



**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President
Pere Joan Pons (MP, Spain)**

Address to the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna | 22 January 2026

Check against delivery.

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi de commencer par féliciter la Suisse pour avoir assumé la présidence de l'OSCE. L'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE s'engage à travailler avec la Présidence suisse, le Secrétaire général de l'OSCE et les institutions pour renforcer la confiance et le dialogue.

We meet today not in ordinary times,
but at a turning point.

Moments like this do not announce themselves quietly.
They arrive with pressure.
With tension.
With the weight of history on our shoulders.

Europe's security is under strain.

It is under strain because Ukraine is being attacked on a daily basis.
It is under strain because the sovereignty of another OSCE participating State – Denmark – is being openly questioned. And it is under strain because strategic territories such as Greenland are being spoken of not as homes to free people, but as objects to be acquired.

Let us be clear: this is not strength. This is intimidation.

And there is no more dangerous way to enter the fifth year of Russia's full-scale invasion against Ukraine than by allowing the threat of a new conflict inside our region — and between allies.

In such circumstances, there is only one beneficiary:
the aggressor.

History teaches us a simple lesson.
When democracies hesitate, pressure grows.
When principles are traded for convenience, conflict follows.

Threats of annexation, threats of purchase, threats of economic retaliation have no place in Europe in the 21st century.

Our response must therefore be unity. Not unity of words, but unity of purpose.

Since assuming this Presidency, I have said repeatedly:
institutions that tolerate double standards lose their authority.

That is why aggression against Ukraine must be condemned without ambiguity. That is why we have joined the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. This is why we are using every opportunity to call for release of the three OSCE officials.

That is why atrocities, wherever they occur — including in Gaza — must also be condemned.

And that is why we should understand that any government, including the Trump Administration - that threatens or retaliates through political or economic means, is acting against the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of the United Nations.

These principles are not optional. They are the foundations of our security in the whole OSCE region.

Everyone in this room knows what is at stake.

The sovereignty of Denmark and of course Greenland is being questioned. Pressure is being exerted on Greenland — a strategic territory, inhabited by free people, within our OSCE region.

Let us not deceive ourselves.

Those who believe in multilateralism, in rules, in international law and in shared security are still more numerous than those who dream of empires long buried by history.

I have just returned from Copenhagen.

I met the Speaker of the Danish Parliament and several parliamentarians.

The message I received there was unmistakable.

Denmark seeks dialogue.

Denmark seeks co-operation.

Denmark seeks stronger alliances for greater security in the Arctic.

Greenland is not for sale.

And its people will not submit to threats.

What truly matters now is unity — unity for Ukraine, unity to bring an end to this aggression, unity to build Ukraine in accordance with the wish of its people: sovereign, secure, and at peace.

And let us say it clearly:

there can be no peace in Ukraine without Ukraine — and without Europe.

Excellencies,

The challenges before us are grave.

Multilateralism is under attack.
Disinformation spreads faster than truth.
Polarization corrodes our societies.
And force is once again being presented as a substitute for reason.

We face a choice.

Either we allow a few to dismantle an international order that has delivered peace and prosperity — or we prove, once again, that the strength of free societies lies in their unity and in their principles.

As President of the Parliamentary Assembly, my commitment is clear: to defend multilateralism, to defend the Helsinki principles, and to defend the international order anchored in the United Nations Charter.

Reform is welcome. At EU, OSCE or UN level.
Imposition is not.
Dialogue is necessary.
Threats are not.

These are decisions that future generations will judge.

Ukraine deserves peace.
So do the people of Greenland. And Gaza.
They deserve the right to choose their own destiny.

When we weaken the rules we agreed upon together,
we weaken our own security.
And when we weaken our security, we weaken our democracies.

La démocratie aujourd'hui n'est pas seulement menacée par les chars.
Elle est également affaiblie par l'ingérence, par les mensonges et par le doute.

Chers collègues,
J'ai à plusieurs reprises souligné l'importance de l'observation électorale pour défendre nos démocraties.
C'est pourquoi les institutions de l'OSCE, y compris l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE, sont essentielles.
C'est pourquoi défendre les médias libres, l'égalité homme femme et la vérité elle-même est une question de sécurité.
C'est pourquoi j'appelle tous les pays qui croient en la démocratie à investir dans les institutions qui protègent nos démocraties.

In questo contesto, permettetemi di rivolgermi specificamente alla Georgia.

Le osservazioni della comunità OSCE riflettono preoccupazioni serie sugli sviluppi in Georgia.
Per questo motivo, ho consultato attivamente su come utilizzare al meglio gli strumenti dell'Assemblea parlamentare dell'OSCE per sostenere la stabilità, il dialogo e il rispetto degli impegni.

In linea con questi sforzi, pianifico di visitare la Georgia nelle prossime settimane per incontrare una vasta gamma di parti interessate con un approccio costruttivo.

Ascolteremo attentamente, discuteremo apertamente delle questioni più urgenti e esploreremo modi per ridurre le tensioni e rafforzare la resilienza democratica in linea con gli impegni dell'OSCE.

Señor Presidente, permítanme concluir diciendo que el mundo es más complejo hoy que hace apenas dos meses. Ante ello, nuestros principios no deben debilitarse. Todo lo contrario.

La seguridad no puede ser selectiva.
No puede ser unilateral.
Es compartida — o se pierde.

Nuestra responsabilidad es clara:
elegir el diálogo sobre la coerción,
La fuerza de los argumentos sobre los argumentos de la fuerza
y la unidad sobre la división — para que la paz prevalezca en nuestra región.

Gracias.