

## OSCE PA President Cederfelt and Secretary General Montella visit San Marino

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella were in San Marino this week for meetings with the Captains Regent Oscar Mina and Paolo Rondelli, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Luca Beccari, and the delegation of San Marino to the PA. Discussions focused on the war in Ukraine, climate change and security, and post-COVID recovery. Cederfelt praised the participation of San Marino in the OSCE, welcoming its active participation in OSCE PA election observation activities, and expressing appreciation for the work of the Head of San Marino's Delegation, Oscar Mina, in countering disinformation and propaganda.

Secretary General Montella thanked the Delegation of San Marino for its dedication to the OSCE PA and welcomed initiatives for increased involvement. The strong commitment of parliamentarians in San Marino to OSCE values is very much appreciated, Montella said, and will be strengthened further in the years to come with a number of joint activities.



OSCE PA delegation in San Marino on 12 September 2022

In meetings, the San Marino OSCE PA Delegation expressed desire to increase its engagement in the Assembly, and to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue among small states in the OSCE. The sides also discussed developments in San Marino's integration with Europe, with particular attention to the ongoing negotiations to reach an Association Agreement with the European Union. It was also noted that despite its small size, San Marino is currently hosting some 300 Ukrainian refugee families.

## VP Lopatka represents PA at UN Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism



Vladimir Voronkov and Reinhold Lopatka, New York, 8 September

OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) was in New York last week for the UN Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism, which took place 8-9 September.

In a speech to the UN body, Lopatka stressed that advancing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism is essential towards ensuring healing and post-traumatic growth, noting

that measures of recognition and remembrance symbolize a sense of public support from the State and society as a whole. It is also a crucial terrorism prevention measure, he said. Lopatka highlighted the Counter-Terrorism Parliamentary Co-ordination mechanism among parliamentary assemblies as an important tool, stressing that the OSCE PA is honored to act as the first President of this co-ordination platform.

In a bilateral meeting Thursday with Vladimir Voronkov, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Lopatka highlighted the essential need for co-ordinated global efforts to address top security threats, such as countering terrorism and violent extremism, and preventing radicalization. He also presented the PA's resolution on the Victims of Terrorism, which was adopted at July's Annual Session in Birmingham.

## VP Pons addresses OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague

Representing the OSCE PA at the Concluding Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) last week in Prague, PA Vice-President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) spoke about the vast economic and environmental challenges faced by OSCE citizens amidst the war in Ukraine, as well as the climate emergency, years of a public health crisis, and the urgent need for a fair and sustainable energy transition.

Focusing on the critical challenges posed by the war in Ukraine, Vice-President Pons urged an acceleration of the energy transition, emphasizing the need for governments to assist

citizens who are having trouble paying for energy bills. "At the height of an energy emergency that is greatly impacting citizens and their way of living, we all realize that such a transition can no longer be postponed," Pons said.

He added that parliamentarians have a critical role to play, as there is a need for all stakeholders and policymakers to work together at this juncture. The challenges are simply too big and too many to tackle alone, he said, noting the unique forum for dialogue provided by the OSCE in times of crisis and confrontation.

## Secretariat hosts visits by Austrian parliamentarians and Migration Committee Chair



Mark Pritchard, Victoria Chumenko and Farimah Daftary, Copenhagen, 8 September

OSCE PA Vice-President Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard, the recently appointed Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, visited the OSCE PA International Secretariat last week for meetings with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy SG Gustavo Pallares, Senior Advisor Farimah

Daftary and Research Assistant Victoria Chumenko. The discussions focused primarily on the work plan for the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, including possible field visits and upcoming meetings. Vice-President Pritchard recorded a brief video in which he highlighted his priorities as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee: <https://youtu.be/fDGKNgztoW4>

On Monday, the International Secretariat hosted a delegation of Austrian parliamentarians. OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Pallares, joined by other senior staff members, briefed the parliamentarians on the work of the Parliamentary Assembly, with discussions focusing heavily on the war in Ukraine, the situation in the Western Balkans, and prospects for enhancing inter-parliamentary dialogue on key issues.