

## PA President Cederfelt meets with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kuleba in Stockholm

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) met in Stockholm on Monday with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who was in the Swedish capital for high-level meetings related to the ongoing war in his country. President Cederfelt informed Foreign Minister Kuleba about OSCE PA activity, including its visit to Kyiv, Irpin and Bucha on 27 June, and complimented the very active Ukrainian delegation to OSCE PA, headed by Mykyta Poturaiev.

Cederfelt and Kuleba discussed what the OSCE PA can do to promote an end of Russia's war against Ukraine based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in its internationally recognized borders. It was pointed out that the PA can help maintain international focus on the situation in Ukraine through regular debates and discussion so that parliamentarians are aware of developments in the war, and to ensure that they remain fully engaged. Ukraine is defending not just its territory but free society and OSCE values, it was stressed.

Foreign Minister Kuleba expressed gratitude for the OSCE PA's support of Ukraine and emphasized the importance of parliamentarians and government leaders implementing recommendations stemming from the Birmingham Annual Session in



Margareta Cederfelt and Dmytro Kuleba in Stockholm, 29 August

July. In particular he mentioned the importance of resolutions adopted in Birmingham that urge withdrawal of Russian forces and express support for investigations into war crimes in Ukraine.

Cederfelt said that the OSCE PA's Declaration from the Annual Session fully supports Ukraine, and underlined that the PA has stood by Kyiv since 2014, repeatedly condemning the illegal annexation of Crimea and urging implementation of the Minsk Agreements. The foreign minister urged the PA to continue focusing on Ukraine, stressing that it is important for parliamentarians to raise awareness on Ukraine's need for financial support as well as humanitarian aid and military aid.

## Vice-President Kauma leads discussion on modalities for Helsinki meeting

Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Kauma (Finland), the PA's Group of Friends of the Helsinki +50 Process met via Zoom on 25 August to prepare for a seminar being held in Helsinki on 22-23 September. Hosted by the Finnish OSCE PA Delegation, the event will focus on the added value of the OSCE in the changing security environment, including its role relative to other international organizations. The Helsinki meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss the working methods and rules of procedure of the OSCE PA.

Participants in last week's online discussion included

Johannes Koskinen (Finland), Vilhelm Junnila (Finland), Maria Fagerholm (Finland), Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), Farah Karimi (Netherlands), Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), Askar Shakirov (Kazakhstan), Pascal Allizard (France), Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden). Secretary General Roberto Montella, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, Ambassador Miodrag Panceski, and Emomali Mirzoev from the International Secretariat also participated. The conference call touched on practical aspects of organizing the Helsinki meeting, including possible composition of the panels and the scope of participation.

## OSCE PA International Secretariat prepares for autumn activities

Staff members of the OSCE PA International Secretariat have been working in recent weeks to prepare for a busy autumn of activities, including two election observation missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States, as well as securing a venue for the Autumn Meeting. On the margins of the Autumn Meeting, it is expected that an in-person meeting of the Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative will take place. In addition,

the CfA-H+50 initiative is holding a webinar on "The role of the OSCE in addressing the war in Ukraine and its consequences," which will take place 7 September from 14:30 to 17:00 CEST, via Zoom. The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration will also hold an online meeting on 12 September, which will be chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom).

## Featured tweets @oscepa



**Margareta Cederfelt**  
@MCederfelt

**#Gorbatjov** created the conditions for the end of the Cold War and gave people hope of freedom and a better future. His achievements was recognised in 1990 by the Nobel Peace Prize for his leading role in the radical changes of East-West relations. Rest in peace @oscepa

7:14 AM · Aug 31, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) reacted Wednesday to the sad occasion of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's passing at the age of 91. Cederfelt tweeted that Gorbachev "created the conditions for the end of the Cold War and gave people hope of freedom and a better future. His achievements was recognised in 1990 by the Nobel Peace Prize for his leading role in the radical changes of East-West relations. Rest in peace."

At the 1990 CSCE Summit in Paris, Mikhail Gorbachev hailed the accomplishments of detente, noting that "Rapprochement, openness, the ever-growing interaction and communication between our two countries, between our governments and our people, in both their own interests and in the interests of positive changes in the world as whole have constituted a contribution to modern civilization."