

Foreign Affairs, Zoffili at the OSCE Bureau meeting in Helsinki: 'Watchwords peace and security also by fighting organised crime'

The Head of the Italian Parliamentary Delegation and OSCE PA Special Representative on Combating Organised Crime, Eugenio Zoffili, participated in the meeting of the enlarged Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at the Helsinki Parliament on 25 January 2025. The meeting of the leaders of the Parliamentary Assembly, chaired by Pia Kauma, was also attended by the new Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE's governmental dimension and Foreign Minister of Finland, Elina Valtonen, who illustrated the programme outlined in Vienna at the opening of the Finnish Chairmanship, with reference to ongoing conflicts and with a particular focus on Ukraine.

Eugenio Zoffili emphasised peace and security as the main objectives of the Assembly and that fact that organised crime posed a threat not only in areas subject to political crises, but also in seemingly peaceful areas such as Italy. He therefore stressed the importance of international cooperation as a fundamental means of combating criminal activities.

Last year, during the OSCE Annual Assembly in Bucharest, he had tabled a resolution, which was then adopted, against the proliferation of fentanyl, to support inter-parliamentary awareness-raising among the member states and encourage measures to prevent and combat drug trafficking, particularly of new drugs, which are killing young people and fuelling mafias.

At the OSCE Assembly in Porto, scheduled for June, as the Special Representative, President Zoffili will be presenting a new supplementary item on a key practice for countering criminal organisations which, if taken up with conviction by the parliamentarians from the 57 member States, could prove to be a major means of combating the mafia underworld.

Eugenio Zoffili also met the new Italian Ambassador to Finland, Nicola Todaro Marescotti, at our Embassy's residence. They discussed the main topics of concern to Italy: the local Italian community, the valuable opportunities for strengthening trade, and interesting prospects for cooperation in the defence sector. Energy and environmental matters were also top of the agenda, now that Italy is embarking on reintroducing nuclear energy, for which Finland, with five power stations producing clean energy, stands as a model.