

OSCE parliamentary conference brings together over 100 participants in Ashgabat



Ashgabat Conference, Turkmenistan, 27 November 2024

The OSCE PA and the Mejlis of Turkmenistan convened over 100 participants, including parliamentarians from 18 countries, international experts, and high-level speakers, for the second Ashgabat Conference on “Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Dialogue as a Tool for Building Bridges for a Secure and Peaceful Future.” Held on 27-28 November in Ashgabat, the conference focused on the pivotal role of dialogue and co-operation in addressing long-term global challenges.

The two-day event commenced with welcoming addresses by Pia Kauma (Finland), President of the OSCE PA; Dunyagozel Gulmanova, Speaker of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan; and Ambassador John MacGregor, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. The conference featured three thematic sessions on dialogue, co-operation, and multilateralism. Building on the outcomes of the UN Summit of the Future held in September and

the Vancouver Annual Session Resolution on Future Generations, the conference aimed to translate global commitments into national and regional actions.

Moderated by OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia Farah Karimi (Netherlands), the first session explored parliamentary diplomacy as a vital tool for building trust and fostering dialogue amid rising geopolitical tensions. The second session, moderated by Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA's Second Committee, addressed the climate crisis, emphasizing its dual role as an environmental and security challenge. Moderated by Enejan Atayeva, Member of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, the final session focused on empowering young people and fostering intergenerational solidarity.

Before the conference, President Kauma and Special Representative Karimi held bilateral meetings in Turkmenistan on 26-27 November, highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and collaborative approaches to shared challenges. Kauma met with the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, with discussions focused on fostering closer co-operation between Turkmenistan and the OSCE PA to address regional security matters. The delegation also met with Speaker Gulmanova and Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as Amb. MacGregor at the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.

President Kauma publishes op-ed ahead of OSCE Ministerial Council

On Monday, the Malta Independent published an op-ed by OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) ahead of the OSCE Ministerial Council taking place this week in Valletta. Her article highlights dialogue as one of the most powerful tools for building international security. Click here to read: <https://bit.ly/49gecgB>

OSCE PA Bureau meets in Valletta on eve of Malta Ministerial Council

Welcomed by Head of Maltese Delegation Amanda Spiteri Grech, the OSCE PA's Bureau met Wednesday in Malta on the eve of the OSCE's 31st Ministerial Council for discussions on the future of the OSCE and the PA's priorities 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, particularly highlighting Malta's ongoing efforts to secure consensus on the Unified Budget, and the appointments of new Heads of Institutions.

President Kauma briefed members about the key messages she will deliver at the Ministerial Council on Thursday, including recognition of Malta's leadership under difficult circumstances and a call for continuity as Finland assumes the Chairpersonship in 2025. She announced her intention to emphasize the importance of upholding the Helsinki Final Act, particularly in light of Russian aggression against Ukraine, and to advocate for modernizing OSCE initiatives to address emerging challenges.



OSCE PA leadership meets in Valletta, Malta, 4 December 2024

On the agenda was also a presentation by Ambassador Jouni Laaksonen on the objectives of the 2025 Finnish Chairpersonship of the OSCE, along with a discussion of Assembly priorities for 2025. Members engaged in active discussions on recent election observation missions, exploring strategies to improve efficiency, impact, and co-operation with partners, ensuring effective communication, and discussing options for continued engagement after the missions.

PA President Kauma addresses Parallel Civil Society Conference in Valletta

Speaking today at the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Malta, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between civil society and OSCE institutions. It is important to promote stronger protections for civil society, she said, by addressing censorship and repression, amplifying support for dissenting voices and exiled activists, prioritizing the needs of civil society organizations in conflict zones, and increasing investment in civil society development. She emphasized that these priorities strongly align

with the PA's ongoing commitment to safeguarding human rights and enhancing democratic resilience across the OSCE region.

The Parallel Civil Society Conference, organized by the Civic Solidarity Platform with the support of the 2024 Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship, took place on the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting. It included discussions on the security of human rights defenders, climate change and environmental degradation, and hate crimes.

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