

President Kauma visits Türkiye ahead of Istanbul Autumn Meeting 2025



President Pia Kauma arriving at the Turkish Grand National Assembly in Ankara on 4 February 2025



OSCE PA delegation, led by President Pia Kauma, with Numan Kurtulmuş and Selami Altınok in Ankara, 4 February 2025

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) has been in Ankara this week, holding meetings with Speaker of the Grand National Assembly Numan Kurtulmuş and Fuat Oktay, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee. Accompanied by OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and advisors Tim Knoblauch and Emmi Kupiainen, she has also met with the Turkish Delegation to the PA, headed by Selami Altınok.

Discussions have focused on Türkiye's role in the OSCE PA, with President Kauma expressing appreciation for its strong engagement, including through the leadership of Turkish MP Kamil Aydın as Chair of the Committee on Countering Terrorism. In this light, Kauma also expressed gratitude for Türkiye agreeing to host the Autumn Meeting in Istanbul later this year. The Mediterranean Forum was mentioned as a valuable com-

ponent of the Autumn Meeting, and it was agreed that it would be included on the agenda in Istanbul.

Talks also touched on geopolitical issues, including Türkiye's role in Ukraine, the South Caucasus, and the Middle East. Kauma expressed appreciation for Türkiye's efforts in hosting 3 million Syrians, and inquired about ongoing refugee returns and reconstruction efforts in Syria, following the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime. The visit also included a tour of the bombed areas during the 15 July 2016 failed coup attempt, with President Kauma reiterating the PA's solidarity with Türkiye following those events. She also acknowledged Türkiye's co-operation on election observation and stressed the importance of ensuring full observer accreditation, as well as the importance of committing to uphold all OSCE election-related commitments.

Autumn Meeting report posted online

The International Secretariat has published its final report on the 2024 Autumn Meeting, held on 2-4 October 2024 in Dublin. Some 200 parliamentarians participated in the Autumn Meeting, which included a Parliamentary Conference, Standing Committee meeting, and Mediterranean Forum. To view the report, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3lqaHs3>

President Kauma addresses Permanent Council, meets with counterparts in Vienna

President Pia Kauma (Finland) spoke on 30 January at the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, sharing with the ambassadors a parliamentary perspective on the work of the Organization and highlighting areas of common interest with the Finnish Chairpersonship. With the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act later this year, President Kauma underscored the need to advance the OSCE's enduring principles. This, she said, is particularly important in the face of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine.

She pointed out that at last year's Annual Session in Bucharest, the PA voiced concern over the erosion of trust in multi-lateral institutions, which she said has weakened the OSCE's ability to address regional security challenges. Kauma noted that this is seen even in regions like the Arctic, which was once considered a model of dialogue and co-operation, but is now marked by increased geostrategic competition.

"Reversing this trend and reaffirming the core values of the Helsinki Final Act must therefore be a collective priority for every participating State – both in the East and the West," Kauma said. "These principles must be upheld across the entire OSCE region, without exception. Paying lip service is no longer enough—we must actively defend the principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, and the broader foundation of our security architecture."

She also pointed out that while there are renewed hopes for a settlement of the war in Ukraine, it is important to ensure that any such resolution must involve Ukraine at its core. The OSCE must also maintain its relevance by contributing to the process in order to support a just and sustainable peace.



Pia Kauma addresses the Permanent Council, 30 Jan. (Photo: Micky Kröll)

Noting the rare opportunity presented by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE PA President hailing from the same country, President Kauma pointed to areas in which Finland's and the Assembly's priorities intersect and committed to actively supporting these objectives. She pledged to make the most of this special relationship to deliver meaningful results for the people of the OSCE area.

President Kauma highlighted the recent OSCE PA Bureau meeting in Helsinki, where Chairperson-in-Office Elina Valtonen spoke and reiterated a willingness to engage in fostering synergy across the Organization to ensure a cohesive approach to addressing common challenges.

While in Vienna, President Kauma met with OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu, Chairperson of the Permanent Council Vasa Häkkinen, and Turkish Ambassador Zeynep Kiziltan. Accompanied by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, President Kauma shared news about the PA's activities, including this month's Winter Meeting in Vienna, and upcoming visits to Türkiye, Ukraine, and the Middle East. Discussion also focused on developing areas of co-operation between the PA and the OSCE's executive structures.

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