

19th Autumn Meeting begins with discussions on Assembly work, continues Thursday



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 19th Autumn Meeting began Wednesday with a meeting of the Standing Committee, featuring reports by the President, Treasurer, Secretary General, and discussion of PA activities and current political issues. The Autumn Meeting continues Thursday with a Mediterranean Forum and a Parliamentary Conference on the theme "Current Security Challenges: Focus on Afghanistan."

In her report, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) outlined her main priorities and areas of activities since being elected last July. She noted that the Taliban's capture of Kabul in August brought Afghanistan to the top of the international political agenda, and as such she has prioritized engagement with OSCE participating States in the region. She also highlighted exchanges she

has had with speakers of the parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine, to underline the added value of parliamentary engagement in conflict resolution in those countries.

OSCE PA Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen (Denmark) reported on the state of the Assembly's finances and gave a positive assessment of the organization's financial management. Secretary General Roberto Montella offered his report to the Standing Committee, noting the increasingly high level of activities of the Assembly over the past several years. He stressed the need to prioritize PA work, maintain focus, and ensure quality over quantity.

OSCE PA Special Representatives reported to the Standing Committee on their activities and plans, particularly in relation to developing OSCE PA involvement on Arctic issues, civil society engagement, and combating corruption. The chairs of the OSCE PA's ad hoc committees also briefed the Assembly's leadership.

In a review of OSCE PA activities and current international political issues, members raised concerns related to ongoing conflicts in the OSCE area, the climate crisis and migration, encouraging sustained parliamentary engagement on all of these fronts.

High-level delegation visits Tajikistan for discussions on regional stability

An OSCE PA delegation, composed of President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), Vice-President and Special Representative on Central Asia Pia Kauma (Finland), and Secretary General Roberto Montella visited Tajikistan last week for meetings with the Chair of the Assembly of Representatives, Mahmadoir Zokirzoda, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, the UNHCR Representative in Tajikistan, Mulugeta Zewdie Mamo, and the Delegation of Tajikistan to the OSCE PA led by Saidmurod Fattohzoda.

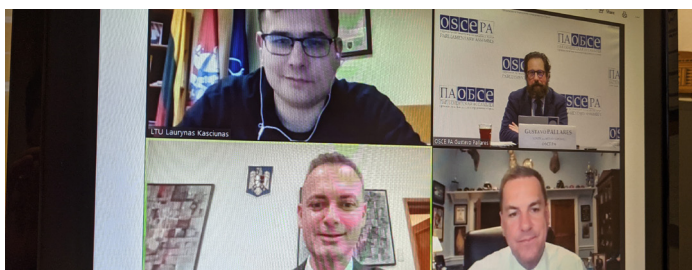
Discussions focused on regional stability and the



L-R: Pia Kauma, Mahmadoir Zokirzoda, Margareta Cederfelt and Roberto Montella in Dushanbe, 28 October 2021

growing humanitarian crisis as winter looms, with increased pressure from Afghanistan on neighbouring countries. Earlier in the week, the OSCE PA delegation was in Uzbekistan.

In online meeting, First Committee leadership co-ordinates activities



On Tuesday, the leadership of the OSCE PA's Committee on Political Affairs and Security met online to co-ordinate activities and discuss its work plan. Moderated by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, the meeting included participation by Committee Chair Richard Hudson (United States), Vice-Chair Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania), and Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania). Looking towards next year's Annual Session in Birmingham, it was agreed that protracted conflicts should remain a key focus of the committee's work.

Featured tweets @oscepa

The US Helsinki Commission tweeted on 28 October about a meeting that OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance Ben Cardin held in Washington with OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Kairat Abdrakhmanov. The sides discussed minority issues in the United States and throughout the OSCE region, including challenges related to statelessness and economic participation, the Commission said.



Helsinki Commission
@HelsinkiComm

Yesterday @HelsinkiComm chair @SenatorCardin met with @oscehcnm Kairat Abdrakhmanov to discuss minority issues in the #US and throughout the @OSCE region, including challenges related to statelessness and economic participation.