

## Kauma visits International Secretariat, addresses meeting of future generations ambassadors



Pia Kauma meets with staff in Copenhagen, 24 January 2024

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen today, beginning a series of discussions on OSCE PA matters with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, and

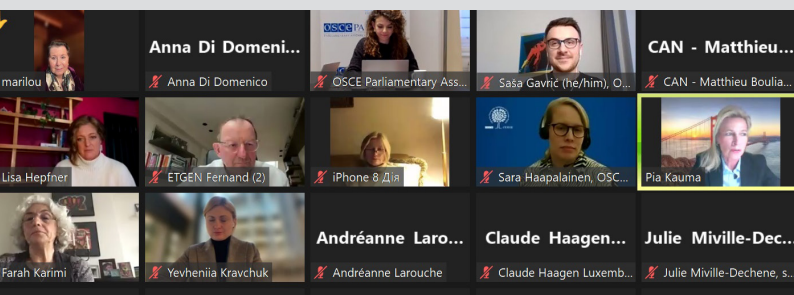
other staff members. Discussions focused on upcoming OSCE PA activities, including next month's Winter Meeting in Vienna and possible election observation missions. Also today, President Kauma addressed a meeting of the Future Generations Global Ambassadors, highlighting the PA's priorities in relation to the youth agenda. Kauma was joined by former OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi, who discussed the role of young people in the Assembly and highlighted the resolution she authored called "On Future Generations," which was included in the OSCE PA's Vancouver Declaration.

On Thursday, Kauma will be joined at the International Secretariat by Treasurer Johan Büser for a meeting with the PA's external auditors. On Friday, she will chair an informal working seminar of OSCE PA Bureau Members.

## Registration deadline for the Winter Meeting

The 23rd Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will take place 22-23 February 2024 at the Congress Center Hofburg in Vienna, Austria. Secretaries of Delegations are kindly asked to register their delegation via the OSCE PA online registration system no later than 2 February.

## OSCE PA gender network meets for discussions on equality and diversity



gender diversity in the OSCE region. The meeting included a presentation by Saša Gavrić, Gender Officer in ODIHR's Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, who provided an overview of toolkits used by OSCE to advance gender balance within the national parliaments. He stressed that ODIHR can provide great support to the parliaments by performing gender audits of political parties and parliaments, as well as legislative reviews.

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella also addressed the meeting, encouraging the work of the informal gender network and stressing the need for gender-sensitive laws and policies. The informal gender network will continue meeting several times per year and supporting the mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues.

The fourth meeting of the OSCE PA's informal gender network was organized by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) on 23 January bringing together a diverse group of around 40 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff for a discussion on gender equality and

## Gerasymov and De Ridder to lead observation of early presidential election in Azerbaijan

More than 80 observers from the OSCE PA are deploying to Azerbaijan for the 7 February early presidential election, marking the tenth time the PA has observed elections in the country since 1995. The Head of the OSCE PA delegation of observers will be OSCE PA Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany) and the Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission will be Second Committee Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine).

Working closely with a mission deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR, PA observers will be thoroughly briefed by representatives of the election administration and civil society, candidates and experts on the situation ahead of elections, before fanning out to several regions around Azerbaijan for election day observation. The elections will be assessed against democratic commitments outlined in the OSCE's 1990 Copenhagen Document, which encompass free voting procedures, a fair and free campaign atmosphere, access to media, and honest and



Daniela De Ridder



Artur Gerasymov

accurate reporting of results.

The preliminary findings and conclusions for the elections will be presented at a press conference in Baku on 8 February.

## In memoriam: Tony Lloyd (1950-2024)

It is with a heavy heart that we learned of the passing of Sir Tony Lloyd, a former Head of the UK Delegation and Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Second Committee. He was greatly admired by OSCE PA colleagues and will be sorely missed. The OSCE PA extends its deepest condolences to his friends and family, to his constituents, and to the British Parliament.

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