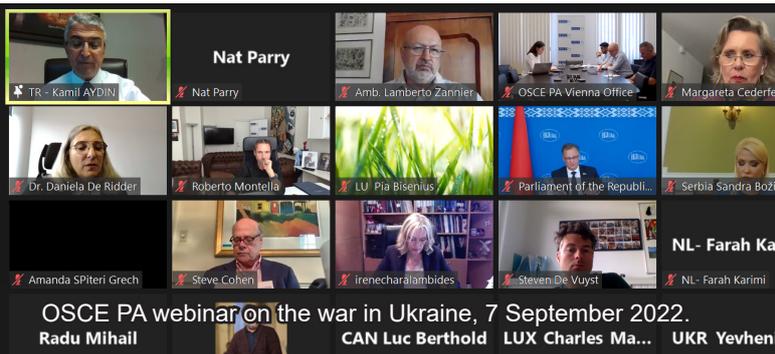


OSCE PA members emphasize importance of continuing engagement on Ukraine



In an online OSCE PA meeting today, participants expressed support for ending the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine and restoring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Remaining fully engaged on the issue was stressed as vital for parliamentarians both within the forum of the OSCE PA as well as in their national parliaments. Participants emphasized the need to not only end the war but also to continue to support Ukrainian refugees, and highlighted the role of the OSCE in facilitating dialogue. The topic of imprisoned war opponents in Russia was raised, as well as the need for parliamentarians to build economic and social resilience in light of what is expected to be a difficult winter.

Moderated by OSCE PA High-Level Expert Lamberto Zannier, a former Secretary General and High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE, the webinar featured addresses by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt, Head of Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA Mykyta Poturaiev, and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella. Panelists also included Kamil Aydin, Member of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA; Daniela De Ridder, OSCE PA Special Representative on Eastern Europe, and Steve Cohen, OSCE PA Special Representative on Political Prisoners.

The webinar, entitled "The Role of the OSCE in Addressing the Conflict in Ukraine and its Consequences," also featured participation from the OSCE Secretariat, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the UN High

Commissioner for Refugees, as well as many other OSCE parliamentarians who took the floor.

Participants discussed the diplomatic efforts of Türkiye, which has been working on three tracks: offering political assistance to Ukraine, facilitating the negotiation process, and promoting solutions to humanitarian problems, including by enabling grain shipments out of Ukrainian ports. The role of parliamentarians was emphasized as vital, especially in communicating to citizens of OSCE countries the reality of the situation.

The OSCE PA's Birmingham Declaration was highlighted as a useful tool in promoting an end to the war in Ukraine, in line with international commitments. The resolutions adopted in Birmingham strongly underlined the OSCE PA's strong commitment to Ukraine and the role of parliamentarians in addressing the impacts of the conflict.

In this regard, President Cederfelt discussed a number of appointments she has recently made, including German parliamentarian Daniela de Ridder as Special Representative on Eastern Europe, Austrian parliamentarian Reinhold Lopatka as Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine and UK parliamentarian John Whittingdale as Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine. Cederfelt emphasized that with the OSCE's engagement in Ukraine being reduced by the closure of the Special Monitoring Mission and field presence, the PA will continue to support Ukraine through all available channels.

EOM deadlines reminder

The International Secretariat kindly reminds all OSCE PA delegations that the deadline for registering for the election observation mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the 2 October general elections is 9 September 2022. The deadline to register for the election observation mission to the 8 November midterm elections in the United States is 23 September. Registration documents should be sent to the International Secretariat at eom@oscepa.dk.

President Cederfelt discusses security with US congressional staffers

OSCE PA President held a meeting in Stockholm on 31 August with a delegation of security policy advisers from the United States Senate and House of Representatives. The discussion focused on the need for continued support to Ukraine, as well as Sweden's bid to join NATO. The sides also discussed upcoming elections in Sweden and the US. President Cederfelt commended the contribution of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA, led by Steve Cohen who also serves as Special Representative on Political Prisoners.

