

Third Committee leaders participate in the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference



Sargis Khandanyan meets Maria Telalian in Warsaw, 8 Oct. 2025

Following President Pere Joan Pons (Spain)'s opening address last week, the Bureau of the OSCE PA's Third Committee has continued to represent the Assembly at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, taking place in the Polish capital from 6 October to 17 October. The PA representatives have actively engaged with OSCE institutions, including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Third Committee Chair Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia) spoke during the session on democratic institutions and democratic elections, with a focus on democracy at the national, regional and local levels. He highlighted the OSCE PA's work on election observation and emphasized the close co-operation with civil society. While in Warsaw, he also met with OSCE/ODIHR Director Maria Telalian and discussed the importance of the long-standing co-operation between the OSCE PA and ODIHR, particularly in

election observation, and discussed upcoming joint activities.

Rapporteur Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) participated in the session on international humanitarian law. She addressed the humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine and noted her work in the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) on abducted children from Ukraine. Ödebrink also highlighted the cases of Dmytro Shabanov, Maksym Petrov, and Vadym Golda – OSCE staff members unlawfully detained by the Russian Federation since April 2022. Ödebrink met with Margaryta Shabanova, wife of Dmytro Shabanov and Ievgeniia Kapalkina, legal representative from ULAG, to discuss recent developments in these cases.

On 8 October, Ödebrink also engaged in talks with representatives of Georgian NGOs and civil society organizations, where discussions focused on the impact of the Foreign Agents Registration Act on media freedom and civil society. She also met with ODIHR Director Telalian, to discuss concrete steps to ensure the protection of human rights within the OSCE region, with particular focus on the deteriorating situations in Georgia and Ukraine.

The conference was also attended by Vice-Chair Baroness Christine Blower (United Kingdom), who participated in sessions on the rule of law and tolerance and non-discrimination. OSCE PA Vice-President Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) will attend the second week of the conference and is scheduled to speak in a session on fundamental freedoms focusing on freedom of thought, conscience, and belief on 16 October. Last week, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella attended the opening of the conference.

Online resources available

Following President Pons's visit to Ukraine last week and the PA's participation at the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review in Istanbul, photos and videos have been published on the PA's Flickr, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and X platforms.

Pons appoints Ödebrink as Special Envoy for the return of Ukrainian children

President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) has appointed Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) as Special Envoy on the issue of Russian abductions and deportations of Ukrainian children. The appointment follows his recent visit to Kyiv, during which the urgent plight of these children was recognized as a key priority, including by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Ödebrink has been deeply involved in this issue through her role as Special Rapporteur for the PSTU, as well as in her capacity as Rapporteur for the Assembly's Third General Committee. In July, she published a detailed report titled "Russian Abductions and Deportations of Ukrainian Children", which calls for enhanced international co-operation, particularly through



Carina Ödebrink delivers remarks at Warsaw Human Dimension Conference on 7 Oct, 2025

the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children and President Zelensky's "Bring Kids Back UA" initiative.

Meeting of Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committee Chairs focuses on work ahead

On Monday, OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) convened a meeting of the Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees to discuss proposed reforms of governance. Following opening remarks by President Pons and Secretary General Roberto Montella, several Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committee Chairs took the floor

to share their ideas and plans, as well as general reflections on the work of the Assembly. Ensuring a diversity of opinion in the work of the ad hoc committees was highlighted as essential, especially on contentious issues, and the importance of maintaining flexibility in how the Special Representatives approach their topics was also stressed.

Special Representative Tacer represents OSCE PA at NATO PA Session in Ljubljana

Special Representative on Youth Engagement Lucija Tacer (Slovenia) attended the NATO PA Session in Ljubljana on Tuesday. As Special Representative, Tacer works to enhance co-operation on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.



Lucija Tacer attends NATO PA Session in Ljubljana, 14 Oct.

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