



## European Conference of Presidents of Parliament

### Remarks by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma

Dublin, Ireland | 28 September 2023

*Check against delivery*

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Two years ago in Athens, this Conference gathered in a *different* world with a *different* mindset.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we debated how **all** European parliaments could work together to pave a way out of the crisis for **all** European citizens.

We assumed that tackling global challenges justified welcoming back those who -- years earlier -- had destroyed key elements of the European security system.

Over time, we had *almost* consented that the violation of the most basic norms of international law could be ignored.

We have been brutally proven wrong.

Every day, on the battlefield in Ukraine, our misjudgement costs lives.

All our countries are taking strong steps to redress this mistake.

Chairman Stefanchuk,

As we meet today, we are firmly committed to supporting Ukraine as long as it takes.

Countries – big and small – are playing their part.

We are implementing sanctions and hosting war refugees.

We are supplying financial and security assistance.



And we are stepping up political support in the international arena to defend our common values.

But as we focus on the immediate future, let us also keep in mind the next steps: Reconstruction. –

Reparations. –

Justice.

Our determination is unwavering.

But these challenges are immense.

Tackling them will require close coordination between all our countries if we want to maximise efficiency and speed of delivery, while avoiding waste and duplication of efforts.

In this context, let me underline the crucial role of multilateral organizations.

All our parliaments must make full use of our existing instruments to share information, create political connections, and sustain support for Ukraine.

In the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, we have backed Ukraine resolutely ever since the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

At our last Annual Session this past July, we established a Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine to be more responsive to the needs of our colleagues in Kyiv and step up our efforts.

This new tool can help us engage with the Working Groups which have been established to support President Zelenskiy's ten-point Peace Formula.

Your parliamentarians will participate in this work and bring the result of our deliberations back to your chambers to inform your debates.

Your Excellencies.

I am confident that through this new instrument the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can play a more pertinent role in supporting Ukraine.



This is also thanks to our unique membership.

We are grateful for the very strong political support from our colleagues on the other side of the Atlantic, in Canada and in the United States.

Evidently, the OSCE PA's membership is unique for another reason.

Despite its clear isolation, the Russian Federation remains a participating State in the OSCE and a member of our Parliamentary Assembly.

This has been the subject of vigorous debates within our assembly.

It should not distract from the essential:

Our track record clearly proves that this is not an endorsement.

I therefore count on your continued support for our work.

I look forward to seeing all your parliaments represented at our upcoming Autumn Meeting in Yerevan.

Thank you.

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