

Autumn Meeting opens in Dublin with speeches by PA President and host officials



The opening of the PA's Autumn Meeting in Dublin, 2 October 2024

The OSCE PA's 22nd Autumn Meeting opened today in Dublin with calls for reinforcing multilateralism and taking a bolder approach to international diplomacy and co-operative security. Some 200 parliamentarians from nearly 60 countries are taking part in the Autumn Meeting. Speaking at the opening session were Seán Ó Fearghaíl TD, Speaker of the Lower House (Dáil Éireann); Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; and Michael Creed TD, Head of the Irish Delegation to the OSCE PA. Speakers emphasized the power of dialogue and compromise to overcome longstanding and deep-seated divisions, noting that 2023 marked the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement that brought an end to the 30-year conflict known as the Troubles, and that next year marks the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Ó Fearghaíl recalled the sacrifices and leadership shown by Irish politicians to achieve a successful outcome with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, underlining that Ireland's experiences are a reminder that peace and security can never be taken for granted. In her remarks, President Kauma noted that Ireland's journey towards peace is a testament to the power of reconciliation, demonstrating that even the most entrenched conflicts can be overcome through genuine dialogue and compromise.

Creed noted that parliaments, as the direct representatives of

citizens, have an active role to play in raising awareness about the mandate of the OSCE. "As we navigate complex challenges and crises that seriously threaten global peace, security, and understanding, this is now more important than ever," he said.

The Autumn Meeting's Parliamentary Conference, being held under the theme "Fifty Years After Helsinki: The Role of Parliaments in Reinforcing the OSCE's Comprehensive Model of Peace and Security," takes place today and tomorrow.

The first session of the Parliamentary Conference focuses on the OSCE's approach to the conflict cycle, in particular dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, mediation support, conciliation and post-conflict rehabilitation. Session two will explore the role of parliamentarians in addressing the climate crisis, including the fulfillment of global commitments ahead of COP29. In the third session, parliamentarians will discuss enhancing migration governance in the OSCE region to foster sustainable development.

On Friday, parliamentarians will debate the situation in the Middle East during the Mediterranean Forum, to be chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France). On the sidelines of the Autumn Meeting, the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU), the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism and Ad Hoc Committee on Migration are meeting for talks on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, as well as the ongoing work of the PA on counter-terrorism and migration matters.

This morning, the OSCE PA's Standing Committee met to hear reports of President Kauma, Treasurer Johan Büser, and Secretary General Roberto Montella, and to review recent OSCE PA activities. OSCE PA Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Miodrag Pančeski, briefed the Standing Committee on the reappointment process of OSCE Heads of Institutions. Discussion touched on the work of Special Representatives and ad hoc committees, PA tools for conflict mediation, and OSCE PA finances. Members also agreed to amend the Rules of Procedure to change the President's term to a two-year non-renewable mandate.

Bureau members meet on eve of Autumn Meeting for talks on OSCE PA priorities



Pia Kauma chairs the Bureau meeting in Dublin, 1 October 2024

Building upon discussions held earlier this year, an informal Bureau meeting took place in Dublin on Tuesday to discuss topics related to the future of the OSCE PA. Bureau members met on the eve of the 22nd Autumn Meeting to discuss proposals

such as the development of common OSCE PA political positions, public messaging by the Assembly, and the effective use of OSCE PA instruments.

Members supported more frequent meetings of the OSCE PA Bureau, to help ensure leadership and guidance to the Assembly's overall agenda. The Bureau also discussed recent visits to Israel and the West Bank by PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), welcoming the initiative but also stressing the need to focus on areas in which it is possible to add the most value to the overall efforts of the international community.

Russia's war against Ukraine was highlighted as an issue that must remain high on the PA's agenda, as should defending human rights and international law.

PA's Bonabello briefs OSCE executive structures on Assembly work

OSCE PA Senior Advisor Marco Bonabello spoke at an event on 26 September at OSCE headquarters, briefing the executive structures about the OSCE's parliamentary dimension. Underlining areas of complementarity, he highlighted in particular successful collaboration in areas such as election monitoring, counterterrorism, anticorruption, human trafficking, and gender issues. The briefing will be followed up by a visit of the 17 new OSCE JPOs to the PA's Vienna Office.



Marco Bonabello exchanges with OSCE colleagues at a Coffee Briefing hosted by the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, 26 September 2024

For further information contact Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry at +45 33 37 80 40 or email nat@oscepa.dk | www.oscepa.org