

PA's Bucharest Declaration covers security, economics, environment and human rights



Meetings of the OSCE PA's 31st Annual Session took place at the Palace of Parliament. AGERPRES / CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

The OSCE PA's 31st Annual Session, which opened in Bucharest last week with speeches by President of the Senate of Romania Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA Dan Barna and OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), concluded today with adoption of the Assembly's Bucharest Declaration. Containing recommendations on political and military affairs, economic and environmental concerns, and human rights, the Declaration will now be made available to parliaments and governments.

Focusing heavily on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, the Bucharest Declaration also addresses such diverse topics as artificial intelligence, migration, disinformation and

propaganda, climate change and water scarcity, drugs and organized crime, antisemitism, corruption, and human trafficking.

One year ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the Declaration addresses institutional challenges facing the OSCE, urging the timely and orderly appointment of the Heads of Institutions, and recognizing the detrimental impact of the zero nominal growth policy on the OSCE's operational capacity. In her opening speech on 29 June, President Kauma noted that next year's milestone must be an opportunity to reinvigorate commitments to the OSCE's foundational values.

In a special debate on Tuesday, some 30 parliamentarians took to the floor to discuss the situation in the Middle East. OSCE PA Members lamented the tragedy of the 7 October 2023 attacks by Hamas as well as the ongoing loss of life in Gaza, and urged a durable resolution of the conflict. Today, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Ian Borg addressed the Assembly and took questions from the MPs. Romanian Foreign Minister Luminița-Teodora Odobescu also addressed the closing plenary today. Some 225 parliamentarians from 55 OSCE participating States attended the Annual Session. Documents, videos and photos from the meeting are available at www.oscepa.org.

President Kauma and SG Montella re-elected, new Bureau Members to begin terms



Pia Kauma, Dan Barna, and Roberto Montella at the close of the meeting on 3 July 2024. AGERPRES / CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Pia Kauma (Finland) was re-elected Assembly President Wednesday at the 31st Annual Session in Bucharest. Luis Graça (Portugal), Richard Hudson (United States) and Gudrun Kugler (Austria) were elected as new Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. The following Members were elected to lead the PA's three general committees:

- First Committee Chair Birgir Thórarinnsson (Iceland)
- First Committee Vice-Chair Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania)
- First Committee Rapporteur Tobias Winkler (Germany)
- Second Committee Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)
- Second Committee Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)
- Second Committee Rapporteur Paula Cardoso (Portugal)
- Third Committee Chair Lucie Potuckova (Czechia)
- Third Committee Vice-Chair Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia)
- Third Committee Rapporteur Carina Odebrink (Sweden)

On 29 June, the Assembly's Standing Committee met and re-elected OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella for a third five-year term. His new mandate begins on 1 January 2026 and ends 31 December 2030.

Side meetings focus on priority issues at Bucharest Annual Session

Meetings of the PA's ad hoc committees dealing with migration, counter-terrorism and parliamentary support for Ukraine took place on the sidelines of the Annual Session, as well as the annual working lunch on gender issues. Chaired by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) included reports from members of Ukraine's OSCE PA Delegation who described the most immediate needs of the country.

In the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Daniela De Ridder (Germany), members heard from Guido Tintori from the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and the Committee on Countering Terrorism, chaired by Kamil Aydın (Türkiye), heard from the UNOCT's David Alamos.

With opening remarks by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada), President Pia Kauma (Finland), Head of Romania's PA Delegation Dan Barna and SG Roberto Montella, the Gender Lunch tackled challenges faced by parliaments and governments of OSCE participating States when trying to integrate gender perspectives into their work.



President Pia Kauma addresses the migration committee meeting, Bucharest, 30 June 2024

Participants heard presentations by Liliana Palihovici, OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office Special Representative on Gender, and Monica Ferro, Director of the United Nations Population Fund Representation Office in London.

Several other side events covered thematic and regional issues such as the effects of climate change in Central Asia, antisemitism, human trafficking, disinformation, economic connectivity, youth participation in the OSCE PA, inter-parliamentary co-operation in South East Europe, and supporting the displaced people of Ukraine. The OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians also met, focusing on fostering co-operation in energy, environment, and digitalization.