

## Special Representative on South Caucasus Kari Henriksen visits Tbilisi



Kari Henriksen with Georgian MP Nino Jobashvili at the ABL, 24 May

The OSCE PA's Special Representative on South Caucasus, Kari Henriksen (Norway), has visited Georgia this week on 24-25 May for a two-day visit, meeting with parliamentarians, government agencies and the international community, to discuss regional developments and the work of the OSCE within the country.

Starting her visit at the Parliament of Georgia, the Special Representative met with the Georgian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE PA, as well as with Members of the Defense and Security Committee, discussing the regional security environment and the impact of the war in Ukraine within the South Caucasus region and on the occupied territories of Georgia.

She further met with the State Minister of Georgia for Recon-

ciliation and Civic Equality, as well as the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, discussing the efforts of the government and international organizations aimed at reconciliation, confidence-building measures and improvement of the situation of the conflict-affected communities.

Visiting the administrative boundary line near Khurvaleti, as well as settlements of Internally Displaced Persons in Tserovani and Tbilisi, she discussed with IDPs, local authorities and representatives of the Ecomigrants and Livelihoods Agency the ongoing efforts of the government in housing and supporting IDPs.

Henriksen also met with the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, by whom she was briefed on the work the mission within the country.

As Special Representative, Henriksen is following the overall political situation in the South Caucasus region and seeks to promote dialogue in all segments of society, to encourage resolution of the protracted conflicts.

Her last visit to the region as Special Representative took place in September 2021, when she held a series of meetings in Georgia with government authorities, leaders of political parties and representatives of the international community. She will visit the region again in June, travelling to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## Deadlines reminder for 29th Annual Session

OSCE PA delegates planning to attend the 29th Annual Session, scheduled to take place in Birmingham on 2-6 July 2022, are kindly reminded of the following important dates:

- 27 May: Deadline for registration for Annual Session
- 28 May: Deadline for submission of Supplementary Items
- 10 June: Deadline for registration of non-parliamentary delegations
- 18 June: Deadline for submission of Amendments to General Committee Draft Resolutions
- 25 June: Deadline for submission of Amendments to Supplementary Items

Additional information is available at the OSCE PA's website, [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

## OSCE PA Bureau meets for discussions on Annual Session modalities

Members of the OSCE PA Bureau met on 18 May for discussions on preparations for the Birmingham Annual Session, including debates expected on the war in Ukraine and possible resolutions on the topic. The Bureau endorsed the Secretariat's proposal for the modalities of the Annual Session, agreeing that it should be a fully in-person meeting with no hybrid component. This would make the 2022 Annual Session the first full-fledged physical meeting of the Assembly since the February 2020 Winter Meeting,

three weeks before the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and the first full-fledged Annual Session since 2019.

Also on the agenda of last week's meeting were discussions of upcoming OSCE PA activities, including an upcoming visit to Georgia and a conference on corruption being hosted by the Cypriot Parliament, with the support of the International Secretariat, at the end of May, as well PA side events that might take place during the Annual Session.

## Special Representative Lopatka initiates preliminary talks on Ukraine war

Since being appointed to the position on 11 May, OSCE PA Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine Reinhold Lopatka has held a series of meetings to identify priority issues in launching his mediation effort.

He met on 20 May with Poland's Permanent Representative Adam Halacinski, to discuss the Polish Chairmanship's views on the OSCE's role in addressing Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine.

He also met on 19 May with the Russian Ambassador Dmitrii Liubinskii and the Permanent Representative to the OSCE Ambassador Alexander Lukashovich in Vienna, and on 23 May, together with Secretary General Roberto Mon-



Reinhold Lopatka and Adam Halacinski, Vienna, 20 May

tella, he met online with the Head of Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mykyta Porturaiev and the Deputy Head of Delegation, Arthur Gerasymov to discuss possible next steps in his work.