

OSCE PA Secretary General Montella in Vienna and Belgrade



Roberto Montella (third from right, front) in OSCE family photo



Roberto Montella meets with Ivica Dacic in Belgrade, 18 January

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella was in Vienna last week for the opening of the Polish Chairmanship of the OSCE, and met with counterparts from the organization ahead of OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt's address to the Permanent Council this Thursday. Montella was present at the Permanent Council meeting on 13 January, participated in a discussion with heads of field operations and CiO Zbigniew Rau, and held meetings with a number of OSCE ambassadors.

Montella expressed the PA's support for the incoming Polish Chairmanship and noted the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue to boost political engagement with OSCE activities.

Following his participation in Chairmanship opening, Montella

travelled to Serbia for meetings in Belgrade with Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly Ivica Dacic and Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Jan Braathu. Montella and Dacic discussed both national and regional political developments, and Dacic reiterated Serbia's invitation for the PA to observe the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

The sides also discussed Serbia's co-operation with the OSCE, with the Secretary General providing an overview of the PA's current activities and priorities, including the Call for Action - Helsinki +50 initiative, and Dacic confirmed his country's readiness to host a statutory meeting of the PA in the foreseeable future.

Radu-Mihai Mihail appointed as OSCE PA Special Representative on Digital Agenda

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) has appointed Radu-Mihai Mihail (Romania) as Special Representative on Digital Agenda. Mihail has been a Member of the Romanian Senate since 2016 and currently serves as Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA. As Special Representative he will promote an inclusive digital society and raise awareness on benefits and security implications of digitalization. For the full mandate, please click here: <https://bit.ly/34RUKcP>

PA's Zannier participates in an online conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina

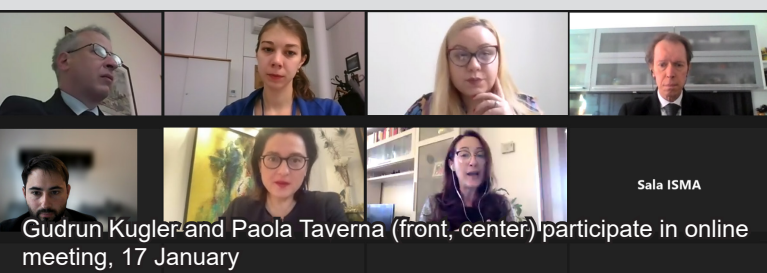
OSCE PA High-Level Expert Lamberto Zannier participated on 13 January in a conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina organized by the Bosnian embassy in Denmark. A former OSCE Secretary General and High Commissioner on National Minorities, Zannier presented the OSCE's role in BiH and reiterated the importance of avoiding inflammatory and divisive narratives and actions that undermine stability.

Highlighting the OSCE's longstanding commitment to the country, Amb. Zannier noted that the end of armed conflict in 1995 was just the beginning of a long process and that BiH's domestic stability is closely linked to regional stability. Among the priorities for OSCE work in BiH that Amb. Zannier highlighted are arms control, strengthening rule of law and promotion of human rights. He pointed out that the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina is among the largest of OSCE field operations, demonstrating the organization's steadfast commitment to the country.



Gustavo Pallares and Nina Henke listen to Lamberto Zannier's presentation to the conference on BiH, 13 January

Special Representative on Elderly Issues and Second Committee Rapporteur meet online



Gudrun Kugler and Paola Taverna (front, center) participate in online meeting, 17 January

In an online meeting on Monday, OSCE PA Special Representative on Elderly Issues Paola Taverna (Italy) and Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) exchanged views and highlighted the key role that parliaments play in addressing demographic changes in the OSCE region. The meeting served as an opportunity to collaborate on issues relevant to the mandates of the Special Representative and the Second Committee, as well as informing the work of the Rapporteur ahead of the 29th Annual Session this summer in Birmingham, United Kingdom.