

**Intervention of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Federica ONORI to the Special Debate of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions "Safeguarding Election Integrity Amid Hybrid Threats and Foreign Malign Influence" at the**

**25th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

*Vienna, Hofburg Congress Center, Neuer Saal, 2nd floor*

*19 February 2026, 15.15 – 18.00*

Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
Dear Colleagues,

Safeguarding election integrity lies at the heart of the OSCE's commitments to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

AI is transforming the information environment in which elections take place. It enables the rapid amplification of disinformation, the micro-targeting of voters, and the manipulation of public debate at scale — making interference harder to detect and counter.

At the same time, AI can support democratic processes, including strengthening electoral administration and improving early warning against coordinated manipulation. The challenge is therefore not technology itself, but how it is governed.

From a parliamentary perspective, three principles are essential:

1. Existing human rights standards apply fully in the AI-enabled space;
2. Human oversight and accountability must remain central;
3. Transparency — particularly regarding political advertising and algorithmic amplification — is indispensable for public trust.

In this context, I would like to highlight my close cooperation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, including work related to the recently launched *Policy Manual on Safeguarding Media Freedom in the Age of Big Tech Platforms and Artificial Intelligence*. This provides practical guidance for legislators on addressing the impact of platforms and AI on democratic discourse and media freedom.

Building on this, we are launching a joint consultation initiative to gather parliamentarians' priorities and legislative experiences concerning AI, freedom of expression, and media freedom. A questionnaire will be circulated to Members, and I warmly encourage you to complete it. Your input will help shape ongoing OSCE discussions and parliamentary exchange in this area.

As Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence, I remain committed to ensuring that AI is addressed within our democratic and human rights framework since we all know that safeguarding election integrity today also means protecting the information space in which democratic choice is formed.

Thank you.