News from Copenhagen

Updates from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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Visits to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan focus on regional security and co-operation

Pia Kauma meets with President Rahmon in Dushanbe, 29 April.

Farah Karimi at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, 26 April.

An OSCE PA field visit to Tajikistan is underway this week, with a delegation of 15 MPs from 14 different countries led by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and including OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia Farah Karimi (Netherlands), as well as Vice-Presidents Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus). While in Dushanbe, President Kauma met with the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, for discussions on Tajikistan's strategic co-operation priorities with the OSCE and the regional security agenda.

On Monday, the delegation met with the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe and visited the OSCE Border Management Staff College. Members learned about the work of the OSCE POiD across all three dimensions and the OSCE's role in building resilient institutions in Tajikistan, as well as the BMSC's role in building expertise and best practices in border management.

On Tuesday, the delegation visited the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre of the Ministry of Defence of Tajikistan, supported by the OSCE. The delegation also met with the First Deputy Speaker, Shermuhammad Shohiyon, and members of parliament. President Kauma, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, and POiD Officer-in-Charge Tatiana Turcan also met with Major-General Rajabzoda Murodali Rajab, Commander of the Border Troops, for discussions that focused on regional security challenges and border threats.

Today the delegation visited the Tajik-Afghan border at Nizhniy Pyanj.

The Tajikistan visit follows Special Representative Karimi's visit last week to Kyrgyzstan. During her two-day programme in Bishkek, Karimi focused on building regional co-operation and enhancing climate resilience.

She met with Speaker of Parliament Nurlanbek Turgunbek uulu, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Asein Isaev; Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Meder Mashiev; Ombudsperson Dzhamilia Dzhamanbaeva; Ambassador Alexey Rogov and the team at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek; Dr. Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, along with faculty, staff, and students; and Eduard Kubatov, President of the Federation of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In her meetings, she stressed the need for enhanced regional co-operation on climate change, water management, and human rights, and reaffirmed the OSCE PA's commitment to supporting resilience, inclusivity, and sustainable development across Central Asia. Accompanied by Ainur Argynbekova, Deputy Head of the Delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE PA, Special Representative Karimi also highlighted the historic March 2025 border agreements between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as a beacon of peaceful conflict resolution and regional dialogue.

Deadline reminder

Delegations are kindly reminded that members should register for the upcoming Interparliamentary Conference on Combating Organized and Serious Crime in the OSCE Region, which will be co-hosted by the Italian Parliament and the OSCE PA in Rome, on 5-6 June 2025, no later than 5 May. To register, please click here: https://bit.ly/4jXz8gA

Questions may be directed to Valeria Galardini, Secretary of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, at galardini_v@camera.it.

Secretariat hosts ODIHR Director Telalian and staff for talks on election observation

Maria Telalian (centre), Roberto Montella and staff at OSCE PA headquarters in Copenhagen, 25 April

On 25 April, Secretary General Roberto Montella and the International Secretariat's election team welcomed ODIHR Director Maria Telalian and her staff to discuss the OSCE's election observation work. During in-depth discussions, the partners exchanged views on experiences and lessons learned from recent election observation missions, including both practical and substantive issues. Further, Telalian and Montella discussed avenues for enhancing the future co-operation between the PA and ODIHR.

OSCE PA Conference Team visits Istanbul ahead of 23rd Autumn Meeting

Several members of the International Secretariat were on an assessment visit to Istanbul last week in preparation for the 23rd Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA, which will take place from 17 to 19 November 2025.

Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, Head of Conference Services Odile Lelarge and Head of Operations Dimitrije Todoric met in Istanbul with representatives from the Turkish Parliament, as well as staff from various hotels, to assess the logistical and technical aspects of the meeting, including the general programme.

Hosted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the 23rd Autumn Meeting will include a Parliamentary Conference, a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum, and a meeting of the Standing Committee.