

## OSCE PA-Luxembourg Memorandum of Understanding signed during high-level visit



OSCE PA President Pia Kauma and His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg Henri, 17 June 2024



Roberto Montella and Pia Kauma in Luxembourg, 18 June 2024

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Secretary General Roberto Montella were in Luxembourg this week to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that provides the Assembly with additional financial support to bolster activities in Southeast and Eastern Europe. Effective for a period of four years starting from 1 January 2025, the MoU provides for an extra-budgetary contribution to strengthen collaborative efforts in parliamentary diplomacy and the promotion of peace, security, and human rights.

President Kauma and Secretary General Montella were received at the highest level in Luxembourg, meeting Monday with HRH the Grand Duke Henri, and Tuesday with HE Claude Wiseler, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Meetings were also held with Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Gusty Graas, Luxembourg's Delegation to the OSCE PA, headed by Gilles Baum, and members of the Standing Committee and the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs.

Topics of discussion included recent political developments in Southeast Europe, the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas conflict and repercussions in the OSCE region, the institutional situation of the OSCE, and Luxem-

bourg's contribution within the framework of the OSCE.

President Kauma expressed the PA's gratitude for Luxembourg's commitment to multilateralism and for generously supporting the OSCE's mission of promoting security, democracy, and human rights across the region. She particularly welcomed Luxembourg's belief in the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering dialogue and co-operation.

"The Memorandum of Understanding just agreed to by Luxembourg will provide the OSCE PA with crucial support aimed at bolstering activities in Southeast and Eastern Europe," President Kauma said. "The positive impact of this support could not come at a better time and will go a long way toward advancing parliamentary diplomacy and strengthening democratic institutions in the region."

Secretary General Montella added that the support will focus on bolstering activities in key areas of the OSCE PA's acquis. "The OSCE PA is very grateful for Luxembourg's generosity and will ensure that our commitment to fiscal responsibility will maximize the impact of the funding," Montella said. Both Kauma and Montella stressed that they look forward to the participation of Luxembourg's Delegation at the Bucharest Annual Session.

## Deadline reminder for Bucharest Annual Session

The 31st Annual Session of the OSCE PA will take place from 29 June to 3 July in Bucharest, Romania. OSCE PA Delegations are kindly reminded that the deadline for submitting amendments to supplementary items to be considered in Bucharest is 22 June.

## In Malta, Special Representative Charalambides builds co-operation in fighting corruption

Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) was in Malta last week, where she met with Members of the Maltese Delegation to the OSCE PA, Amanda Spiteri Grech and Alex Muscat, and representatives of Maltese institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to combating corruption.

The primary objectives of her visit were to understand ongoing reforms within relevant Maltese institutions, develop partnerships with local stakeholders, and promote greater awareness of the security and democratic threats posed by corruption.

"To effectively fight corruption, it is essential to strengthen and train the relevant institutions to be more efficient in their daily challenges," Charalambides stated. "This approach must include bolstering accountability mechanisms, sharing experiences with other countries facing similar issues, and building partnerships with international organizations."

On 13-14 June, Special Representative Charalambides held discussions with representatives of the Permanent Commission Against Corruption and the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance. She also met with CSOs, including Occupy Justice and Repubblica.

In these meetings, Charalambides highlighted her work in preventing and fighting corruption. She emphasized the OSCE PA's focus on the connections between corruption, stability,



Vice-President Irene Charalambides and Attorney General Victoria Buttigieg, Valletta, 14 June 2024

security, and democracy, sharing insights into her recent activities in this field. Charalambides further underscored the importance of international co-operation in combating corruption, particularly with small countries facing similar challenges to Malta. The Special Representative discussed ongoing reforms in Malta, both in legislation and within independent institutions.

Vice-President Charalambides stressed her commitment to raising awareness within the Assembly about the urgency of effectively combating corruption at all levels. As Special Representative, she promotes understanding of the security threats stemming from corruption, facilitates co-operation on anti-corruption issues within the OSCE PA among all delegations, and fosters high-level partnerships with relevant international stakeholders.

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