

## **OSCE PA 2022 Winter Meeting**

### **Standing Committee**

25 February 2022

Report by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on South East Europe, Vice-President of the PA, Dr. Azay Guliyev

**Madam President,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

I'm glad to take this opportunity to update you on the activities I have conducted as Special Representative on South East Europe, as well as on the future plans along the path to our Annual Session in Birmingham.

To enhance my comprehension on horizons and challenges in South East Europe, I participated and delivered closing remarks during the 14-15 October Regional Policy Dialogue with Legislators from South-Eastern Europe on the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, co-organized by the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Secretariat. The event was an occasion to underline that Parliaments have a fundamental role in urging Governments to engage in order to address the challenges related to the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters possibly through an inclusive process.

The latest European Union-Western Balkans Summit which took place a few days earlier in Brdo on 6 October provided positive elements to build mutual trust in the area through the reassertion of the EU's unambiguous support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans and of the commitment of the Western Balkans partners to the European perspective.

In late October last year, I joined and intervened during the OSCE Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in South-Eastern Europe. The discussions featured remarks by representatives of the OSCE, its participating States and international partners and, notably, provided insights on the region given the OSCE's unique presence in the area through its six Field Operations.

**Dear Colleagues,**

In my capacity as Vice-President of the Assembly, I was part of the PA Delegation led by President Cederfelt on an official visit to Turkey from 8 to 11 November where I also took the occasion to discuss Turkey's co-operation with the region.

From 22 to 24 November last year, I undertook an official visit to Athens. The mission served as my first activity on the ground in the region as Special Representative and allowed me to reaffirm trust-based dialogue and the relevance of regional co-operation on common challenges with Members of the Hellenic Parliament, governmental officials, and representatives of political parties as well as exchanged views on the upcoming elections in the Western Balkans and its European perspective. I reaffirmed that the Western Balkans provide a meaningful contribution in implementing the principles of the OSCE, substantiated, amongst other elements, by the Albanian Chairpersonship in 2020 and by the Chairpersonship of North Macedonia next year.

The meetings with the hosts, including with the Minister of Migration and Asylum were opportunities to discuss the challenges related to migration on the Eastern Mediterranean route and announce the readiness of our Ad Hoc Committee on Migration to undertake a more comprehensive visit in the country in the near future to enhance our understanding on this crucial theme.

**Dear Colleagues,**

My past activities are precious as I prepare to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina from 8 to 10 March. In Sarajevo I plan to meet with parliamentarians, governmental officials, representatives of political parties and OSCE partners. My visit intends to highlight the importance of regional security and acquire insight on the viewpoint of Bosnia and Herzegovina on regional developments and regional co-operation. During the meetings I will also discuss the recent domestic political developments, along with consultations on the general election scheduled in October, which the Parliamentary Assembly will likely observe if invited by the Authorities.

I wish to thank President Cederfelt for having appointed me to represent her and the Parliamentary Assembly on the occasion of the 11-13 March Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Turkey, which will bring together Heads of State and Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, high-level representatives of the International Organizations and academics to address the regional and global issues and challenges. At the forum I will use the opportunity to promote parliamentary diplomacy in South East Europe and also highlight the work of our Assembly in fostering dialogue in OSCE region.

I welcome the decision to hold an Election Observation Mission on 3 April for the Serbian general election and am confident the PA will be well represented despite our conflicting schedule with the Copenhagen Bureau Meeting the following day.

In conclusion, I plan to visit on May to North Macedonia and possibly on June to Serbia in order to deliver a comprehensive report when we meet in Birmingham for our Annual Session this July.

Thank you for your attention.