

High-level OSCE PA participation in Warsaw Human Dimension Conference



Andreas Baker, Mark Pritchard, Kyriakos Hadjiyianni and Margareta Cederfelt in Warsaw, 5 October

OSCE PA Members, led by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), actively participated in the OSCE's Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, which took place from 26 September to 7 October 2022. The OSCE PA delegation included OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), Third Committee Chair Nikoloz Samkharadze (Georgia), and Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), among others.

In a roundtable discussion organized by the PA on the side-

lines of the conference, participants discussed strengthening parliamentary partnerships with civil society for human rights. The 5 October event provided an opportunity for OSCE diplomats and civil society to consider the main human dimension recommendations in the OSCE PA's Birmingham Declaration adopted in July. President Cederfelt highlighted that the challenges facing the OSCE region are massive in scale, which requires a comprehensive response from the OSCE, including its parliamentary dimension.

OSCE PA Members also contributed to other events, including plenary sessions on rule of law and humanitarian issues, speaking on topics including the importance of ensuring human rights while combating terrorism and the crucial importance of maintaining an independent judiciary. On the sidelines of the conference, the parliamentarians held a number of bilateral meetings, including with OSCE/ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci, and diplomatic representatives from Ukraine. The President expressed her appreciation to the Polish OSCE Chairmanship's efforts to organize the Human Dimension Conference, but expressed regret that agreement had not been reached to hold the OSCE's traditional Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Upcoming Call for Action - H+50 webinar to focus on Ukraine

The next meeting of the Call for Action - Helsinki +50 initiative will focus on the war in Ukraine and its consequences. Taking place Wednesday, 19 October 2022, from 14:30 to 17:00 CEST, via Zoom, the meeting will be moderated by OSCE PA High-Level Expert Lamberto Zannier, and will feature remarks by Head of Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA Mykyta Poturaiev, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt, and Professor of International Law at the University of Milan Marco Pedrazzi, followed by an open debate.

PA joins OSCE Troika, Secretary General in condemning escalation of war in Ukraine

PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella on Monday joined with the OSCE Troika – comprised of the current, immediately preceding and subsequent OSCE Chairmanships – and OSCE Secretary General in strenuously condemning Russia's escalating attacks on Ukraine's civilian centres. The statement, issued with OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Poland's Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, Sweden's Foreign Minister Ann Linde, North Macedonia's Foreign Minister Bujar Osmani, and OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid, deplored "Russian indiscriminate strikes" on "residential buildings, squares and streets at rush hour, parks and children's playgrounds."


"These heinous military actions," the statement reads, "represent a total disrespect and breach of international law, including humanitarian law. The only reason behind these brutal and cruel acts is to spread terror and to compensate for failures in achieving tactical and strategic goals. We stand united with the brave Ukrainian nation and remain committed to supporting their noble



cause in the defense of our shared values and core OSCE commitments."

Monday's joint statement follows a statement Cederfelt and Montella jointly issued on 30 September with CiO Rau and SG Schmid categorically condemning the Russian Federation's illegal annexation of parts of the territories of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Kherson oblasts of Ukraine, as well as the continued occupation of Crimea.

Featured tweets @oscepa

 **Reinhold Lopatka** @ReinholdLopatka · Oct 6
The Ambassador of Ukraine @VKhymynets informed me about the last developments in #Ukraine. He welcomed the clear position of Austria by condemning the annexation of the four Ukrainian regions Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia and Kherson by Russia.

The OSCE PA's Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine met last week with Vasyl Khymynets, Ukraine's Ambassador to Austria, for discussions about developments in the Russian Federation's war and its annexation of Ukrainian territory. In a tweet, Special Representative Lopatka stated: "The Ambassador of Ukraine @VKhymynets informed me about the last developments in #Ukraine. He welcomed the clear position of Austria by condemning the annexation of the four Ukrainian regions Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia and Kherson by Russia." President Margareta Cederfelt appointed Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka as Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine in May 2022, stressing the importance of using all available tools in bringing the war to an end.

