

## OSCE PA delegation begins visit to South Caucasus with meetings in Yerevan

An OSCE PA delegation consisting of President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), Special Representative on the South Caucasus Kari Henriksen (Norway), and Secretary General Roberto Montella is visiting Armenia and Georgia this week for a series of high-level meetings focused on a range of regional and international issues. Beginning their visit today in Yerevan, the delegation met with the Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly Ruben Rubinyan, the Armenian OSCE PA Delegation led by Eduard Aghajanyan, as well as with the Head of the Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs of the National Assembly Taguhi Tovmasyan.

Topics discussed in Yerevan included security issues, as well as domestic and regional developments since the early parliamentary elections of 20 June 2021. The regional visit continues



OSCE PA delegation in Yerevan, 15 June

with meetings in Yerevan tomorrow and Tbilisi later in the week, where President Cederfelt will address the Tbilisi Women's International Conference. Tim Knoblaug and Freyja Koci from the International Secretariat are supporting the delegation.

## PA South East Europe envoy Guliyeu concludes visit to Romania and Bulgaria



Azay Guliyeu with interlocutors in Bucharest, 7 June

OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe and Vice-President Azay Guliyeu (Azerbaijan) was in Romania and Bulgaria last week for a series of meetings with parliamentarians, governmental officials and representatives of political parties. Discussions in both countries touched on the war in Ukraine, and Special Representative Guliyeu took the opportunity to hear considerations on his idea of an inter-parliamentary forum or conference with the participation of OSCE PA Delegations from South East Europe, as a platform to advance regional co-operation.

Guliyeu's interlocutors in Bucharest elaborated upon Roma-

nia's relations with Western Balkan countries and welcomed their European Union prospects. The meetings were also an opportunity to touch upon the latest developments pertaining to Romania's accession into the Schengen Zone. In Sofia, Guliyeu also discussed with interlocutors the EU prospects of the Western Balkan countries, as well as the domestic political developments following the elections last year. Accompanied by Roberto Ferrarini from the OSCE PA International Secretariat, Guliyeu commended Bulgaria for organizing the 20th OSCE PA Autumn Meeting scheduled to take place on 14-16 October 2022 in Sofia and used the opportunity to praise Bulgaria for its dedication and active participation in the Assembly.

Romanian and Bulgarian interlocutors underlined the importance of the work of the OSCE PA and OSCE in the region and encouraged the Organization to continue its efforts for the benefit of its end users. In this regard, Special Representative Guliyeu's interlocutors expressed their favour for further initiatives to facilitate avenues of co-operation, considered as a foundation to ensure good regional relations.

## OSCE parliamentarians consult with civil society ahead of Annual Session

In advance of the upcoming Annual Session in Birmingham, OSCE PA Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) hosted a consultation call 10 June with representatives of non-governmental organizations. The first-of-its-kind discussion was an opportunity for civil society to provide feedback on the content of draft resolutions to be debated when hundreds of OSCE parliamentarians gather next month in Birmingham.

Following the presentation of reports and draft resolutions by

OSCE PA General Committee Officers to civil society representatives, the parliamentarians listened to their ideas and engaged in discussions on how to ensure that the views of civil society are reflected in the Annual Session outcomes, as well as to inform the work of the Assembly more generally.

Topics included the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, including the war's legal aspects and the risk of escalation. Other issues raised included the need to cover election observation and ensuring the right to peaceful assembly.

## Lopatka meets Ukrainian Speaker of Parliament, OSCE TNT Co-ordinator



OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Chair and Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine Reinhold Lopatka met on Tuesday with OSCE



Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats Alena Kupchyna and with Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada.