News from Copenhagen

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Draft agendas distributed for 31st OSCE PA Annual Session in Bucharest

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma and Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies Dan Barna, Bucharest, 18 April 2024

Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, site of the 31st OSCE PA Annual Session

With the 31st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly beginning later this month in Bucharest, draft agendas for the plenary sessions and Standing Committee meeting have been distributed to participants and posted online. Taking place from 29 June to 3 July 2024 at the Palace of Parliament, the Annual Session is being held under the theme "The Role of the OSCE in the Current Security Architecture: A Parliamentary Perspective."

Hundreds of parliamentarians from North America, Europe and Central Asia will participate in the five-day meeting, the largest event on the OSCE PA's calendar. Beginning on 29 June, the Annual Session is expected to feature speeches by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), President of the Senate of Romania Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, President ad interim of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania Alfred-Robert Simonis, Romanian Foreign Minister Luminiţa-Teodora Odobescu, and Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA Dan Barna. The closing plenary session on 3 July will include addresses by OSCE Chair-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Malta Ian Borg and OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid, followed by a Q&A session. The plenary sessions will also feature a general debate on the situation in the Middle East.

OSCE PA Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella will report to the Standing Committee on 29 June. The Standing Committee will also consider proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure and allocate supplementary items to relevant general committees, which will debate and amend resolutions for inclusion in the Bucharest Declaration to be adopted on 3 July. This document, representing the collective voice of the OSCE's parliamentary dimension, will contain recommendations to national governments, parliaments and the international community in the fields of security, human rights, and economic and environmental concerns.

Issues to be covered at the Annual Session include:

- The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine
- Artificial intelligence
- The situation in the Middle East
- Disinformation and propaganda
- Climate change and water scarcity
- Countering the proliferation of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids
- Antisemitism in the OSCE region
- Corruption and foreign policy
- Migration
- Human trafficking
- Civil society
- Environmental protection in armed conflicts

Also on the agenda in Bucharest are meetings of the OSCE PA's ad hoc committees dealing with migration issues, counter-terrorism and parliamentary support for Ukraine, as well as the annual working lunch on gender issues. In addition, the Annual Session will include elections for Assembly leadership positions, including President, Vice-Presidents, and Committee Officers. The Secretary General's mandate is up for renewal in the Standing Committee.

The full programme of events, committee draft resolutions and reports, supplementary items, and upcoming deadlines are available on the OSCE PA's website at https://bit.ly/3CYHC3A.

Final report of the 23rd Winter Meeting available online

More than 230 OSCE parliamentarians participated in the OSCE PA's 23rd Winter Meeting in Vienna on 22-23 February 2024 for debates on political dissidents and political prisoners, parliamentary perspectives on the future of the OSCE, and artificial intelligence. The final report of the meeting is available online as a Flipping Book and in PDF format: https://bit.ly/3z6LCA5
Photos from the OSCE PA's 23rd Winter Meeting are available for public use at the OSCE PA's Flickr page: https://bit.ly/3P2YaOb
Video of the Winter Meeting is available on the OSCE PA's YouTube and Facebook pages.

Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Charalambides begins Malta visit

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) has arrived in Malta today for a series of meetings scheduled this week with parliamentarians, government officials, and civil society activists engaged in the fight against corruption. On Thursday and Friday, she will be meeting with members of the Maltese Delegation to the OSCE PA headed by Amanda Spiteri Grech, representatives of the Permanent Commission Against Corruption (PCAC), the Ministry of Justice, Occupy Justice, Repubblika, and the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation.

Serving as Special Representative on Fighting Corruption since July 2019, Vice-President Charalambides is mandated to raise awareness in the Assembly regarding the urgency to effectively combat corruption at all levels, promote a greater understanding of the security threats stemming from corruption, facilitate co-operation on anti-corruption issues within the OSCE PA among all Delegations, and promote high-level partnerships with the OSCE Chairmanship, OSCE executive structures and with relevant international stakeholders on issues related to combating corruption.

She is expected to report on her recent activities as Special Representative at the upcoming Annual Session in Bucharest, where she will also present her supplementary item "Preventing Corruption from being used as a Foreign Policy Tool."

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