High-level OSCE PA delegation underlines trust-based dialogue with Turkey

A high-level delegation from the OSCE PA led by President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and comprising Vice-President Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) and Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) completed on 13 November an official visit to Turkey.

In Ankara the PA delegation met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Speaker Mustafa Şentop, Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu, Justice Minister Abdülhamit Gül, Deputy Foreign Minister Yavuz Selim Kiran, and the Delegation of Turkey to the OSCE PA led by Selami Altınoğlu. Discussions with major political parties represented in the Grand National Assembly offered an opportunity to assess their role in Turkey’s new system of government, and to raise concerns over the criminalization of political speech and limits to parliamentary immunity.

Op-ed published on Glasgow COP26 outcomes

Pere Joan Pons (Spain), Chair of the OSCE PA’s Second Committee, published an op-ed at Medium.com on Tuesday entitled “It’s up to all of us to ensure that Glasgow climate promises are not empty ones.” The op-ed urges national leaders to put short-sighted interests aside and take decisive action to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. To read it, please click here: https://bit.ly/3wXCetB

MPs and experts focus on violence against women journalists and politicians

On 10 November, dozens of participants discussed effective policies and challenges in addressing gender-based violence at the Parliamentary Web Dialogue on “Violence Against Women Journalists and Politicians: A Growing Crisis.” Opening the event, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) highlighted the surging rates of violence despite growing awareness of the problem of gender-based violence in journalism and politics.

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Women journalists are attacked, it severely weakens women’s overall participation in the public sphere. Also contributing to the discussion were Prof. Mona Lena Krook from Rutgers University and Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. During the debate participants exchanged views on concrete ways parliaments and inter-parliamentary fora can protect women politicians and journalists in their respective fields.

Special Reps on Gender and Civil Society participate in OSCE Human Dimension Seminar

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) gave a presentation Tuesday at the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Girls, focusing her remarks on the impact of gender-based violence in political and public life. Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis (Cyprus) intervened during the discussion. Both Fry and Hadjiyiannis underlined the responsibility and the role of parliamentarians in preventing and combatting this type of violence that affects women’s participation in the civic and political space. They reiterated that dealing with this negative phenomenon is key for comprehensive security, societal cohesion and democracy in general. Fry also highlighted the work of the OSCE PA in this regard, mentioning her 2021 Annual Report and last week’s Parliamentary Web Dialogue on “Violence Against Women Journalists and Politicians: A Growing Crisis.”