OSCE PA and OSCE CiO anti-corruption Special Representatives visit Moldova

At the Moldovan Parliament, 21 November 2022

At National Anti- Corruption Centre, Chisinau, 21 November 2022

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) and Prof. Anita Ramasastry, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Corruption, met on Monday and Tuesday with representatives of the international community, the Moldovan parliament and government, civil society and the business community to discuss Moldova's anti-corruption efforts and areas for further improvement.

On Tuesday, Ramasastry and Charalambides participated in a stakeholder discussion on "Addressing Good Governance Challenges and Creating a Positive Investment Climate in Moldova." In their remarks at the opening session, the Special Representatives emphasized the importance of ensuring the implementation of best practices in promoting government policies to combat corruption. They also underlined the progress done by the Moldovan authorities in this regard so far.

Charalambides and Ramasastry were briefed by Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, Head of the Mission to Moldova, Pawel Wojtunik, EU High-Level Adviser on Anti-Corruption, and Satu Seppanen, EU High-Level Adviser on Justice and Prosecution Services. Meetings were held with representatives of the Moldovan government and parliament, as well as anti-corruption NGOs active in Moldova.

Talks focused on the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption legislative and institutional frameworks, persisting legal and operational challenges and how the OSCE can better support reform efforts in this context, with a special focus on good governance tools and digitalization. Interlocutors highlighted positive steps taken in this regard, as well as the need to keep the issue high on the national agenda and increase international co-operation on asset recovery.

The joint visit, the first of its kind in the context of preventing and fighting corruption, was initiated by the Polish OSCE Chairmanship and ran in parallel to a project organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on promoting good governance and a positive business climate in the OSCE region through digitalization and the use of open data.
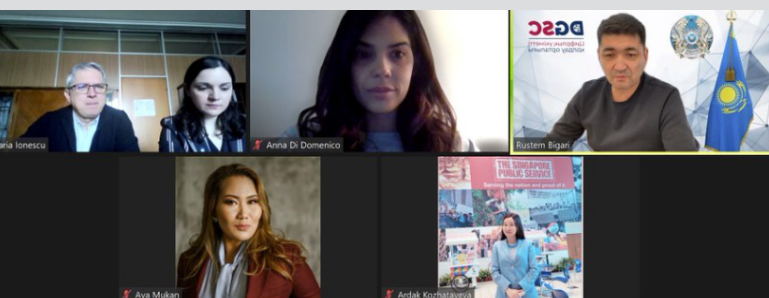
Addressing the challenges Moldova is facing, also as a country affected by Russia's war in Ukraine, the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities developed or extended specific extra-budgetary projects related also to anti-corruption activities and promotion of good governance and transparency. Projects are already supported by several participating States with the U.S., Germany and Poland being among the donors.

OSCE parliamentarians meet in Warsaw for 20th Autumn Meeting

Around 200 parliamentarians are expected to participate in the 20th Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 24 to 26 November in Warsaw. Taking place at at Poland's Parliament, the meeting will include an inaugural session featuring high-level speeches from host officials, as well as a Parliamentary Conference held under the theme "The War in Ukraine: The Role of the OSCE and National Parliaments." All three sessions of the Parliamentary Conference will include an open debate and will be streamed live at www.oscepa.org.
Follow the meeting on social media with the hashtag #OSCEPAWarsaw22.

Special Representative Mihail holds meeting on Kazakhstan digital transformation journey

On Tuesday, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Digital Agenda, Head of the Romanian Delegation Radu-Mihai Mihail, held an online meeting with Rustem Bigari, CEO of the Digital Government Support Center of Kazakhstan.

Discussions focused on the country's successful digital transformation over recent years and the government's programmes and plans to increase digitalization in the public administration, with the aim of providing higher quality services to the citizens, allowing companies to reduce the cost of interaction with the state and access the public IT market, and ensuring technological sovereignty of the state and a new level of cybersecurity.

Mihail also shared other OSCE countries' experiences and lessons learned and highlighted the role of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly in promoting co-operation and information exchange.