

High-level OSCE PA delegation focuses on regional co-operation in visit to South Caucasus



Pia Kauma, Kari Henriksen and Roberto Montella meet with President Ilham Aliyev in Baku, 13 November 2023.

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), Special Representative on South Caucasus Kari Henriksen (Norway) and Secretary General Roberto Montella are on a three-country tour of the South Caucasus this week, meeting with leaders of the region ahead of the Assembly's Autumn Meeting taking place in Yerevan from 18-20 November.

In a visit to Azerbaijan that wrapped up yesterday, the PA delegation discussed with the nation's political leadership the need to reach a full settlement with Armenia following the restoration of control of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in September. Constructive engagement is important for moving forward with a peace agreement and normalization of ties, the PA leaders said,

noting that Azerbaijan's strong participation in the OSCE PA is a positive sign for multilateral diplomacy and dialogue in the region.

President Kauma, Special Representative Henriksen and SG Montella discussed the current situation with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Speaker of the Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova, Deputy Foreign Minister Fariz Rzayev, and the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE PA, headed by Azay Guliyev. They also met with representatives of the international community.

Today, they are in Tbilisi, meeting with Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, Chairman of the Parliament Shalva Papuashvili, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, Foreign Minister Iliia Darchiashvili, Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze, and the OSCE PA's Georgian Delegation, headed by Nikoloz Samkharadze. The discussions focus on the co-operation between Georgia and the OSCE, as well as the challenges posed by the ongoing occupation of Georgia's sovereign territory.

The South Caucasus visit will conclude with a visit to Yerevan, where the PA delegation will meet with the nation's political leaders and discuss the current challenges for Armenia, in particular regarding humanitarian issues.

Updated programme for 2023 Autumn Meeting

An updated programme for the 21st Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA, to be held 18-20 November in Yerevan, is available here: <https://www.oscepa.org/en/meetings/autumn-meetings/upcoming-autumn-meeting>

Follow the meeting on social media with the hashtag #OSCEPAYerevan23.

OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians participates in CiO Youth Forum in Skopje

On Tuesday, members of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians participated in the Youth Forum hosted by the OSCE 2023 Chairpersonship of North Macedonia in Skopje. Under the theme "Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Creating a Sustainable Future in the OSCE Region," the forum brought together young entrepreneurs from across the OSCE region to explore innovative solutions addressing social and environmental issues within their communities.

The Network of Young Parliamentarians was represented

by Chair David Stögmüller (Austria), Vice-Chair Aleksander Stokkebø (Norway), and member Iskren Mitev (Bulgaria).

On the sidelines of the forum, the Network hosted a side event titled "Youth-Led Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Shaping Parliamentary Agendas," aiming to discuss and develop a set of recommendations on how young individuals can collaboratively engage with parliamentarians in policy development, and stimulate synergy between young entrepreneurs, innovators, and lawmakers.

Kugler moderates OSCE EEDIM session, urges co-operation on environmental threats

On Monday, Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) moderated a session of the OSCE's 2023 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna. Focused on strengthening international co-operation in addressing environmental challenges, the panel included experts and practitioners from governments and international organizations who discussed key threats in the OSCE region and their impact on citizens' security.

In her opening remarks, Kugler noted that addressing environmental threats is both a moral imperative and a pragmatic necessity. "Collaboration on disaster management and sharing of best practices among OSCE participating States can enhance the effectiveness of our responses, while also

building mutual trust through practical co-operation," she said. Recalling the OSCE PA Declaration adopted in Vancouver in July, she urged OSCE governments to engage in cross-border dialogue to address transboundary pollution, hazardous waste management, and wildfires, as well as the threat posed to the environment by war.

Speakers at the session included Svitlana Andrushchenko, Director of the Reform Support Office at the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, Aleksandre Rukhadze from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Khusrav Sharifov, Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Specialist at the UNDP in Istanbul, and Ikromjon Mamadov, Director of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand, Tajikistan.

PA's migration committee holds online meetings focused on sharing best practices

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration held a panel discussion on 9 November regarding Canada's approach to integrating newcomers. Chair Daniela De Ridder (Germany) highlighted elements of best practice in Canada and underlined the advantages of successful integration. Hedy Fry, Head of Canada's Delegation to the PA, noted that as a nation built by immigrants, Canada places a high value on welcoming newcomers. The panel included interventions by representatives of academia, civil society and government agencies, explaining

the services that Canada offers to refugees, including, since 2011, specific sponsorship programmes for LGBTQI+ persons, which start before arrival and during each stage of the settlement process in order to make sure they are able to navigate the Canadian system and succeed in society.

On 10 November, Chair De Ridder held an internal co-ordination meeting with ODIHR and the Office of the Co-ordinator OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) to share upcoming plans and discuss areas for co-operation.