

Parliamentarians highlight OSCE contributions in visit to Serbia



OSCE PA Members in Belgrade, 10 October 2024

During a two-day visit to Belgrade last week, a delegation of OSCE parliamentarians headed by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) noted the unique and continued value of the OSCE's presence in and co-operation with Serbia.

The visit, taking place on 10-11 October, included meetings with senior officials including Speaker of the National Assembly Ana Brnabic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Ivica Dacic, and Members of Serbia's delegation to the OSCE PA.

Ambassador Jan Braathu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, welcomed the 14 Members of Parliament from 12 countries. The delegation received a full briefing on work by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, including projects related to democratization, security co-operation, rule of law and other topics.

In conversations with state authorities, the parliamentary delegation welcomed Serbia's active engagement with the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly. They discussed fields of work in which the OSCE Mission to Serbia's work could be particularly impactful. Members also highlighted the usefulness of deepening co-operation among countries in South East Europe.

The OSCE PA delegation included three Vice-Presidents including the Assembly's Special Representative on South East Europe, Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), and parliamentarians from Belarus, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland and Türkiye. The visit to Serbia was the first of an expected series of visits by parliamentarians to countries hosting an OSCE presence.

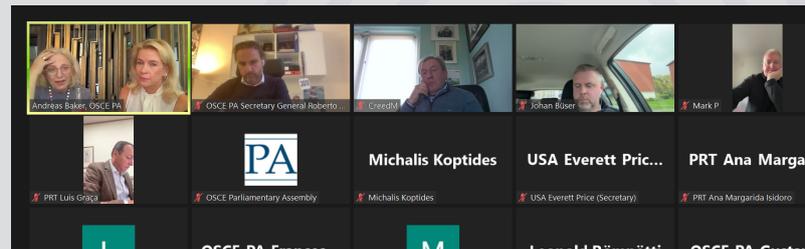
Bucharest Annual Session final report available online

The final report of the OSCE PA's 31st Annual Session in Bucharest has been published in PDF and FlippingBook format. To download the report or view it as a FlippingBook, please visit: <https://www.oscepa.org/en/meetings/annual-sessions/previous-annual-session>

PA leaders discuss Assembly's role and possible contribution with respect to Middle East

An online meeting of the OSCE PA President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary General was convened on 10 October to discuss various proposals for further action that were raised during the 4 October Mediterranean Forum in Dublin. Chaired by President Pia Kauma, the meeting focused on developing practical avenues for engagement by the OSCE PA in de-escalating the situation in the Middle East, including through increased co-operation with other international and multilateral stakeholders.

In the discussion, Members raised ideas for ways to enhance parliamentary and executive diplomacy to prevent further escalation. While the OSCE PA leadership agreed that, due to its broader implications, the situation requires the sustained effort of the international community, Members also raised practical con-



siderations in terms of PA's potential added value and ensuring that the PA's efforts are targeted in a way to have the most political impact, while also ensuring that other priority areas of the OSCE PA's work are not neglected. The leadership agreed to continue discussions on the topic.

EOM leadership meets online ahead of deployment to Moldova

Lucie Potůčková (Czechia), Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission to Moldova, and Johan Büser (Sweden), Head of the OSCE PA delegation of observers, held an online meeting on Monday with counterparts from the OSCE/ODIHR, the European Parliament, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. OSCE/ODIHR Head of Mission Urszula Gacek provided a preliminary briefing on the situation in Moldova ahead of election day, describing the campaign environment for both the presidential election and the constitutional referendum.

Nearly 40 OSCE parliamentarians from 15 countries are deploying to Moldova to observe the 20 October election. Togeth-

er with partners from ODIHR, the EP and PACE, it is expected that the international election observation mission will total more than 300 observers in the country. Observers will be comprehensively briefed before deploying for election day observation. If needed, a second round of the presidential election will be held on 3 November 2024.

The mission is assessing the elections against democratic commitments contained in the OSCE's 1990 Copenhagen Document, with a focus on fundamental components of the electoral process and election administration. The findings of the election observation mission will be presented at a press conference in Chisinau on 21 October.

Vice-Presidents Poturaiev and Hadjiyianni participate in Warsaw HDC

The OSCE PA was represented at the OSCE's Human Dimension Conference (HDC) in Warsaw by Vice-Presidents Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine) and Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus). The HDC, organized by the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship with the support of the OSCE/ODIHR, took place 30 September to

11 October, and featured discussions on Russia's war against Ukraine, media freedom, and role of civil society. Vice-President Hadjiyianni participated in a discussion on national minorities and Vice-President Poturaiev was active in sessions regarding the devastating impacts of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

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