

Vice-President Kauma speaks on the role of women in security at St. Petersburg forum

Following an invitation of President of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Valentina Matvienko, OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Kauma (Finland) is representing the Assembly at the Third Eurasian Women's Forum taking place in St. Petersburg on 13-15 October. Speaking today at the opening plenary, Kauma focused her remarks on the role of women in efforts to build a stable and secure future. The event is taking place under the theme, "Women: A Global Mission in a New Reality."

On the sidelines, she met today with Zinaida Greceanii, former President of the Parliament of Moldova, and Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan. In her meeting with Greceanii, Vice-President Kauma discussed the situation in Moldova after the elections, and the two sides explored the existing OSCE PA instruments that could be of use to the country's development.

Meeting with Narbaeva, Kauma highlighted the strong co-operation between the OSCE PA and the parliament of Uzbekistan.



Pia Kauma speaks in St. Petersburg on 13 October 2021.

Kauma welcomed progress of democratic transformations in the country, and the sides discussed an upcoming OSCE PA presidential visit, as well as the Assembly's plans for election observation for the presidential election on 24 October.

Governments must meet their climate goals, PA's Pons says at pre-COP26 meeting



Pere Joan Pons speaks in Rome on 9 October 2021.

Second Committee Chair Pere Joan Pons (Spain) represented the OSCE PA at a meeting of more than 250 parliamentarians 8-9 October in Rome to discuss the climate crisis ahead of the COP26 in Glasgow next month. In a speech at the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Pons said that approaches to climate change to date have been "either inadequate, or too slow" and that more

credible responses are urgently required. "Ultimately, what we need is a greener, more balanced and forward-looking development strategy," Pons said.

Pons met on the sidelines of the Rome meeting with the Chair of the Italian Chamber of Deputies' Environmental Committee Alessia Rotta and with the Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting Co-Rapporteur Alex Sobel (United Kingdom). He was accompanied at the Rome meeting by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, who underlined the strong climate-pollution-public health security nexus.

The pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting was held as part of a series of events hosted by Italy and the United Kingdom. The meeting will be followed by a Parliamentary Meeting on 7 November 2021 in Glasgow.

PA's Karimi promotes youth perspectives in Albania, engages with Afghan evacuees

OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi (The Netherlands) has been in Albania this week. On Tuesday, Karimi moderated the session on 'Young Perspectives on Media' at the South East Europe Media Conference, being held in Tirana. The all-female panel consisted of experts who spoke about the position of women journalists and women media managers in South East Europe.

Today, Karimi – in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration – has discussed the situation of Afghans sheltered in Albania under Temporary Protected Status with representatives of the international community. She also met with representatives of the Asylum Directorate at the Interior



Farah Karimi (right) meets with Afghans in Lezhë, 13 Oct-2021

Ministry to discuss the situation of the approximately 800 Afghan evacuees following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on 15 August. Karimi noted that Albania has been one of the first countries to offer accommodation and assistance.

Special Rep. Allizard holds bilateral meetings in Vienna, addresses OSCE Mediterranean Conference

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France) is in Vienna this week for the OSCE Mediterranean Conference, taking place 12-13 October. Allizard's bilateral programme has included meetings with representatives of Mediterranean Partners and the PA's Vienna Office. Allizard met Tuesday with the current OSCE Mediterranean Partners Group Chair Ambassador Adam Hałaciński, and the incoming Group Chair Ambassador Igor Djundev, and on Wednesday with Ambassador of Jordan Leena Al-Hadid and Ambassador of Egypt Mohamed ElMolla. Allizard also addressed the closing session of the OSCE Mediterranean Conference today.



Left to right: Miodrag Pańčeski, Leena Al-Hadid and Pascal Allizard