

President Cederfelt participates in transatlantic legislators' meeting

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) joined the 86th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, held in Stockholm on 16 and 17 June. With the topics of discussion including transatlantic relations and EU-NATO co-operation, the meeting featured the participation of members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, including Victoria Spartz, who serves on the US Delegation to the OSCE PA.

Conscious of the enormous geopolitical challenges currently confronting the international rules-based order, the primary focus of the meeting was the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, with participants stressing the need to restore peace, prosperity, stability, and fundamental rights. President Cederfelt highlighted the long-standing support for Ukraine within the OSCE PA, particularly since 2014 and Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. The OSCE PA, she said, has continuously condemned Russia's war against Ukraine in the strongest terms and pushed for peace based on Ukraine's right to its internationally recognized territory and independence. She also stressed the OSCE PA's support for holding Russian President Vladimir Putin accountable for war crimes against Ukraine,



Victoria Spartz and Margareta Cederfelt

including the forcible deportations of Ukrainian children from parts of Ukraine temporarily controlled by Russia.

President Cederfelt also praised the active participation of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA and highlighted more broadly the importance of strong transatlantic relations, including co-operation with the EU. She discussed the positive co-operation between OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and the EU, as well as the importance of OSCE Missions for supporting development of rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights. She also highlighted the regrettable closing of OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

OSCE PA Vancouver Annual Session reminders

With the 20th OSCE PA Annual Session quickly approaching, OSCE PA Delegations are kindly reminded that the deadline for amendments to Supplementary Items is 23 June 2023. Delegates are also encouraged to post Annual Session-related news on their social media channels with the hashtag #OSCEPAVancouver23.

The deadline for members of the media to register for the Annual Session is Monday 26 June.

PA webinar highlights parliamentarians' role in Youth, Peace and Security agenda

On 15 June, the PA hosted a web dialogue on "Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Role of Parliamentarians" organized by the Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi (Netherlands). The event brought together members of parliament and experts for a discussion on the critical role of young people in promoting peace and security, as well as on the implementation of UN SCR 2250.

In welcoming participants, Special Representative Karimi stressed the need to ensure safety and welfare of youth and urged for recommendations included in the UN SCR 2250 to be translated into action. She noted that it is crucial for parliamentarians to recognize the power and potential that lies within the youth. In her address, President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) emphasized the need for broader engagement of young people in decision-making processes.

Members of the OSCE PA had the opportunity to hear from experts and professionals on the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda. The meeting featured a video address by UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, and keynote presentations from Programme Management Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Gracia-Romeral Ortiz Quintilla, National Coordinator for Youth, Peace and Security in Finland Anu Apo and President of Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security Marjus Cevoli.

Participants highlighted the significance of the issues of youth engagement in light of current and emerging global and regional challenges, including increasing tensions and armed conflicts. The situation of youth in Ukraine was also highlighted, including the implications for political participation of young people and the need for wide and inclusive discussions on policies concerning them.

Vice-President Pons represents OSCE PA at MCSD in Marseille

OSCE PA Vice-President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) participated in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Marseille last week, emphasizing that parliamentarians play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development goals and addressing environmental challenges. Pons stressed the need to build co-operation based on complementarity, highlighting the MCSD's and the PA's mutual focus on the environmental and sustainable development agenda and shaping the global response to pollution, loss of biodiversity and climate change.



Pere Joan Pons addresses MCSD on 15 June 2023.