

PA participates in OSCE's Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension in Prague



Artur Gerasymov and Irene Charalambides in Prague, 14 September 2023

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), and Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Second Committee, participated last week in the Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 14 to 15 September.

In her address, Charalambides highlighted the OSCE PA's role as a platform for policy convergence, emphasizing the importance of good governance and public trust. She encouraged participants to explore the resolutions of the Vancouver Declaration, addressing challenges such as climate change and corruption and underscoring the vital role of national parliaments in preventing corruption. She stressed that political will, when coupled with

advancements in technology, is essential to combat corruption effectively, while promoting the use of open data for transparency and citizen engagement.

"We should not expect that new digital technologies will automatically solve our 'human' problems, starting from corruption," Charalambides said. "But we must do our utmost to ensure that the possibilities offered by these new tools and advancements are fully harnessed in the interest of good governance. Together – me and you, parliaments and governments – can make a difference."

Vice-Chair Gerasymov actively participated in the discussions, shedding light on the OSCE PA's efforts in tackling both current and enduring issues, including climate change, plastic pollution, energy insecurity and connectivity disruptions, as well as in better understanding the impact of artificial intelligence on security, democracy and privacy. He also deplored the appalling environmental consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, which will have ripple effects throughout Europe.

The two-day conference – convened by the OSCE 2023 Chairpersonship of North Macedonia – provided a platform for national experts, academia, civil society and the business community to interact on a wide set of contemporary policy and security challenges in the economic, environmental, digital and technological spheres.

President, SG and Ukrainian Delegation explore possibilities for new Parliamentary Support Team

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Secretary General Roberto Montella met Tuesday with members of the Ukrainian Delegation to discuss possible activities and areas of focus for the newly established Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine. Ukrainian parliamentarians Mykyta Poturaiev, Anna Lichman, Artur Gerasymov, Yevheniia Kravchuk, Iryna Gerashchenko, Pavlo Frolov, Victoria Podhorna, and Nataliya Pipa participated in the online discussion, offering ideas for the Parliamentary Support Team's mandate and providing feedback on ideas for its composition. Among the proposals discussed during the meeting were ways to ensure parliamentary support



Roberto Montella and staff participate in online meeting with the PA's Ukrainian Delegation, Copenhagen, 20 September 2023

OSCE PA Treasurer and President meet with external auditors at International Secretariat

President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Johan Büser (Sweden) met last week at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen with auditors from Deloitte regarding an Integrated Financial - Business/Performance Audit of the OSCE PA. In a letter to Bureau Members and Heads of OSCE PA Delegations on 14 September, Kauma and Büser described the process for the audit, which will be performed in conjunction with the regular

financial audit that has been carried out on the Parliamentary Assembly's finances on an annual basis for decades. The Deloitte auditors indicated that they would begin the process immediately and expect to complete the audit in advance of the PA's Winter Meeting in February 2024 in Vienna. Treasurer Büser will present the audit to the Standing Committee at that time.

Leadership appointed for the OSCE PA's Election Observation Mission to Poland

The OSCE PA is deploying an Election Observation Mission to Poland for the parliamentary elections taking place 15 October 2023. President Pia Kauma (Finland) has been appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office Bujar Osmani as Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE short-term observer mission and Pere Joan Pons (Spain) will serve as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. In her capacity as Special Co-ordinator, Kauma will deliver the post-election preliminary statement of findings and conclusions at a press conference in Warsaw on 16 October. A total of 87 MPs from 29 countries are currently registered as observers for the mission, with staff members bringing the total number of participants to 110.



Pia Kauma



Pere Joan Pons