

OSCE PA Bureau meets in Skopje ahead of the OSCE's 30th Ministerial Council



OSCE PA Bureau members meet in Skopje on 29 November.

The OSCE PA's Bureau met Wednesday in Skopje on the eve of the OSCE's 30th Ministerial Council for discussions on the future of the OSCE and priorities of the Assembly for the year ahead. OSCE PA's Special Representative in Vienna, Amb. Miodrag Pančeski briefed the Bureau on the most recent developments related to the Ministerial Council meeting, in particular the tentative agreement reached on the Maltese 2024 OSCE Chairmanship. Discussions also focused on other challenges

facing the OSCE, including the lack of consensus on four top positions in the organization and the prospects for adopting a unified budget.

President Kauma briefed members about the key messages she will deliver at tomorrow's Ministerial Council, including the impact of Russia's full-scale invasion and ongoing war against Ukraine and the role of parliamentarians of the OSCE PA in this challenging time for the organization.

On the agenda were also activities and Assembly priorities for 2024, including a busy year of election observation. In this regard, members touched upon the challenges associated with prioritizing and budgeting for election observation missions, and explored strategies to enhance the efficiency of these activities.

They also discussed possible visits to OSCE field operations and highlighted areas that need continued focus by OSCE parliamentarians. On Thursday, President Kauma will deliver opening remarks at the Ministerial Council.

Deloitte team and PA Treasurer meet at International Secretariat in Copenhagen



Johan Büser, Gustavo Pallares and Roberto Montella meet in Copenhagen with Deloitte auditor on 23 November.

OSCE PA Treasurer Johan Büser, Secretary General Roberto Montella and Deputy Secretary General Gustavo

Pallares met on 23 November with Deloitte auditors to receive an update on the conduct of the ongoing Integrated Financial-Business-Performance Audit of the Assembly. Deloitte offered an overview of the international standard used in their audit process and described the scope of their work, providing an overview of specific areas covered in the performance audit. Treasurer Büser indicated that the audit results and outcomes will be delivered in a formal report to the Standing Committee during the 2024 Winter Meeting, and that there would be follow-up on areas of strengths and weaknesses.

Aldag presents OSCE PA's work on plastic pollution at Reykjavik symposium

On 22 November, John Aldag (Canada) participated in the Second International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region, presenting OSCE PA work on plastic pollution including the resolution he authored on microplastic and nanoplastic pollution adopted last July in Vancouver. Aldag noted that the PA's resolution is the first to express concern about the presence of micro and nano plastics in the Arctic, and that by including it in the Vancouver Declaration, the OSCE PA recognized the disproportionate impacts of plastic pollution on coastal communities, as well as the particular consequences for indigenous peoples.

The first step towards tackling micro and nano plastic pollution is acquiring the knowledge to do so, Aldag said, stressing the need to fund research to advance knowledge and address current gaps in understanding. The OSCE PA, he pointed out, recognizes the importance of addressing microplastic and nanoplastic pollution and its myriad consequences, noting that the Vancouver Declaration provides important ideas for supporting the protection of the marine environment, one of which is to ensure collaboration and co-ordinated action among relevant stakeholders – including lawmakers, international organizations, and the scientific community.

Young Parliamentarians Vice-Chair participates in Ashgabat climate change conference

Vice-Chair of OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians Aleksander Stokkebø (Norway) addressed the conference "Role of Youth in Addressing Climate Change" in Turkmenistan on 22 November, highlighting the contribution of young MPs in amplifying youth voices for shaping a sustainable future. The global consequences of inaction underscore the indispensability of youth voices in shaping a sustainable future, Stokkebø said, noting that young activists are leading the charge against environmental degradation and demanding accountability. To more effectively involve young people, he said, the OSCE PA has established a network of young parliamentarians to foster collaboration, share expertise, and generate innovative proposals to address global challenges.

The conference in Turkmenistan was co-hosted by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat and the Government of Turkmeni-



Aleksander Stokkebø addresses the Ashgabat climate change conference by video link, 22 November.

stan, and featured discussions on OSCE initiatives in promoting the role of youth in the climate agenda, issues related to climate change in Central Asia, and the role of youth in tackling the climate crisis.