



**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
President Pia Kauma**

**Remarks to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
Kyiv | 6 February 2024**

Check against delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Esteemed members of the Verkhovna Rada,

I stand before you today, profoundly moved and deeply affected by what I have experienced in this visit to Kyiv.

I have traveled here with a delegation representing several nations.

Siv Mossleth from Norway, Mark Demesmaeker from Belgium, Luis Graca from Portugal, and our Secretary General, Roberto Montella, accompany me.

We are not here on a mere diplomatic visit.

Our visit is a journey through the stark reality of conflict and suffering that Ukraine endures daily.

Looking around us, it is impossible to turn a blind eye to the destruction that Russia has inflicted upon this nation.

A destruction that we, as outsiders, often find difficult to fully comprehend.

In Irpin, in Bucha, in Hostomel, we have witnessed the devastating consequence of this war of aggression.

We can attest to the atrocities committed by Russian forces.

Being awoken by air-raid sirens may have left us with little sleep, but we have gained a profound sense of solidarity with the Ukrainian people facing this daily threat.

Everywhere we have been, we have been welcomed by the resilient and innovative spirit of the Ukrainian nation.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has generously spared their time to meet with us during our visit.

Your pain resonates deeply with us.

It is not lost on us.

Yet, amidst the challenges, we find inspiration in the optimism that prevails in you.

Fellow parliamentarians,

Our purpose here is clear – we are here to listen, to understand, and to amplify your voices.

Since 2014, we have called out every single Russian breach of basic security and human rights commitments.

But we do not want to play just a symbolic role.

We want to hold the Russian Federation accountable.

We want to bridge the gap between political declarations and tangible action.

We want our commitment to go beyond words.

It is with this in mind that, at our last Annual Session, we established the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.

This has helped the OSCE PA fully exploit its capacity to foster innovative exchanges on how parliaments and governments worldwide can effectively support Ukraine.

I am glad that our visit comes after the EU agreed on 50 billion Euros of support for Ukraine.

I look forward to more positive news from Washington, DC.

Whether it's coordinating resources for Ukrainian localities, supporting your efforts to bring abducted children back to their families, or devising strategies for targeted sanctions against Russian perpetrators, we are dedicated to making a difference.

Your Delegation to the OSCE PA has played a pivotal role to bring us to this point.

I thank them for their continued engagement in all our activities.

Esteemed Members,

Let me also express my gratitude to the Ukrainian nation for your unwavering democratic voice and the resilience shown in the face of adversity.

Your solidarity, across party lines, sends a powerful message to your international partners.

It demonstrates that Ukraine's democratic spirit cannot be defeated.

I was very moved to commemorate yesterday Members and staff of this parliament, fallen under Russian bullets.

Oleksandr Marchenko. Oleg Barna. Serhii Slabenko. Petro Torshyn.

For us, this was a painful reminder that you and your loved ones are paying the ultimate sacrifice.

What we can do is ensure that this is not in vain.

The resounding support for Ukraine resonates whenever and wherever the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly gathers.

Our Assembly knows full well that the danger posed by Russia's aggression extends beyond Ukrainian borders.

It impacts all of us, in Europe and beyond.

This is why, together, we must continue to stand for Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!