

## OSCE PA President Kauma and SG Montella meet Pope Francis at the Vatican



Roberto Montella, Pope Francis, Pia Kauma and Lamberto Zannier, Vatican City, 23 November 2024

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Pia Kauma (Finland) met on 23 November with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican, accompanied by Secretary General Roberto Montella

and Ambassador Lamberto Zannier. The meeting focused on the vital role of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing global conflicts, with an emphasis on dialogue as a powerful tool for resolving tensions and fostering international co-operation.

In the context of the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, the delegation discussed how parliamentary diplomacy can bridge divides, build trust, and promote peaceful solutions.

On 22 November, President Kauma also met with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States at the Holy See's Secretariat, to discuss the Holy See's role within the OSCE and the broader challenges facing the OSCE region.

## Conference on Parliamentary Diplomacy opens in Ashgabat

On 27-28 November 2024 the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan host an international conference in Ashgabat on "Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Dialogue as a Tool for Building Bridges for a Secure and Peaceful Future". For more information, please visit [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)

## President Kauma and Special Representative Karimi hold talks in Ashgabat

Ahead of the Conference on Parliamentary Diplomacy taking place this week in Turkmenistan, PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Special Representative on Central Asia Farah Karimi (Netherlands) held a number of meetings in Ashgabat. President Kauma held a high-level meeting with President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, with discussions focusing on sustainable development and climate resilience.

Meetings with Speaker of Parliament Dunyagozel Gulmanova and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, focused on the role of parliamentary diplomacy and the significance of long-term fruitful co-operation between Turkmenistan and the OSCE.

They were welcomed Tuesday by Head of the OSCE Cen-



OSCE PA delegation meets with Speaker Dunyagozel Gulmanova, Ashgabat, 26 November 2024

tre in Ashgabat Amb. John MacGregor and briefed about the ongoing activities of the Centre in recent years. Following an in-depth discussion, President Kauma and Amb. MacGregor planted a tree in the new premises of the Centre as a contribution to tackling climate change impacts.

## Special Rapporteurs appointed to the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) has appointed three Special Rapporteurs to the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU), tasked with promoting the nation's resilience in all dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive security framework.

Third Committee Chair Lucie Potůčková (Czechia) was appointed PSTU Special Rapporteur to assist in the promotion of democratic institutions, governance and the rule of law in Ukraine. Mati Raidma, Head of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA, was appointed Special Rapporteur with particular emphasis on societal aspects of resilience including grassroots and community support, reintegration of war veterans, empowering a new generation of resilience builders, and bolstering

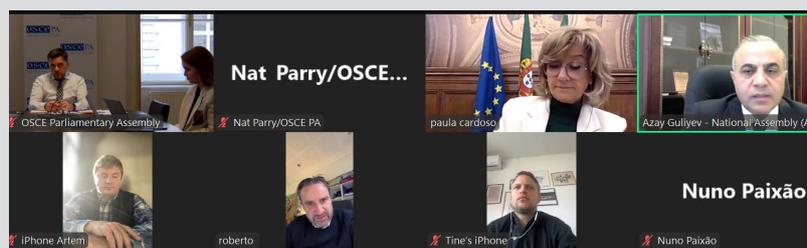
resilience of vital services including critical infrastructure.

Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), who serves as Third Committee Rapporteur, was appointed PSTU Special Rapporteur to focus on promoting accountability for violations of OSCE commitments, abuses of human rights, breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as possible war crimes including with respect to the forced relocation of Ukrainian children, detained civilians and wartime sexual violence.

The Special Rapporteurs will report at the meetings of the PSTU to inform other members of recent developments, activities, achievements and challenges, as well as work to promote the implementation in co-operation with parliaments of OSCE participating States and other relevant actors.

## Second Committee leadership meets online to discuss ongoing work

Chaired by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) and featuring participation of Vice-Chair Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), Rapporteur Paula Cardoso (Portugal) and Secretary General Roberto Montella, the PA's Second Committee met on Monday to discuss ongoing work. In focus of the online meeting were artificial intelligence and the climate crisis. Special Representative on Climate Change Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and Special Rep on Artificial Intelligence Tine Novak (Slovenia) also contributed to the discussion, sharing their priorities for the work ahead. Developing strong approaches to AI, climate, sustainable development and migration management were all highlighted as vital to maximize



the output of the OSCE PA's work in the economic and environmental dimension.

For further information contact Head of Communications and Press Nat Parry at +45 33 37 80 40 or email [nat@oscepa.dk](mailto:nat@oscepa.dk) | [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)