

High-level OSCE PA delegation visits Yerevan and Tbilisi



OSCE PA delegation meeting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Yerevan, 15 June



Cederfelt and Montella at the ABL at Odzisi with the State Security Service of Georgia, 18 June

A high-level delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, comprised of OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), OSCE PA Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Kari Henriksen (Norway) and Secretary General Roberto Montella, has concluded a visit to Armenia and Georgia to discuss regional issues and the work of the OSCE in the region.

The visit, held 15-18 June, began in Yerevan, where the delegation met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan, with whom they discussed Armenia's co-operation with the OSCE and the way forward for comprehensive and sustainable peace in the region.

Visiting the National Assembly of Armenia, Cederfelt, Henriksen and Montella met with the Vice-Speaker of the Assembly, Ruben Rubinyan, as well as with the Parliamentary Delegation of Armenia to the OSCE PA led by Eduard Aghayanjan, discussing the role of the OSCE and parliamentary diplomacy in addressing humanitarian issues and the upcoming Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Birmingham.

The delegation also had the chance to exchange views with the Head of the Standing Committee on Protection of Human

Rights and Public Affairs, Taguhi Tovmasyan, on the topic of Human Rights and Democracy within Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

President Cederfelt and Secretary General Montella continued the visit in Georgia, where the President addressed the Tbilisi Women's International Conference organized by the President of Georgia. During her speech, she emphasized the importance of strengthening meaningful and effective efforts in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Following the conference, the delegation was received by the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iliia Darchiashvili; and the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Tea Akhvediani. Their discussions focused on the co-operation between Georgia and the OSCE, the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Georgia, as well as the humanitarian situation in Georgia's occupied regions.

Visiting the administrative boundary line near Odzisi, the delegation was also briefed by the State Security of Georgia on the humanitarian impact of the ongoing occupation on the daily life of the local communities.

LIVESTREAM: Helsinki +50 Meeting on OSCE role in Ukraine

The PA is holding a virtual meeting today as part of its Helsinki +50 Call for Action initiative focused on the role of the OSCE in addressing the conflict in Ukraine. Contributions are expected from OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt, SG Roberto Montella, Head of Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA Mykyta Poturaiev, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre Senior Policy Support Officer Alessandra Rognoni, and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's Regional Office for International Cooperation Senior Researcher Alexandra Dienes. Taking place 22 June, from 14:30 to 17:00 CEST, the meeting will stream live on Facebook, YouTube and www.oscepa.org.

Head of UK Delegation appointed Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine

John Whittingdale, Head of the United Kingdom's Delegation to the OSCE PA, has been appointed by Assembly President Margareta Cederfelt as Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine. With a mandate to advance investigations in bodies related to the OSCE and other international organizations, Special Rapporteur Whittingdale's first activity will be the holding of a side event during next month's Annual Session in Birmingham, United Kingdom. The panel will include a UK Government representative, an expert in preventing sexual violence in con-

flict and an expert in international accountability mechanisms.

As Special Rapporteur, Whittingdale will report on war crimes perpetrated in connection with the military hostilities in Ukraine and report back any information about the allegations thereof during meetings of the OSCE PA, as well as any progress made by the relevant judicial bodies that seek to hold the perpetrators of war crimes accountable. He is expected to provide updates at the Autumn and Winter Meetings and will produce a full report for the Vancouver Annual Session in July 2023.

Special Representatives on Elderly Issues and Civil Society represent PA at UN and OSCE events

OSCE PA Special Representative on Elderly Issues Paola Taverna (Italy) participated last week in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which took place in Rome on 15-17 June. Speaking at the side event "The coordination of ageing policies in Italy" on 17 June, Special Representative Taverna underlined the PA's added value in facilitating the exchange of best practices and sharing strategies amongst legislators to address this global challenge.

On 15 June, OSCE PA Special Representative on Civil So-

ciety Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) participated in the 2022 OSCE Asian Conference, which focused on the role of women in building confidence, peace and security, as well as climate related challenges to security and the role of civil society in meeting these challenges.

While in Vienna, Hadjiyianni also met with BiH Ambassador Sinisa Bencun, Chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation, for discussions on the role of civil society in the current security situation in Europe.