

Special Representative Charalambides visits Brussels to develop anti-corruption partnerships



Luc de Lobel and Irene Charalambides in Brussels, 17 January



Alvaro de Elera and Irene Charalambides in Brussels, 17 January

On Wednesday, OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) began a two-day visit to Brussels where she is meeting with a range of EU officials working on promoting transparency and the rule of law in Europe. The visit is intended to develop high-level partnerships with relevant international stakeholders on issues related to combating corruption and to promote a greater understanding of the security threats stemming from corruption, as well as the threats it poses to democracy.

Charalambides, who also serves as Vice-President of the OSCE PA, met today with Luc de Lobel, Cabinet Expert in the Department of Justice of the European Commission, and Alvaro de Elera, a member of the cabinet of Věra Jourová,

Commissioner for Values and Transparency at the European Commission. Charalambides, de Lobel and de Elera discussed common areas of work between the EU and the OSCE PA, particularly on promoting transparency and fighting corruption. Special Representative Charalambides described the OSCE PA's efforts to facilitate co-operation on anti-corruption issues and addressing its detrimental effects on society. She noted that to prevent corruption, a co-ordinated and multi-pronged approach is needed.

She continues her visit Thursday with meetings scheduled with the European Commission's Department of Migration and Home Affairs, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and the European Anti-Fraud Office.

OSCE PA's year-in-review video published online

The OSCE PA has published a year-in-review video covering its main activities of 2023. From fostering international co-operation to tackling global challenges, the PA remained at the forefront of promoting dialogue and diplomacy. Watch the video and revisit the impactful moments that shaped the year: <https://youtu.be/DLYZY8PQ96c>

PA's Swedish Delegation meets with parliamentary and governmental leaders in Georgia



OSCE PA's Swedish Delegation in Gori

From 10 to 14 January, the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA, including Head of Delegation Björn Söder and OSCE PA Treasurer Johan Büser, visited Georgia, meeting with First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in Georgia Lasha Darsalia, Head of the Delegation to OSCE PA and Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia Nikoloz Samkharadze, and Irakli Beraia, Chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Georgia. Meetings were also held with the opposition party United National Movement (UNM) as well as with a wide range of civil society organizations.

The delegation visited the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) at the field office in Gori, about 80 kilometers northwest of Tbilisi, and took part of one day's patrolling of the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) of the Russian-occupied territories. Samkharadze informed his Swedish colleagues about the difficulties in the occupied regions of Georgia and emphasized the growing threats to citizens and property.

Discussions also focused on the issue of Georgia's European integration, with the Swedish parliamentarians congratulating Georgia on its recent granting of candidate status to the European Union, as well as upcoming parliamentary elections.

2024 kicks off with a busy schedule of OSCE PA activities

Several major events are on the OSCE PA's calendar in the coming weeks, including an online meeting of the Informal Gender Network on 23 January, a visit of President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) to the International Secretariat on 24-25 January, and a hybrid meeting of OSCE PA Bureau Members on 26 January. At the end of the month, President Kauma will travel

to the United States for a series of meetings in Washington, and is scheduled to address the OSCE Permanent Council on February 8. On 5-6 February, the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine is expected to visit Kyiv. Working closely with the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE PA will observe the 7 February early presidential election in Azerbaijan. The Assembly will meet in Vienna for its 23rd Winter Meeting on 22-23 February.

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