

## High-level OSCE PA visit to Germany underlines importance of continued engagement

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella visited Germany last week where they met with President of the Bundestag Bärbel Bas, Minister of State for Europe and Climate Anna Lührmann, State Secretary Thomas Hitschler, and the German Delegation to the PA. Meetings also took place with the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and leaders of various political party factions in parliament. Cederfelt and Montella expressed appreciation for the active role of Germany within the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly, noting that this engagement is needed more than ever in order to uphold the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

The Russian Federation's war in Ukraine dominated discussions, with views exchanged on ways for the OSCE PA to contribute to ending the war. President Cederfelt highlighted the important work being done by German parliamentarians in the OSCE PA, including Special Representative on South East Europe Michael Link and Special Representative on Eastern Europe Daniela De Ridder, as well as many others who actively par-



ticipate in statutory meetings and election observation missions. She added that German engagement in the OSCE PA has been instrumental in contributing to constructive dialogue, including through the Leinsweiler Seminar series, which will be relaunched in the upcoming year. Montella also underlined the value of Germany's contribution, expressing in particular appreciation for hosting Assembly meetings on several occasions. Cederfelt and Montella also met with the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) and were supported in the visit by Freyja Koci and Tim Knoblaue from the Secretariat.

## Flipping Book timeline: OSCE PA Action on Ukraine 2014-2022

Demonstrating the steadfast commitment the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has shown to Ukraine and in defending the principles and values of the OSCE, the PA has published an interactive timeline of all actions the Assembly has taken since 2014 in relation to the war in Ukraine. Beginning with a presidential statement issued in January 2014 about the deepening crisis in Kyiv and covering all OSCE PA field visits, diplomatic initiatives, debates, resolutions, and major speeches, the timeline is intended to demonstrate the ongoing relevance of multilateral engagement in support of Ukraine and in defense of the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. To view the document, please click here: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/54307392/>

## Migration Committee's visit to Czech Republic focuses on meeting Ukrainian refugees' needs

Members of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by Committee Chair Mark Pritchard (UK), completed a three-day field visit to Prague on 16 December, hosted by the OSCE PA's Czech Delegation and the Chamber of Deputies. Meeting a range of ministers, legislators, stakeholders and policy advocates, the committee members identified best practices in the response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis as well as areas for improvement.

The committee members met with Czech parliamentarians including the Vice-President of the lower chamber Olga Richterová, various parliamentary committees, and officials from relevant ministries, as well as local authorities, including the Mayor of Prague Zdeněk Hřib. They visited the Regional Centre for Assistance and Help to Ukraine (KACPU) in Prague and an elementary school where Ukrainian children are enrolled.

In meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee members focused on critical areas such as accommodation, access to education, employment, health care, social services, protection of refu-



gees in vulnerable categories, and prevention of human trafficking.

In addition to Pritchard, the delegation included Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement, and Georgios Varemenos (Greece), Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Lucie Potůčková, Hayato Josef Okamura and Jana Pastuchová from the Czech PA Delegation also participated in some of the meetings. The visit was supported by Farimah Daftary and Victoria Chumenko from the Secretariat.

## Season's Greetings from OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella



2022 has been a year of great tragedy and sorrow. At the close of this harrowing year, my thoughts are with the people of Ukraine suffering the horrors of war, the millions of refugees, the children who have been robbed of their childhood. My sincere hope is that this war is brought to a speedy end and that peace, justice, security and territorial integrity are restored in Ukraine.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to thank all OSCE parliamentarians and staff for their continued dedication to upholding the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. I look forward to our close co-operation in the coming year.

Happy holidays. - Secretary General Roberto Montella