

## In speech to OSCE Permanent Council, PA President Cederfelt urges peace in Ukraine



Margareta Cederfelt addresses the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 26 January 2023 (Photo: Micky Kroell/OSCE)

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 26 January, stating that the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine constitutes the most prominent threat to the foundation on which the OSCE was founded. She noted that the PA will continue to put collective pressure to pursue accountability for atrocities committed in Ukraine, and regretted that diplomacy has not been successful in ending the war. The PA, she said, is active in promoting a return to peace in conformity with international law and the Helsinki principles.

"There is a great desire within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to support Ukraine to the best of our ability in this struggle for its independence, sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders, and the dignity of its people," President Cederfelt said. "Our goal as members of the PA is to speak out against the ongoing war crimes, keep ourselves informed and act as an alarm bell wherever we are."

Cederfelt also informed the ambassadors about the OSCE PA's upcoming Winter Meeting and its ongoing activities related to the Ukraine war. While in Vienna, the President, accompanied by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, met with Igor Djundev, the Permanent Representative of North Macedonia, which this year is serving as Chair of the OSCE.

She held a number of other bilateral meetings, including with OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Valiant Richey, and the Permanent Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, European Union, Poland, Serbia, Sweden, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and the United States.

## OSCE PA co-ordinates counter-terrorism efforts with other parliamentary assemblies



Reinhold Lopatka addresses counter-terrorism conference in Doha, 30 January 2023 (Photo: UNOCT)

Organized jointly by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the OSCE PA, the Third Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies brought together 16 international parliamentary assemblies in Doha this week to facilitate a joint review of existing counter-terrorism trends and efforts. OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) opened the conference Monday morning with a speech focusing on the work of parliamentarians in building trust, sharing best practices and promoting policy convergence.

As the first chair of the recently established Co-ordination Mechanism among Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism, the CCT presided over the meeting in conjunction with the UNOCT. Special attention was focused on recent developments in the Sahel region and on gender mainstreaming in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.

Intervening in debate, CCT member Tsogtbaatar Damdin (Mongolia) said that implementing human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive responses is critical to ensure the success of our joint counter-terrorism actions. With various regional parliamentary assemblies represented, participants reviewed relevant activities, aligned their future plans and considered a number of future joint initiatives. In a keynote address, former CCT Chair Makis Voridis – currently Minister of Interior in Greece – stressed that each state can do better in ensuring that its borders remain wide open to citizens and commerce, but firmly closed to criminals and terrorists. In this regard, the 2019 OSCE PA Oversight Initiative on Border Security and Information Sharing was highlighted as a best practice which could be replicated by other parliamentary assemblies across the globe.

## SG Montella visits Washington for meetings with OSCE PA's US Delegation



Roberto Montella in a group photo with Members of Congress and Ukrainian and Baltic State parliamentarians, 31 January

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella is in Washington, DC, this week for meetings with members of the United States' OSCE PA Delegation and members of the Helsinki Commission in preparation for the Winter Meeting later this month. He has met with Head of Delegation Ben Cardin, who also serves as OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance; OSCE PA Vice-President Roger Wicker; Steve Cohen, who serves as Deputy Head of Delegation and Special Representative on Political Prisoners; Robert Aderholt, former PA Vice-President of the PA, and Joe Wilson, who currently serves as Ranking Member of the Helsinki Commission.



Steve Cohen and Roberto Montella in a meeting in Washington, 31 January

In discussions, the main focus was on how to best support Ukraine against the Russian Federation's war of aggression. Montella expressed appreciation for the overwhelming commitment of the U.S. Delegation to fully participate in the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting, being held in Vienna on 23-24 February, which he said demonstrates a strong commitment to the values and principles of the OSCE. Other topics included the ongoing reform process of the organization and ways to further strengthen the International Secretariat in its service to members of parliament.

While in Washington, Montella will attend the annual National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday.