

REPORT OF OSCE PA PRESIDENT PIA KAUMA  
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING



21 February  
2025

Dear colleagues,

The past months have seen strong engagement in upholding the principles of the OSCE. Through election observation, diplomatic initiatives, and sustained efforts to strengthen democracy and security, our work has demonstrated the **power of parliamentary diplomacy** in addressing today's challenges.

Since our Autumn Meeting, we have experienced a particularly active election period. I extend my gratitude to all Members for their participation. I had the privilege of serving as Special Co-ordinator for the general elections in the United States and as Head of Delegation for the parliamentary elections in Georgia, engaging with many of you on the need to **protect the OSCE's democratic commitments**. In this context, the OSCE PA will observe the upcoming parliamentary elections in Albania and in Moldova.

However, our responsibility extends beyond election observation. **We must ensure that parliaments act on the OSCE's recommendations**. Despite efforts to engage following the release of the ODIHR final report on the elections in Georgia, the political climate in Tbilisi made a planned visit impossible in early January. I have made it clear that dialogue does not equate to endorsing election results or political parties; rather, it is essential for addressing Georgia's democratic backsliding. While other international actors, particularly the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly, have remained engaged, I am concerned that **the OSCE's absence risks undermining its core mission**.

In Ashgabat, the conference on "Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Dialogue as a Tool for Building Bridges for a Secure and Peaceful Future" underscored the need to integrate the perspectives of future generations into policymaking, in line with our Vancouver Declaration. The themes discussed align closely with our election observation efforts. Strengthening democratic institutions requires not only monitoring elections but also **sustained engagement** with national parliaments to promote dialogue, institutional reform, and the implementation of OSCE recommendations.

Another crucial pillar of the OSCE's work is its Field Operations. Recognizing their importance, we have launched a new series of country visits to **deepen our understanding of OSCE missions and to advocate more effectively on their behalf**. Our first visit took us to Serbia last



October, where a delegation from 12 countries reaffirmed our collective commitment to the OSCE's mission and values. The professionalism of OSCE field staff, combined with the cooperation of local authorities, underscores the indispensable role of these operations. Building on this momentum, we are planning a visit to Tajikistan this spring to deepen our engagement in Central Asia.

As the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine continues to devastate the country, our response must remain unwavering. Since our last meeting, I have appointed three Special Rapporteurs to the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) to strengthen our support within the OSCE's comprehensive security framework. Prior to the Winter Meeting, I travelled to Kyiv with members of our Bureau and the PSTU to demonstrate our solidarity. Our meeting in the Verkhovna Rada sent a strong message of **our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, democracy, and resilience.**

At the Mediterranean Forum in Dublin, we examined how to best engage with our Partners for Co-operation and addressed the evolving situation in the Middle East. Developments in the region have since accelerated dramatically and our Assembly should continue working to **promote international co-operation and regional stability.** Earlier this month, I visited Ankara to highlight Türkiye's key role in the OSCE, which will be reflected during the 2025 Autumn Meeting. Next month, the Assembly's leadership will also travel to Israel and the West Bank to assess the situation on the ground and explore avenues for **constructive engagement.**

In a meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis, I explored how parliamentary diplomacy can bridge divides and promote peaceful solutions, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. The OSCE PA must remain committed to **fostering dialogue as the path to lasting peace and justice.**

The **urgent need for unity and leadership in guiding the Organization** through current and future challenges was at the heart of my addresses to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Valletta in December and to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna last month. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, it is more important than ever to **uphold and strengthen the OSCE's principles.** Indeed, the erosion of trust in multilateral institutions has weakened our ability to address security challenges, even in regions like the Arctic, and Greenland in particular, where co-operation was once the norm but is now overshadowed by

geostrategic competition. Similarly, in the Baltic region, growing concerns over hybrid threats, including the security of critical infrastructure such as underwater cables, highlight the need for enhanced regional co-operation and resilience. Reversing this trend must be a collective priority for all participating States.

A unique opportunity arises as both the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and I come from Finland. I am committed to leveraging this opportunity before my term ends at the next Annual Session. Our shared priorities will be advanced through **close coordination between the Finnish Chairpersonship and the OSCE PA**. This commitment was reinforced at our recent meeting in Helsinki, where the Bureau interacted with Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen. We explored ways to enhance the OSCE PA's role and deepen cooperation with OSCE institutions. This built on prior discussions held in Valletta ahead of the Ministerial Council, where we addressed **the future of the OSCE PA and the Assembly's strategic priorities**.

"Looking ahead, we must continue to **fully leverage parliamentary diplomacy** to address today's challenges and remain steadfast in upholding the values and principles that define the OSCE. I thank you all for your active engagement on behalf of these goals as we prepare for our next Annual Session in Porto.

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Pia Kauma

Vienna, 21 February 2025



## Annex:

### Activities since the last meeting of the Standing Committee

9-12 October 2024	Belgrade, Serbia	Visit to Serbia (OSCE Field Operations visit)
23 October 2024	Riga, Latvia	Third Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform
24-27 October 2024	Tbilisi, Georgia	EOM to Georgia
2-6 November 2024	Washington, DC, USA	EOM to the United States of America
26-28 November 2024	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Presidential visit OSCE PA Conference on Future Generations
4 December 2024	Valetta, Malta	Bureau
5 December 2024	Valetta, Malta	OSCE Ministerial Council
24 January 2025	Helsinki, Finland	Bureau
30 January 2025	Vienna, Austria	Address to the OSCE Permanent Council
4-5 February 2025	Ankara, Türkiye	Presidential visit
10 February 2025	Helsinki, Finland	OSCE anti-Semitism conference
11-14 February 2025	Kyiv, Ukraine	Visit to Ukraine