



**Report**  
**Winter Session of the OSCE PA on 24 February 2023**

**"One Year In: Russia's Continued Full-Scale War on Ukraine"**  
**Special Representative on Eastern Europe**

Dear Madam President Cederfelt, dear Mr. Secretary General Montella, dear colleagues,

Exactly one year ago, Russia launched its illegitimate war against Ukraine and severely damaged the European peace order. As Special Representative on Eastern Europe within the Parliamentary Assembly, I strongly condemn this imperialist war of aggression!

Child abductions, rapes, sexualized violence, abuse and torture are unfortunately the order of the day. Against the tortures of the civilian population we send from here as Members of Parliament a clear signal of solidarity to Ukraine and to the Ukrainian delegation, which is here in Vienna.

In parliamentary discussion groups on the EU's Eastern Partnership, I had several opportunities in recent weeks to talk to human rights activists, opposition politicians and academics from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

Contacts with civil society forces are particularly important to me as a sign of solidarity and encouragement. We must strengthen all those who publicly take a stand against Russia's war at great personal risk. Putin is also waging war against his own civil society with great contempt. This proves, for example, the ban of the human rights organization Memorial, which was awarded by the Nobel Peace Prize. I'm grateful that I was able to meet Irina Sherbakova in the German Bundestag.

In addition to the cruel and grueling war of position in Ukraine, we must also keep an eye on the situation in neighboring countries; for example in Belarus, whose behavior as a co-aggressor is also to be strongly condemned. Here I am particularly concerned about the situation of women, including those whom Lukashenka's regime has forced into exile. Mrs. Tikhanovskaya clearly reminded us of this yesterday.

It is worth looking at the Republic of Moldova, whose stability is clearly threatened by pro-Russian forces. It is also important to look at Poland, the Baltic States and the Scandinavian countries. For these have been thrown into great turmoil by Russia's war against Ukraine, though this is also part of Putin's grinding hybrid warfare.

On the European continent, Russia's criminal war has triggered the largest movement of refugees since the end of World War II.

Dear Colleagues,

We should be guided by three principles as far as OSCE PA work is concerned in the weeks and months ahead.

First, we must not allow a country to annex parts of another state by force with impunity, to disregard the fundamental principles of our peace order, and to attempt to erase a country's identity. But this can't be done without diplomatic dialogue and without dialogue with everyone here in the Parliamentary Assembly.

Secondly, with the Helsinki Final Act, we have a special obligation to protect human rights. The crimes of Butscha and Irpin must be prosecuted! We must counteract the impunity of war crimes. I expressly call on the members of the Parliamentary Assembly to support the criminal investigations of the international jurisdiction. The Parliamentary Assembly must also always be a public tribune for war crimes.

Third, Ukraine needs military assistance in addition to humanitarian, financial, and economic support. How else can it defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty?

We stand in solidarity with Ukraine, at least a state that is under attack and that needs to defend itself.

It is up to Russia to stop this unjustified and criminal war!

If Ukraine stops fighting, its right to exist is threatened. However, if Russia stops fighting, the war will be over. There must not be a dictatorial peace of Russian imperialism!

Thank you very much for your attention. Slava Ukraini!