

## OSCE PA Bureau meets in Copenhagen for discussions on Ukraine and upcoming work



Artur Gerasymov addresses OSCE PA Bureau, 24 April 2023

Chaired by PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), the Bureau of the OSCE PA met Monday at the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) to discuss the draft reports and draft resolutions from the three committee rapporteurs in advance of the Annual Session this summer in Vancouver, as well as current international developments and internal OSCE PA matters. With the backdrop of the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine, OSCE parliamentarians debated the role of the OSCE in promoting peace and security in Europe, underlining the need for strengthening the organization so that it is able to deal effectively with challenges.

Following an introduction by President Cederfelt, First Committee Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania) noted that his draft report and draft resolution will focus primarily on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, welcoming Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's ten-point programme for peace and calling for unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces from all of Ukraine's territory. Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) described the scope of her draft report and draft resolution, highlighting the wide range of topics covered, including reconstruction

and energy security. Third Committee Rapporteur Johan Buser (Sweden) called for placing the victims of war at the center of the OSCE's focus, and highlighted other issues including human rights principles in the digital agenda, the implications of artificial intelligence, and attacks on civil society.

Bureau members provided feedback on the preliminary reports and draft resolutions, offering suggestions for strengthening language and demonstrating greater urgency on ensuring that the OSCE is able to carry out its mandate. Other issues highlighted by members included migration, COVID-19 recovery, misinformation on social media, the Ukrainian refugee crisis, the occupation of Georgian territory, and increased tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Second Committee Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) joined by video from Kyiv to brief the Bureau on the Ukrainian Delegation's priorities, including its intention to pursue measures to punish OSCE participating States that commit grave breaches of the Helsinki Final Act through full-scale military invasions. The Bureau heard reports on upcoming PA meetings, Ad Hoc Committees, and Special Representatives.

The Bureau meeting also included a discussion of internal administrative and financial questions, including possible increases to the budget and whether to perform a business audit of the organization in addition to the financial audit that already takes place on an annual basis. An outside, independent, professional auditor from Deloitte reported to the Bureau, noting that there are no qualifications that his firm has found and that the OSCE PA's financial situation is in line with international standards. OSCE PA Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen (Denmark) presented a report for the 2023-2024 budget, and the Bureau discussed the organization's finances.

## Leaders of OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration visit International Secretariat



OSCE Court judges visit International Secretariat, 25 April 2023

On Tuesday, the OSCE PA International Secretariat hosted a meeting with Emmanuel Decaux and Erkki Kourula, the President and Vice-President, respectively, of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to hear about the court's work.

The meeting was initiated by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and included the participation of Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania), Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA First Committee, as well as Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and several other PA staff members. Christa Allot, Executive Officer at the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, also participated.

The discussion focused on the role of the court within the OSCE and the need for governments to pay more attention to the toolbox that the organization offers. There was an exchange of views on whether to codify the OSCE's legal personality and brainstorming on ways to increase awareness of the court's services, including by utilizing OSCE parliamentarians.

## Former PA Presidents visit Kyiv and Bucha in solidarity with Ukrainian people

In support of the current OSCE PA leadership, a delegation of former Assembly presidents visited Ukraine this week to demonstrate sympathy and solidarity with the Ukrainian people. The ex-presidents George Tsereteli (2017-2020), Petros Efthymiou (2010-2012) and Joao Soares (2008-2010) were invited by the majority leadership in the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) and visited Kyiv and Bucha. The purpose of the visit was to contribute to peace and security in the country, express commitment to Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and to follow up on previous visits the presidents conducted while members of the OSCE PA.

The delegation met with First Deputy Speaker Oleksandr Korniyenko, Parliamentary Majority Leader Davyd Arakhamia,



Former PA Presidents with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv, 25 April 2023

Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Olga Stefanishyna, and OSCE PA Second Committee Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov. In meetings, the delegation discussed the current state of warfare, the exceptional resilience of the Ukrainian people, the unity of the international community, and the way ahead for the country.