

President Kauma and SG Montella visit Israel and West Bank



OSCE PA President Pia Kauma and Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana, 15 Sept. 2024

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Secretary General Roberto Montella on Tuesday completed a visit to Israel and the occupied West Bank. The visit included travel to Nir Oz Kibbutz and meetings with families of those killed and taken hostage during the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks, as well as Majdal Shams on the border with Lebanon, where the President paid respects to the families of 12 children killed in a July rocket attack. In Jerusalem, President Kauma met with parliamenta-

ry and governmental officials including Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana, as well as officials from the National Security Council, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Israel's International Development Cooperation Agency.

Earlier in the week, Kauma travelled to Ramallah where she visited a refugee camp and held meetings with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs Varseen Aghabekian, as well as the Palestinian Human Rights Commissioner, UNRWA officials and civil society. Together with the Head of Israel's Delegation, Ram Ben Barak, the delegation visited the Kerem Shalom checkpoint, which serves as a hub for goods crossing into Gaza. While affirming Israel's right to self-defence and noting the efforts to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Kauma conveyed the concerns expressed by OSCE parliamentarians about the human suffering in Gaza, as discussed during the PA's Annual Session in July.

Special Representative Novak speaks about AI at OSCE EEF in Prague

OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Tine Novak (Slovenia) spoke on 12 September at the 31st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) in Prague, calling for greater international efforts to manage the risks posed by AI technologies. Novak emphasized that while AI has transformative potential across sectors – from autonomous vehicles to healthcare – it also carries serious risks.

Considering AI's cross-border nature, the Special Representative stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder co-operation among OSCE participating States and highlighted efforts of the international community in this regard, including steps taken by the OSCE PA to address the security implications of AI.



Tine Novak addresses the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague, 12 Sept. 2024

The resolutions adopted during the PA's 2024 Annual Session in Bucharest, Novak pointed out, contain recommendations on various sensitive aspects of AI application, including healthcare, education, green transition and terrorism.

Third Committee Rapporteur discusses priorities with staff in Copenhagen

Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), elected Rapporteur of the Third Committee at the Annual Session in Bucharest, visited the International Secretariat on Monday to discuss upcoming work. Accompanied by Secretary of the Swedish Delegation Fredrik Svensson, Rapporteur Ödebrink met with Senior Advisor Freyja Koci, outlining her priorities for the year, particularly in response to recent human rights developments in the OSCE region, and how these will shape the committee's activities moving forward.

She stressed in particular the importance of strengthening collaboration with civil society organizations and other key stake-



Freyja Koci, Carina Ödebrink and Fredrik Svensson in Copenhagen, 16 Sept. 2024

holders, and highlighted that working more closely with these groups is essential for effectively addressing the committee's objectives.

PA's offices host Partner State diplomats, German politicians, experts from British Parliament

On Monday, the OSCE PA's Vienna Office hosted five diplomats from OSCE Partners for Co-operation, briefing them on the role of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, and on Tuesday briefed members and staff from the Bundestag and Hamburg parliament on the PA's activities, including its election observation missions and statutory meetings.

Last week, in Copenhagen, the International Secretariat

hosted several staff members seconded from the British House of Commons. Following a thorough briefing by Secretariat staff, who explained the activities and functions of the PA, including its ad hoc committees' work on terrorism, Ukraine and migration, the British visitors spent several days at the Secretariat supporting various activities. The project will continue for rest of the month, with the British experts engaged remotely.

Special Representative Cohen welcomes recently released political prisoner



Steve Cohen addresses Vladimir Kara-Murza in Washington, 17 Sept.

At a Senate Foreign Relations event in Washington on Tuesday, OSCE PA Special Representative on Political Prisoners Steve Cohen (United States) met with Vladimir Kara-Murza, a journalist recently released from a Russian prison. Cohen pointed out that as Special Representative, he persistently advocated for his freedom, and is thankful he is now home with his family.