

Bureau meets to prepare for 22nd OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna



Margareta Cederfelt chairs the Bureau meeting from Copenhagen, 20 January 2023

The OSCE PA's Bureau met on 20 January, with President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) chairing the meeting from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen and Members joining from their capitals via Zoom. The primary focus of the meeting was to prepare for the 22nd Winter Meeting next month in Vienna, including addressing questions of participation by some national delegations.

President Cederfelt assured Bureau members that everything possible is being done to ensure a smoothly run and constructive meeting. Stressing that the OSCE PA has consistently supported Ukraine ever since 2014, and particularly since the Russian Federation's invasion on 24 February 2022, the President pointed out that the Assembly is continuing to develop its programme

of activities on how best to promote peace and support the Ukrainian people. Cederfelt also underlined the role of the OSCE as a forum for dialogue, pointing out that this was the foundation of the organization when it was launched with the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

The Bureau discussed and agreed on the programme of the Winter Meeting, which includes meetings of the three general committees, two joint sessions of the three committees, and a meeting of the Standing Committee. Members also raised questions about how to ensure robust attendance at the meeting and what efforts are being done to pursue dialogue. Other topics of discussion included growing tensions in the Mediterranean Sea, upcoming activities of the OSCE PA's Helsinki +50 – Call for Action initiative, possible election observation missions, and the work of the special representatives and ad hoc committees.

Secretary General Roberto Montella reported about his recent meetings in Vienna for the opening of the 2023 OSCE Chairmanship, this year held by North Macedonia. In discussions with Chairman-in-Office Bujar Osmani, Montella said that he was impressed by the commitment shown by Skopje to raising the political profile of the organization. There are many areas of mutual interest and possible avenues for co-operation between the Chairmanship and the Assembly, Montella pointed out.

Winter Meeting deadline reminder

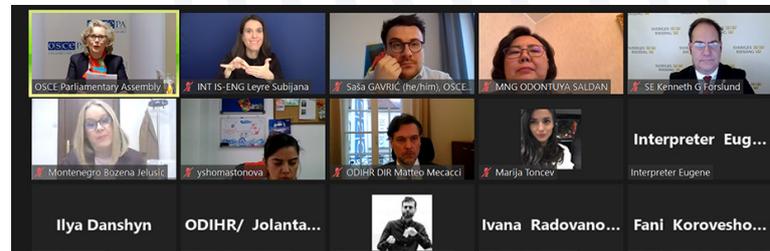
The 22nd Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will take place on 23-24 February 2023 in the Hofburg Congress Center in Vienna, Austria. OSCE PA Delegations are kindly reminded to register for the meeting via the OSCE PA online registration system no later than 27 January 2023. For more information, please click here: <http://bit.ly/3H9ZvOF>

OSCE PA and ODIHR launch guidelines on gender audits of parliaments

On Tuesday, the OSCE PA and OSCE/ODIHR launched the Participatory Gender Audits of Parliaments, a Step-by-Step Guidance Document at a joint Web Dialogue that brought together a diverse group of parliamentarians, diplomats, and civil society from the OSCE region to discuss gender action plans in parliaments.

The guidance document was published in late 2022, complementing Realizing Gender Equality in Parliament: A Guide for Parliaments in the OSCE Region of 2021, offering comprehensive tools and detailed steps on how parliaments can fully capitalize on their potential to implement a gender-sensitive and intersectional approach to legislative processes.

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci welcomed the participants, stressing the importance of collective action in achieving gender equality in the OSCE region. Following the keynote speeches of experts and practitioners, OSCE PA Members highlighted actions taken in their



parliaments for gender parity.

Following up on the joint Web Dialogue, the OSCE PA's informal gender network is meeting virtually today to consider next steps. Chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada), the group includes both men and women parliamentarians who are interested in participating in the work of building gender equality and gender diversity in the OSCE region.

Featured tweets @oscepa



OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) tweeted on 19 January about a meeting that she and Third Committee Rapporteur Johan Büser (Sweden) held in the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) with UN officials who are working on profiles related to development in eastern Europe, including Moldova and Ukraine.

Her tweet reads: "Meet with @UNDP Assistant SG on Eastern Europe @Ivana_Zivkovic_, Head of UNDP Moldova @dimaalkhatib1 and Deputy Head of UNDP Ukraine @Chris_Politis together with @johanbuser for discussion on strengthening resilience, recovery today and tomorrow in #Ukraine #Moldova @oscepa."

