

OSCE PA Second Committee leadership meets to discuss priorities for work ahead

The leaders of the OSCE PA's Second Committee – Chair Azay Guliyev, Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov and Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler – met on Tuesday with OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides and the OSCE's Esra Buttanri for a discussion on priorities in the economic and environmental dimension. In an online meeting chaired by Guliyev, the participants discussed preparations for upcoming activities and ongoing committee work, with a focus on climate change, artificial intelligence, plastic pollution, and food and water security. Rapporteur Kugler also stressed the importance of energy security, underlining that parliaments need to ensure that there is safe and affordable energy for all.

Regarding climate change, the focus was on ensuring implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement and preparations for the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in the United Arab Emirates. Technology such as carbon capture was highlighted as an important component of mitigating climate change, but adaptation was also stressed as essential. Buttanri, representing the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), briefed Second Committee members on her office's work on projects related to climate change, such as wild-fire risk reduction and trainings for field exercises in combating wildfires, as well as promoting cross-border co-operation.

Special Representative Charalambides shared her experience participating – together with Vice-Chair Gerasymov – in the



Second Committee leaders meet online, 26 September 2023.

Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, held in Prague earlier this month. Charalambides noted that she and Gerasymov actively participated in the forum, underscoring the vital role of national parliaments in preventing corruption and advocating for robust institutions with accountability measures, as well as addressing the impact of artificial intelligence on security, democracy and privacy.

Participants concurred that more attention must be placed on AI, stressing in particular the need for policy-makers to urgently develop the appropriate regulatory framework for this fast-evolving technology.

Situation in South Caucasus in focus as preparations for Autumn Meeting continue

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Pia Kauma
@PiaKauma

In recent days I've spoken w/ Head of 🇦🇿 Delegation to OSCE PA @AzayGuliyev & Head of 🇷🇺 Delegation @Khandanyan_S to discuss situation in #Karabakh.

As @OSCEPA President I continue to follow the situation and urge addressing the ethnic Armenian population's rights and security.

12:22 PM · Sep 22, 2023 from Helsinki, Finland · 625 Views

In recent days, the Assembly leadership has been focused on the South Caucasus, with OSCE PA President Pia Kauma

(Finland) holding conversations with the Heads of Delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia to discuss the current situation in Karabakh. "As @OSCEPA President," Kauma tweeted, "I continue to follow the situation and urge addressing the ethnic Armenian population's rights and security."

In an article at the Norwegian Parliament's website and shared on Facebook, the OSCE PA's recently appointed Special Representative on South Caucasus, Kari Henriksen (Norway), stated that with the ongoing challenges in the region she looks forward to taking on her important assignment on behalf of the Assembly. Because the situation is dramatic and unpredictable, the OSCE PA's contribution is especially important, she said.

Next week, the PA's Bureau will meet online to discuss the current situation ahead of the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting, scheduled to take place 18-20 November in Yerevan, Armenia.

New Special Representative on Central Asia begins series of bilateral discussions

Following her appointment as OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia by President Pia Kauma (Finland) earlier this month, Farah Karimi (The Netherlands) started off her new mandate by holding online discussions with the delegations of Uzbekistan and Mongolia on Monday to hear what their priorities are, how the OSCE PA can best support them and to explore issues of mutual concern and areas where intra-regional co-operation can be enhanced. Online meetings with the other four PA Central Asian delegations – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan – are to follow.

Karimi also plans to meet with the Central Asian Heads of Permanent Missions to the OSCE in Vienna on 5-6 October and to also engage with the CPC and OSCE field operations in the region online at a later date.



Farah Karimi meets with members of Uzbekistan's OSCE PA Delegation on 25 September.