

President Pons leads delegation to Regional Ecological Summit in Astana



Pere Joan Pons (centre) and the OSCE PA delegation in Astana, 22 April 2026

A high-level OSCE PA delegation is in Astana this week to attend the Regional Ecological Summit, a platform for developing joint and practical solutions to climate and ecological challenges. Led by President Pere Joan Pons Sampietro (Spain), the OSCE PA delegation consists of Second Committee Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), Special Representative on Central Asia Angelos Syrigos (Greece), Special Representative on Climate Change Ainur Argynbekova (Kazakhstan), and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Today, the PA delegation convened jointly with the Chairman of the Senate, Maulen Ashimbayev, a roundtable on climate change on the margins of the summit, bringing together parliamentarians and stakeholders to advance concrete responses at the intersection of climate, security, and sustainable development. Entitled “Parliamentary Diplomacy for Climate Action and

Sustainable Development: The Central Asian Perspective,” the roundtable underscored the Assembly’s commitment to constructive dialogue and co-ordinated action.

The three-day visit also includes an extensive bilateral programme, in particular high-level meetings with the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Chairman of the Senate Maulen Ashimbayev and the Chairman of the Mazhilis Yerlan Koshanov.

Today’s discussions focused on the need for close co-operation to address today’s interconnected challenges, with the PA delegation noting the importance of the Central Asian region within the Assembly, and the steadily deepening co-operation in recent years. This, the parliamentarians noted, has included high-level visits, active engagement in Assembly activities, constructive contributions to the PA’s debates and resolutions, and the work of Ainur Argynbekova as Special Representative on Climate Change.

On Monday, Special Representative Argynbekova published an op-ed on climate change, urging policymakers, experts, and international partners to use the Astana summit as a platform to move from discussion to action. The OSCE PA’s engagement in the Astana summit continues throughout the week.

Youth engagement in focus at New York ECOSOC forum and Oslo workshop



Federica Onori represents the OSCE PA at the ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York, 15 April 2026

The PA was represented last week at the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2026 in New York by Federica Onori (Italy), Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians and Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence. Held 14-16 April at United Nations Headquarters, the Youth Forum – under the theme “Innovate, Unite and Transform: Youth Shaping the Road to 2030” – served as a platform for dialogue between young people, governments and international organizations on accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 15 April, Onori contributed to a plenary session of the Forum focused on youth leadership, addressing the panel discussion “From Civic Action to Institutional Influence.” The discussion focused on moving beyond consultation towards genuine

power-sharing between institutions and young people.

On the margins of the Forum, the OSCE PA, in partnership with Search for Common Ground, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, UNFPA, UNDP and UNOY, co-hosted a roundtable entitled “Parliamentary Leadership in Advancing Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) National Action Plans.” The event brought together parliamentarians, youth representatives, international organizations and experts to explore how to translate global YPS commitments into national implementation through legislation, budgeting and oversight.

Addressing the event remotely, OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Lucija Tacer (Slovenia) noted that the outcomes of the roundtable will support the translation of the YPS agenda into legislative action.

Also last week, Norwegian OSCE PA Members Kai Steffen Østensen and Marius Arion Nilsen convened a Youth Perspectives workshop in Oslo, bringing together youth from various organizations to discuss housing challenges facing young people. The discussions focused in particular on affordability gaps, mobility constraints, supply shortages and local policy responses.

In Vienna, VP Zoffili urges co-ordinated action on human-drug trafficking nexus

At the launch of the OSCE’s new study “The Human Cost of Crime: The Harrowing Link Between Human and Drug Trafficking” in Vienna on Tuesday, PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili (Italy) emphasized the importance of international co-operation, zero tolerance for traffickers, and effective protection for victims.

Zoffili noted that the study clearly demonstrates the link between human and drug trafficking, highlighting the need for integrated strategies that address both crimes, with a focus on prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

Praising the work carried out by OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Kari Johnstone, Zoffili underlined that “human trafficking



Eugenio Zoffili addresses Vienna meeting, 21 April 2026

and drug trafficking are two sides of the same coin.”

He stressed that the international response to these crimes must be clear and resolute: prosecution, asset confiscation, and the dismantling of networks. The PA’s commitment to fighting this scourge, he said, will be reaffirmed in Rome on 14-15 May during the Inter-parliamentary Conference on the Fight against Drugs and Organized Crime in the OSCE Region.