

## OSCE PA delegation visits Morocco to learn about its approach to migration



Delegation at Fondation Orient Occident, 19 September 2024

Nine members of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by its Chair and OSCE PA Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany), were in Morocco last week to learn about the country's approach to international mobility. The delegation commended the country for its efforts to enact asylum and migration reform but stressed the need to see the reforms through by adopting a comprehensive legislative framework.

The visit, hosted by the House of Representatives of the Moroccan parliament, marked the first time that the committee traveled to an OSCE Partner for Co-operation to gain first-hand insight into its approach to managing migration flows, refugee protection and the integration of migrants and refugees. Meeting with a wide range of stakeholders, the delegation learned about Morocco's challenges as a country of emigration, transit and des-

tinuation, as well as its strategic position at the heart of migration flows between Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Vice-President De Ridder noted that Morocco is leading the way in the region in embarking upon significant reform and emphasized the need to ensure a more effective asylum system and more widespread access to health care, employment and education. The delegation also highlighted the need to enhance protection for vulnerable migrants – notably unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence, and LGBTQI+ refugees.

In Rabat on 19 September the delegation met with key stakeholders including parliamentary and governmental leaders, and visited the non-profit Fondation Orient-Occident. On 20 September, the delegation visited Tangier MED port authority, a hub for global trade and investment. An online briefing with international organizations was held prior to the visit.

In addition to Chair De Ridder, the delegation consisted of Committee Vice-Chairs Kemal Çelik (Türkiye) and Farah Karimi (The Netherlands), as well as members Alessandro Alfieri (Italy), Canan Bayram (Germany), Valérie Boyer (France), Johan Büser (Sweden), Lucie Potůčková (Czechia), and Artemi Vicent Rallo Lombarte (Spain). The mission to Morocco followed up on the committee's visits earlier this year to Türkiye and Italy focusing on addressing irregular migration in the Mediterranean and enhancing the protection of migrants and refugees.

## OSCE PA's 22nd Autumn Meeting begins next week in Dublin



The OSCE PA's 22nd Autumn Meeting will take place from 2 to 4 October in Dublin, Ireland. Hosted by Houses of the Oireachtas, the Autumn Meeting will include a Parliamentary Conference, held under the theme "Fifty Years After Helsinki: The Role of Parliaments in Reinforcing the OSCE's Comprehensive Model of Peace and Security," a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum, and a meeting of the Standing Committee. The meeting will be held in the Convention Centre Dublin and will stream live on the PA's YouTube and Facebook pages.

The inaugural session of the Parliamentary Conference will open with speeches by Seán Ó Fearghail TD, Speaker of the Lower House (Dáil Éireann); Pia Kauma (Finland), President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; and Michael Creed TD, Head of the Irish Delegation to the OSCE PA. Learn more at the Assembly's website: [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)

## Montenegro hosts Inter-Parliamentary Forum of SEE Delegations to the OSCE PA

More than 20 parliamentarians gathered in Podgorica and Budva on 19-20 September for the Second Inter-Parliamentary Forum, organized by OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus). Hosted by the Montenegrin Delegation to the OSCE PA, with support from the Parliament of Montenegro, the forum provided an opportunity for parliamentarians from South East Europe and beyond to engage in meaningful exchanges and strengthen collaboration on "Regional Co-operation for a Thriving Tourism Sector."

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro Nikolla Camaj, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), Special Representative Hadjiyianni and Head of the Delegation of Montenegro to the OSCE PA Jelena Nedović delivered opening remarks, noting that the event was an opportunity to jointly identify challenges and opportunities that could lead to new ideas and policies. Hadjiyianni said that the goal of the forum was to build stronger ties among parliamentarians to foster regional co-operation and peacebuilding. Speakers emphasized that political and economic stability are essential for the region's prosperity.



Participants of the Second Inter-Parliamentary Forum, 19 Sept. 2024

During three sessions focused on tourism, participants discussed its role as a driver of economic growth, as well as the importance of sustainability, resilience and innovation in the tourism sector. The agenda also included discussions on the OSCE Mission in Montenegro's work with the Parliament of Montenegro on enhancing the skills of parliamentary staff and promoting a gender-sensitive parliament, EU integration efforts, and co-operation among delegations to the OSCE PA.

The forum ended with participants agreeing on a joint declaration affirming their commitment to friendly relations.

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