News from Copenhagen

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

OSCE PA

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President Kauma signs MoU with Portuguese Parliament for 32nd Annual Session

Pia Kauma and José Pedro Aguiar-Branco sign the MoU on 13 March.

Pia Kauma and José Pedro Aguiar-Branco in Lisbon, 13 March 2025

Pia Kauma meets with members of the Portuguese Delegation in Lisbon, 13 March.

On 13 March, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, visited Lisbon for a preparatory visit ahead of the 32nd Annual Session, taking place from 29 June to 3 July 2025 in Porto and hosted by the Portuguese Parliament.

President Kauma signed a Memorandum of Understanding for hosting the Annual Session with José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament. Kauma thanked the Parliament of Portugal for their generosity and hospitality, and commended them for their commitment to advancing dialogue and co-operation within the OSCE framework in the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

The President also held meetings with the Delegation of Portugal to the OSCE PA, headed by Paula Cardoso. The sides discussed the general programme for the Annual Session, with a focus on the theme chosen for the Annual Session: "Commemorating 50 Years of the Helsinki Final Act: Responding to a New Reality in the OSCE."

Young Parliamentarians meet in Slovenia for discussions on 'brain drain'

OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians in Ljubljana, 14 March

The OSCE PA's Network of Young Parliamentarians visited Slovenia on 14-15 March for discussions on challenges and opportunities related to youth migration, including 'brain drain.' Hosted by the Slovenian Parliament, the visit focused on fostering dialogue on youth mobility and developing policies to retain and attract young talent across the OSCE region.

The programme featured discussions with parliamentary, governmental and civil society representatives from Slovenia, as well as contributions from the OSCE/OCEEA and the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security, Vice-President Gudrun Kugler (Austria). Special Representative on Youth Engagement Lucija Tacer (Slovenia) highlighted the importance of strengthening policies that engage young people in decision-making for sustainable development and societal resilience.

As a key outcome of the visit, the young parliamentarians adopted the Ljubljana Resolution on Facilitating Brain Circulation and Preventing Brain Drain in the OSCE Area.

Special Representative Pritchard discusses Arctic and High North issues in Washington

The PA's Special Representative on the Arctic and High North, Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), was in Washington last week for meetings with White House and State Department officials, members of Congress, and leading think tanks. Discussions focused on Arctic security, emerging geopolitical threats, climate change, and regional co-operation. He underscored the need to balance environmental protection with energy and economic security, as well as ensuring that indigenous communities are at the centre of regional policies.

Throughout the engagements, the Special Representative reinforced the importance of an approach that prioritizes diplomatic engagement over geopolitical tensions. It was stressed that while the Arctic presents economic opportunities, it also demands responsible governance and international collaboration to ensure long-term stability and sustainability. Additionally, Pritchard made the case for the new US Administration to work alongside other Arctic Council and OSCE PA members to ensure stability and mutual security.

Ukrainian OSCE PA Members participate in Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

The Head of the Ukrainian Delegation and OSCE PA Vice-President OSCE PA Mykyta Poturaiev, along with delegation member Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, participated this week in the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna. Poturaiev spoke about challenges in the media landscape, including disinformation and authoritarian regimes' attacks on media organizations.

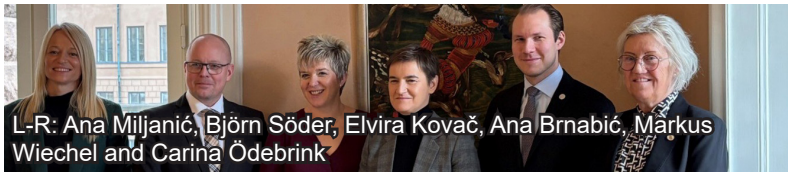
Mykyta Poturaiev addresses the SHDM on 18 March 2025.

Yurchyshyn was a keynote speaker at a side event on the role of media self-regulation during wartime, where he shared insights into the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Speech in Ukraine.

Swedish OSCE PA delegation meets with Speaker of Serbian Parliament in Stockholm

Speaker of the Serbian Parliament Ana Brnabić visited Sweden last week and met with Head of the Swedish Delegation Björn Söder, Treasurer Johan Büser, and Third Committee Rapporteur Carina Ödebrink.

Participants discussed recent developments in Serbia, including the ongoing protests that have followed the Novi Sad tragedy last year. Democratic principles, rule of law and respect for human rights were discussed within the framework of Serbia's EU accession plans. Regarding electoral reforms, the important role of inclusive parliamentary working groups was noted for the implementation of recommendations put forward by ODIHR.


L-R: Ana Miljanić, Björn Söder, Elvira Kovač, Ana Brnabić, Markus Wiechel and Carina Ödebrink

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