

24th Winter Meeting features debates on security, environment and human rights



OSCE PA Standing Committee meets in Vienna, 21 Feb. 2025

Nearly 230 parliamentarians from across the OSCE area gathered in Vienna last week for the OSCE PA's 24th Winter Meeting. The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, nuclear security, climate change, new technologies' impacts on elections, and artificial intelligence topped the agenda, with debates held in meetings of each of the OSCE PA's general committees and two joint sessions of the general committees. The Standing Committee also met to discuss the Assembly's ongoing work, hearing reports from President Pia Kauma (Finland), Treasurer Johan Büser, and PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

President Kauma, President of the Austrian National Council Walter Rosenkranz, OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu and Finnish Permanent Representative to the OSCE Vesa Häkkinen opened the Winter Meeting with calls for action as the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act approaches.

Chaired by Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania), the First

Committee heard from Rapporteur Tobias Winkler (Germany), who shared his ideas and intentions regarding the report being prepared for the 32nd Annual Session in Porto, as well as representatives from the OSCE executive structures. Chairing the Second Committee, Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) opened with remarks about the many challenges the OSCE area faces in the economic and environmental dimension. Rapporteur Paula Cardoso (Portugal) presented her ideas for the Annual Session report and draft resolution, and representatives of the OSCE's executive structures briefed the committee on their programmatic activities. The Third Committee heard remarks from Chair Lucie Potůčková (Czechia), Rapporteur Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), and representatives of OSCE institutions.

Several thematic events also took place at the Winter Meeting, focusing attention on returning Ukrainians from Russian captivity, political prisoners, media freedom, and demographic change, as well as region-specific issues. On 21 February, a joint session of the general committees featured an address by special guest Vladimir Kara-Murza and a general debate in which some 70 parliamentarians took part.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Daniela De Ridder (Germany), met on 20 February and focused on the impact of the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime on Syrian refugees in the OSCE region. On 21 February, the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, chaired by Kamil Aydın (Türkiye), met to discuss its priorities, including ideas for upcoming CCT activities.

Reports, photos and videos from the Winter Meeting available online

The PA President, SG, Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives issued reports at the Vienna Winter Meeting, which are available at the Winter Meeting web page. Other online resources include photos, videos, and selected speeches.

Click here for more information: <https://bit.ly/3H9Zv0F>

PA's Loperfido visits Kyiv, notes resilience of the Ukrainian people during war



Emanuele Loperfido and Italian delegation with Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Emanuele Loperfido, member of Italy's OSCE PA Delegation, recently visited Ukraine as part of the United4Ukraine delegation from the Italian Parliament. In a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Loperfido reaffirmed Italy's unwavering support for Ukraine alongside its European partners. In a meeting with the delegation, Loperfido stressed the need to accelerate peace negotiations and highlighted the OSCE's potential role as a platform for dialogue, given that Ukraine, Russia, and the United States are all participating States.

SG Montella thanks readers on the occasion of NfC's 1000th issue

Today's *News from Copenhagen* marks the 1000th edition of this newsletter, and on behalf of the International Secretariat, I would like to thank all of our readers for making this publication such a success. My predecessor, Secretary General Spencer Oliver, launched this newsletter 25 years ago as a way to make sure that all OSCE PA delegations and other interested parties were fully informed about the activities of the Assembly.

For a quarter-century it has served as an indispensable tool connecting the Secretariat to parliaments, OSCE missions and executive structures, OSCE Permanent Representatives in Vienna, and members of the media. Now available in both English and Russian, the newsletter continues to serve as a highly valued platform. To review the evolution of this publication, please visit our website: <https://bit.ly/4kcT1RF>



- OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella

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