

VP and anti-corruption envoy Charalambides represents PA at OSCE EEDIM in Vienna

Speaking at the closing session of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna on Tuesday, OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) said that in order to ensure effective anti-corruption efforts, parliamentarians need to empower state institutions with all the necessary tools.

"Enactment of more robust legislation to exclude conflicts of interest lies in the hands of parliaments," she said. "The adoption of codes of conduct, or laws on lobbying, on shell companies and ultimate beneficial ownership, on the protection of whistleblowers, on asset seizures and media freedom are a responsibility of parliamentarians."

While in Vienna, Charalambides met with Ambassador Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental



Anita Ramasastry and Irene Charalambides in Vienna, 19 October

Activities, and Dr. Gudrun Kugler, the OSCE PA's Rapporteur for the economic and environmental committee. She also explored possible joint future efforts with Anita Ramasastry, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption.

Call for Action – Helsinki +50 meeting: focus on the Human Dimension

As part of its Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative to revitalize dialogue in the OSCE, the OSCE PA today is hosting a discussion from 14:30-17:00 focused on the human dimension. The virtual meeting will feature participation from OSCE officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society. Watch the livestream at oscepa.org or on the PA's YouTube and Facebook channels.

PA leaders participate in ODIHR's 30th anniversary, meet with OSCE officials in Warsaw

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), and Secretary General Roberto Montella participated last week in the OSCE/ODIHR's 30th anniversary event in Warsaw. Speaking at the high-level panel on "Human rights and democracy: Advancing the OSCE's Unique Vision of Security," Cederfelt stressed the essential contribution that parliamentarians make to election observation. Hadjiyianni spoke at a Civic Solidarity Platform event on the human dimension. He urged a strong commitment to the

flexibility that exists within the OSCE, noting that robust oversight – including on the parliamentary level – is key.

Cederfelt, Charalambides, Hadjiyianni, and Montella held meetings with diplomats, officials and activists while in Warsaw. Montella met with OSCE SG Helga Schmid and Heads of OSCE Institutions as well as the CiO's Special Representative Kent Harstedt to discuss the current political situation in the OSCE region in the run up to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm. He congratulated ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci on the 30th anniversary as well as its 400th election observation mission for this weekend's presidential election in Uzbekistan.

VP Kauma holds bilateral meetings on margins of St. Petersburg forum

On the sidelines of the Eurasian Women's Forum in St. Petersburg last week, OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Kauma (Finland) met with representatives of parliaments and international organizations, including former Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova, Zinaida Greceanii; Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Tanzila Narbaeva; Chairperson of the Council of the National Assembly of Belarus Natalia Kochanova; and Natali German, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Asia, to underline the ways for greater engagement with the OSCE PA in addressing world's challenges.

Vice-President Kauma also exchanged with Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and CIS Interparliamentary Assembly President Valentina Matvienko on the margins of the forum, as well as with Deputy Speaker Konstantin Kosachev. Kauma expressed appreciation for Matvienko's invitation to the forum and reiterated the importance of maintaining a productive and engaging relationship with the Russian Federation in the context of the OSCE PA, which she stressed is an inclusive forum for open dialogue based on mutual respect and shared values.

MPs and experts discuss prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs in SEE

Parliamentarians and experts discussed strategies and policies for effective and human rights-compliant prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and their families in South East Europe and neighboring countries at a Regional Policy Dialogue held in blended format on 14-15 October 2021 in Vienna. Gathering more than 50 lawmakers, experts and representatives from relevant UN agencies, the meeting was co-organized by the OSCE Trans-

national Threats Department and the OSCE PA.

Throughout three thematic sessions, discussions focused on ways to effectively address challenges pertaining to the return or repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members. Participants exchanged experiences and lessons learned on topics such as evidence collection for prosecution, as well as rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, particularly for women and children.