

Parliamentary contributions to clean energy revolution in focus at OSCE PA webinar

The OSCE PA held a webinar on 4 February entitled “The Clean Energy Revolution and its Implications for the OSCE Region.” Bringing together more than 100 parliamentarians, experts and representatives of OSCE participating States for a policy debate to assess current energy trends, participants discussed the latest technological developments in energy production and possible geopolitical implications of the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

At the core of the discussions was the awareness of the climate and environmental crisis that is impacting the planet, and the urgent imperative to mitigate it. Participants stressed the need to promote secure, inclusive and healthy societies – characterized by resilient and competitive economies – for the benefit of all citizens.

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Chair of the Second Committee Pere Joan Pons (Spain) delivered opening remarks, and closing the debate was Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria). With expert contributions from the World Energy Council’s Angela Wilkinson, the International Energy Agency’s Keisuke Sadamori, Miguel Gil Tetre of the European Commission, Enrico Falck of Falck Renewables, Kirsten Westphal of H2Global Stiftung, and the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies’ Katja Yafimava, OSCE PA members heard a



wide array of views on the need for diversified, accessible, reliable and affordable energy to meet human needs.

The experts focused on role of “humanizing energy” in driving a successful global energy transition, the macroeconomic impacts of the transformation, the role of the private sector in contributing to a viable transition, and the need for the OSCE region to diversify its energy sources both to help curb climate change and to promote energy security. In the discussion, OSCE parliamentarians raised points related to hydrogen energy and carbon pricing, stressing the influence of the fossil fuel industry on public policy. Members also highlighted the importance of actively engaging citizens and youth in this process, as well as the role of education.

New ODIHR publication offers resources for parliamentary reformers

On Tuesday, ODIHR issued a new publication to develop parliamentary standards of conduct. “Parliamentary Integrity: A Resource for Reformers” offers a cross-country analysis of existing codes of conduct or ethics in the OSCE region, with the aim of promoting high standards of parliamentary behaviour and enhancing public trust in democratic systems. The publication is available to download here: <https://bit.ly/3ry2DNA>

Lopatka speaks at UN event on victims of terrorism, meets with new CCT member Veasey

OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) Reinhold Lopatka participated on 4 February in the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism to protect the rights of victims of terrorism. The initiative, intended to improve national laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism, was organized by the UNOCT together with the IPU and the UNODC. The CCT contributed to the development of Model Legislative Provisions through active engagement in a series of Online Thematic Expert Consultations held in 2020 and 2021.

In his remarks, Vice-President Lopatka stressed the role of parliaments and the need for international co-operation in coherently addressing the complex needs of the victims of terrorism and integrating provisions into comprehensive counter-terrorism policies and practices at the national level. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the rights and needs of victims of terrorism are heard and respected. Understanding the experiences of terrorism victims is essential to raise awareness and build a comprehensive approach to global terrorism



Reinhold Lopatka meets online with Marc Veasey, 8 February 2022.

prevention efforts, he said. Parliamentary tools and continuous discussions and exchanges with civil society and inter-parliamentary co-operation on a wide range of international security affairs, he said, are essential in this regard.

On Tuesday, Lopatka met with new CCT member Marc Veasey (United States). The two discussed the future of the parliamentary efforts to counter terrorism including challenges posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters, border security and cyber security, as well as a potential US visit of the CCT.

SG Montella and Russian Ambassador Barbin exchange views at Secretariat

On Monday, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella met with the Russian Federation’s Ambassador to Denmark, Vladimir Barbin, for talks at Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen. In a full and frank exchange of views, the two sides discussed building co-operation on counter-terrorism and climate change, as well as furthering dialogue on European security proposals. Other topics of discussion included upcoming activities of the OSCE PA, such as this month’s Winter Meeting and the high-level visit to Moscow in March.



Roberto Montella meets with Vladimir Barbin, 7 February 2022.