centre.

