

## OSCE PA commemorates fiftieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act



Elina Valtonen and Pere Joan Pons in Helsinki, 31 July 2025

Representing the OSCE PA, President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and President Emeritus Pia Kauma (Finland) participated in the high-level Helsinki+50 Conference in late July. The event, hosted by the 2025 Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office at Finlandia Hall, marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark Helsinki Final Act and highlighted the enduring role of peace and dialogue in the OSCE's work.

President Pons joined government leaders, senior OSCE officials, and civil society representatives in paying tribute to the legacy of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and reaffirming the enduring relevance of its principles in a time of serious geopolitical challenges. The conference, titled "Respecting the Legacy, Preparing for the Future," underscored the importance

of continued engagement across all dimensions of comprehensive security, with a special focus on the role of civil society.

Kauma addressed the conference on 31 July, noting that to ensure that the world aligns with the vision set out in 1975, it is necessary to strengthen democratic institutions, promote media literacy, protect civil society, and foster co-operation. The OSCE and the PA have essential roles to play in this regard, she stressed. Special Representative Amb. Miodrag Pančeski represented the PA at the discussions on 1 August.

The PA also participated in the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum "From Helsinki to the next 50 years", held in Helsinki on 29-30 July, contributing to joint efforts to advance the Youth, Peace and Security agenda across the OSCE region. Joining youth leaders, representatives of international organizations, and OSCE structures to share good practices, explore challenges, and discuss the way forward for meaningful youth engagement in peace and security, the Assembly was represented by Lucija Tacer (Slovenia), Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, and Aleksander Stokkebo (Norway), Member of the Network.

## Moldova EOM deadline reminder

National delegations wishing to nominate Members to participate in the election observation mission to the 28 September parliamentary elections in Moldova are kindly reminded that they must complete and return registration documents to the International Secretariat at ([eom@oscepa.dk](mailto:eom@oscepa.dk)) no later than Thursday, 4 September.

## OSCE PA President visits International Secretariat for working meetings

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) has been at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen today, holding a series of meetings with Secretary General Roberto Montella and staff. The meetings have focused on priority issues for the coming weeks and months, as well as Pons's general programme for his presidency. Among the issues discussed were preparations for the upcoming Autumn Meeting in Istanbul, election observation activities, communications, and appointments of Special Representatives. The President also met with the full Secretariat staff to hear about their work.



Pere Joan Pons and the Presidential Support Team, Copenhagen, 3 September 2025

## President Pons participates in high-level Vienna youth conference

President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) participated in the high-level youth conference "Pact for the Future: A New Order of International Cooperation that Delivers a Better Present and Safeguards the Future?" held in Vienna in July. The event was organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and Finland's 2025 Chairpersonship, in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and the PA, and with the support of the Directors of ODIHR and the HCNM.

Addressing young scholars from the Regional Academy of the United Nations, President Pons emphasized the importance of youth participation, multilateral dialogue, and parliamentary diplomacy in tackling today's global challenges, highlighting in particular the work of the OSCE PA's Network of Young Parliamentarians. Lucija Tacer (Slovenia), who chairs the Network, also spoke at the event, stressing the vital role of young people in shaping international co-operation.

## In Copenhagen, SG Montella discusses Belarus issues with the Tsikhanouskis



Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Roberto Montella and Siarhei Tsikhanouski

On 29 August, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella met in Copenhagen with Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and her husband, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, a former political prisoner. The couple, in their first joint official visit abroad since his release in June, travelled to Denmark to address EU foreign ministers during a Gymnich meeting. Discussions with Montella focused on regional security challenges, Belarus's engagement with Europe, and the situation of political prisoners in Belarus.

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