

## PA President Kauma visits Vienna and addresses OSCE Permanent Council



President Pia Kauma at the OSCE Permanent Council, 5 Sept. 2024

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) addressed the Permanent Council and met bilaterally with several Heads of Missions of OSCE participating States in Vienna last week. In her remarks on 5 September, she expressed support for the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship in addressing various issues on the OSCE agenda, in particular in finding an appropriate solution for the appointments of the new Heads of the OSCE institutions.

In order to meet expectations, the OSCE must be provided the necessary financial, human, and political resources, Kauma said. She assured the ambassadors of the Assembly's support in advancing comprehensive security across all dimensions by advocating for the OSCE's needs in the member parliaments. In this regard, she underlined the need to reach consensus on a budget that enables the OSCE to carry out its mandate, as well as on the incoming, post-2025 Chairpersonships, to allow for the proper functioning of the OSCE Troika.

Kauma informed the Permanent Council on the work of the PA, in particular on the Annual Session held in Bucharest in July, and the incoming Autumn Meeting in Dublin in October. Several delegations took the floor to respond to President Kauma's statement, appreciating the Parliamentary Assembly's support and contribution to comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

## OSCE PA Young Parliamentarians explore energy security in Stavanger, Norway

Members of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians were in Stavanger, Norway, last week to learn about issues such as energy security and innovation, the green transition, youth participation, and the protection of critical infrastructure. Consisting of 18 parliamentarians from 13 countries, the delegation was hosted by the Norwegian Parliament and engaged with key stakeholders from the region.

Meetings were held with representatives from Stavanger Municipality, Stavanger Chamber of Commerce, and major Norwegian energy and climate investment companies—Lyse Energy, Equinor, and Nysnø Climate Investments. The delegation also visited significant energy infrastructure sites, including the Flørlø power station, the Martin Linge platform control room at the



Young Parliamentarians at the Equinor headquarters, 6 Sept. 2024

Equinor headquarters, and the Norwegian Offshore Directorate, as well as the NATO Joint Warfare Centre.

Reflecting on the visit, Special Representative on Youth Engagement and Chair of the Network David Stogmuller emphasized its importance for helping to shape policies that prioritize energy security and environmental sustainability.

## President Kauma emphasizes OSCE-EU complementarity at Budapest conference

Addressing an EU-focused interparliamentary conference organized by the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) stressed the crucial role of parliamentarians in building trust in a time of unprecedented international challenges. During the session on geopolitical and strategic shifts, President Kauma highlighted, in particular, the importance of co-operation between the European Union and the OSCE, emphasizing their distinct and complementary tools.

"The OSCE possesses numerous instruments which are available to all participating States to contribute to stabilization and the strengthening of democratic governance and human rights," she said. "The EU possesses a range of soft power tools and financial incentives that can be more directly impactful."

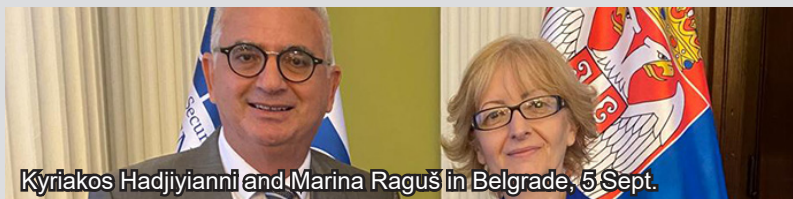
As she stressed at the PC in Vienna last week, President Kauma noted that the war in Ukraine has profound implications for the region's security, underscoring the need for utilizing the OSCE's and EU's full toolboxes to ensure a robust response to aggression and defence of national sovereignty. Turning to the broader geopolitical context, she remarked that the Middle East crisis has significant implications for European security and requires greater political will to resolve.

On the sidelines of the conference, President Kauma held a bilateral meeting with the Members of the Hungarian Delegation to discuss Hungary's priorities during its EU presidency and how these align with the OSCE's objectives. The discussions also shed light on migration politics and the impact of the war in Ukraine on Hungary and its role in addressing these challenges.

## Special Representative Hadjiyianni visits Belgrade for talks on regional co-operation

Vice-President and Special Representative on South East Europe Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) was in Belgrade 4-6 September to gain first-hand insights from various institutions regarding the situation in Serbia and the region.

Special Representative Hadjiyianni held meetings with Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Marina Raguš, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Jan Braathu, and members of the Serbian Delegation to the OSCE PA. He also met with ministers, academics and representatives from leading civil society organizations. Hadjiyianni underscored the role of the OSCE PA and highlighted his



Kyriakos Hadjiyianni and Marina Raguš in Belgrade, 5 Sept.

work as the Special Representative on South East Europe since his appointment last year. He noted that co-operation among parliamentarians adds value in ensuring stability and fostering a better future for the region.