OSCE PA
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pere Joan PONS SAMPIETRO (MP, Spain)

OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
Vienna, 4 December 2025

Check against delivery.

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

We meet at a turning point.

We live in a time of paradoxes.

In Ukraine, Europe faces the gravest threat to its security and to international law this century: the full-scale invasion of a sovereign nation.

In Gaza, in the Mediterranean, the past two years have revealed humanity's darkest face.

These tragedies are not isolated. They are interconnected.

They show that the global security order is undergoing a profound shift.

For too long we believed that liberalism, multilateralism, and globalization would naturally deliver more peace, more democracy, more progress.

Today we know: nothing is guaranteed.

And yet, amid uncertainty, one truth becomes clearer than ever:

In a fractured world – where trust erodes and force too often replaces argument – dialogue is the only road to peace.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we remember its courage:

Not naïveté – courage.

The courage to speak when speaking was difficult.

The courage to build security through principles, rules, and co-operation.

Because without dialogue, peace is impossible; security remains elusive.

And what is this Organization if not a permanent space for dialogue to prevent conflict and protect people?

Dobbiamo a chi ci ha preceduto l'onore di custodire quella visione – aprendo spazi per il dialogo, rafforzando i nostri strumenti e affermando che le controversie devono essere risolte con la concordia, e mai con la guerra.

Helsinki taught us a fundamental lesson:

Security is not born from silence, but from open channels – even with those who stand far from our moral horizon.

The one billion citizens the Parliamentary Assembly represents want to feel safe.

Live ordinary lives

To love, to work, to dream

Our duty is to give them that security through dialogue, so they can have hope.

Ministers, allow me to be clear:

If we want to rebuild security in our region, we need four urgent decisions:

1. Restore the OSCE's operational capacity and our toolbox.
2. Protect the rules-based European security architecture.
3. Reopen structured spaces for responsible dialogue.
4. Approve a Unified Budget.

Because without a budget, the OSCE cannot act properly.

Millions of citizens remain unprotected.

Each delay weakens our missions, slows mediation, and undermines our credibility.

Today, it is in Ukraine that the defense of European democracy is being upheld with the greatest resolve.

I am a firm supporter of a sovereign, democratic, European Ukraine – of its territorial integrity, its right to defend itself, and its right to negotiate peace on its own terms.

Nothing about Ukraine can be decided without Ukraine.

And red lines are clear. The future of Ukraine has to be decided by and with Ukranians.

Recent statements from the Kremlin, dismissing peace efforts and threatening Europe, only strengthen our resolve.

We also demand the immediate release of Dmytro, Maksym, and Vadym – OSCE SMM staff unjustly detained for the "crime" of serving under our flag.

Our principles must apply everywhere.

This is why we condemned the October 7th Hamas attacks.

And why we also condemn atrocities and potential acts of genocide in Gaza.

International humanitarian law is not optional. Accountability must be universal, without double standards.

From Georgia to the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the OSCE must remain a bridge: Firm when red lines are crossed, open when opportunities emerge.

In Georgia, we defend freedom of expression, the right to protest, and the democratic process – while keeping dialogue open.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, steps toward reconciliation are underway. The OSCE PA stands ready to support lasting peace.

In Central Asia, co-operation is essential for long-term security, economic resilience, and stability.

Dans nos démocraties, répondre aux besoins immédiats des citoyens est essentiel.

Quand les institutions échouent, le populisme prospère, la méfiance s'étend et les forces qui érodent la démocratie – désinformation, haine, extrémisme – prennent racine.

C’est pourquoi notre sécurité commence par la vérité, par des processus électoraux protégés et par la résistance à la manipulation numérique.

Protéger et défendre la démocratie dans notre région n’est pas seulement une responsabilité : c’est un investissement pour l’avenir.

C’est pourquoi j’exhorte tous les États participants à renforcer leur soutien financier à l’Assemblée, afin d’accroître nos capacités d’observation et de garantir que nos démocraties résistent aux attaques autoritaires.

From Vancouver to Vladivostok, elections must be defended against cyberattacks, disinformation, and manipulation.

Because democracy without security is fragile – and security without democracy is an illusion.

Climate change cannot wait. Growth must be shared – and it must be green.

The energy transition must include everyone. There will be no global security without a fair climate and energy transition.

Finally, let us not forget the great revolution of our century: the revolution of women.

And men must co-lead it – now more than ever, when so many women are attacked simply for being women.

60 per cent of my appointments are women.

This is trust. Conviction. Justice. Equality. Democracy in action.

Permítanme concluir con una idea esencial, fundacional:

El diálogo no es una debilidad; es nuestra mayor fortaleza.

Puede convertir el miedo en estabilidad, la confrontación en convivencia y la incertidumbre en esperanza.

Este es el mensaje de Helsinki.

Esta es la responsabilidad que nos exigen nuestros ciudadanos.

Y esta es la decisión que deben tomar aquí, en Viena.

Con la fuerza de los argumentos, no los argumentos de la fuerza.

Muchas gracias.