

## PA's Autumn Meeting covers situation in Middle East, conflicts, climate, migration



Pia Kauma chairs the closing session of the Parliamentary Conference on 3 October 2024 (Photo Credit: Houses of the Oireachtas)

At last week's Autumn Meeting in Dublin, hosted by the Houses of the Oireachtas, some 200 OSCE parliamentarians met for 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."

In three working sessions, OSCE parliamentarians heard addresses by ministers of various Irish agencies and representatives of international organizations. In the first session, parliamentarians discussed the OSCE's conflict cycle, particularly the role of dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, mediation support, conciliation, and post-conflict rehabilitation. President Pia Kauma (Finland) opened the session by remarking that it was taking place within the context of Russia's war against Ukraine and ongoing challenges in the South Caucasus, as well as a challenging situation in Moldova. She noted that resolving conflicts requires sustained international engagement.

Chaired by Pere Joan Pons (Spain), OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Climate Change, the second session focused on addressing the climate crisis and the role of MPs in fulfilling global commitments ahead of COP29. Panelists underlined the impact of climate change on global security and

spoke about the role of parliamentarians in holding governments to account in implementing international commitments on climate change. The third session, chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Daniela De Ridder (Germany), focused on enhancing migration governance in the OSCE region to foster sustainable development. The closing session included speeches by President Kauma (Finland), Irish Senate Chair Jerry Buttimer, and Head of Ireland's OSCE PA Delegation Michael Creed. Secretary General Roberto Montella also spoke, expressing thanks to the Irish hosts and to OSCE parliamentarians for a fruitful conference.

The Autumn Meeting concluded with a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum focused on the situation in the Middle East. Chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), the open debate included the participation of more than 40 parliamentarians from some 20 countries. Allizard opened the debate by highlighting the urgency of ending the conflict through collective diplomatic mobilization. Tijana Davidovac (Serbia), representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, also offered opening remarks, stressing the role of parliamentarians in supporting a resolution of the crisis.

## Videos and photos of Autumn Meeting available online

Photos of the 22nd Autumn Meeting in Dublin are available on the OSCE PA's Flickr page here: <https://flickr.com/photos/oscepa/albums/72177720320766890/>

Additional photos can be found at the Flickr page of the Houses of the Oireachtas: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/oireachtas/albums>

Video of the Autumn Meeting is available on the OSCE PA's Facebook and YouTube channels: <https://www.facebook.com/oscepa> and <https://www.youtube.com/@oscepa/>

## Dublin side meetings focus on terrorism, Ukraine, migration, criminal justice

On the margins of the Autumn Meeting last week in Dublin, the ad hoc committees on counter-terrorism, migration, and Ukraine, as well as the Network of Young Parliamentarians and the Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure, met to discuss ongoing work and a range of relevant issues.

Chaired by Kamil Aydin (Türkiye), the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) met on 3 October to learn more about the fight against terrorism in Ireland, hearing a presentation by Assistant Commissioner at Ireland's National Police and Security Service Michael McElgunn, and discussed upcoming CCT Activities. The meeting of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) was chaired by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Vice-President Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine). The PSTU engaged in a strategic discussion to hear about Ukraine's most pressing challenges and define the way forward in the coming months.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany), met on 2 October to discuss migration trends and upcoming activities. In a presentation by Amr Taha, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Advisor at the



OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians in Dublin, 1 October 2024

International Organization for Migration (IOM), committee members heard about partnerships with countries of origin to promote sustainable returns and reintegration of migrants.

The meeting of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians on 1 October consisted of a day-long programme, starting with a briefing by Senator Lynn Ruane, Director General of the Irish Prison Service Caron McCaffrey, and Governor of Mountjoy Prison Ray Murtagh, followed by a visit to Mountjoy Prison. The programme concluded with a debate in Trinity College Dublin. Some 15 parliamentarians and several staff members participated in the event.

The Subcommittee on Rules of Procedure, chaired by Pascal Allizard (France), met on 3 October to discuss proposals to streamline the PA's working procedures.

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