

PA's pre-election visit to Kyrgyzstan highlights key issues ahead of 30 November vote



Claude Haagen meeting with Director General of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Corporation, Bishkek, 4 November

Claude Haagen (Luxembourg), who has been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observers to the 30 November early parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, has been in Bishkek this week to prepare for the full deployment of observers. He met on Monday and Tuesday with a wide range of interlocutors to gain valuable insights into the pre-election environment.

Haagen held extensive discussions with representatives

of Kyrgyzstan's election administration, political parties and candidates, civil society, and the media. He also met with the OSCE PA's election observation partners from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), who are already deployed on the ground.

"The past two days in Bishkek have given me a valuable opportunity to listen and learn from those directly involved in the electoral process," said Special Co-ordinator Haagen. "My focus now is on ensuring that, when our observers arrive, we are ready to deliver a comprehensive, balanced, and fair assessment of the electoral process."

Haagen noted that the significance of these elections is reflected in the participation of more than 90 OSCE PA observers, as well as of partners from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the upcoming election observation mission to Kyrgyzstan.

Autumn Meeting agendas available online

The updated agendas for the Istanbul Autumn Meeting's Parliamentary Conference and Mediterranean Forum are available at www.oscepa.org. Journalists interested in covering the event should reach out to press@oscepa.dk.

Tajikistan's challenges in focus during OSCE PA Vice-President Kugler's visit

OSCE PA Vice-President Gudrun Kugler (Austria) visited Tajikistan last week, holding a series of meetings with representatives of the international community, parliament and civil society who informed her of the challenges facing the country, including migration and human trafficking. Kugler noted the importance of parliamentarians regularly undertaking field visits to learn and develop concrete ideas for their work in the Assembly.

She had an in-depth discussion in the Tajik Parliament with Tajikistan's Head of Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mahmudshoh Gulzoda, aiming to deepen bilateral and regional co-operation and support the delegation's active participation in the work of the Assembly. In a visit to the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Kugler noted that the staff works with remarkable dedication, but like many other OSCE field presences it faces significant budgetary pressure. With less funding available for programmes, Kugler emphasized that OSCE participating States could help by providing extra-budgetary contributions or by increasing secondments.

She also met with the head of the International Organization



Gudrun Kugler visits a women's shelter in Tajikistan, 29 October

for Migration (IOM)'s office in Tajikistan and visited two women's shelters: one for victims of domestic violence, supported by the OSCE, and another for women who have been victims of human trafficking, supported by IOM.

Discussions focused on challenges related to migration, which Kugler noted is ubiquitous in Tajikistan. She also emphasized that issues such as domestic violence and human trafficking are part of the broader security discourse in the country. Concluding her visit, the Vice-President emphasized the importance of regular visits by OSCE parliamentarians to OSCE field presences to generate greater political support for their work, which she said is especially important in difficult times.

Ad Hoc Committee meets to discuss EU Migration Pact implementation

On Monday, the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Farah Karimi (Netherlands) held an online discussion focusing on implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the expected impact on EU and non-EU Member States. The meeting was kicked off by Michael Shotter, Director for Migration and Asylum within the European Commission's Migration and Home Affairs Directorate-General, who briefed Members on the main elements of the Pact and the common implementation plan as well as monitoring and review mechanisms. Underlining that the Pact is not an "à la carte" agreement, he stressed the importance of making the Pact work while acknowledging that there would likely be challenges when EU Member States start implementing the various measures starting in June 2026.

Cecilie Becker-Chr. Saenz Guerrero, Senior Policy Officer

at UNHCR's Representation for EU Affairs in Brussels, presented UNHCR's recommendations on implementation including on vulnerability screening, access to legal assistance, and independent monitoring mechanisms, which were also addressed to successive presidencies of the European Council.

The discussion focused on the new procedures at the EU's external borders, safeguards to ensure identification of vulnerabilities including statelessness and persons with special needs, as well as the solidarity mechanism. Committee Members also contributed with their national perspectives, emphasizing the need for close co-operation with non-EU members such as the United Kingdom and Türkiye, as well as countries of origin and transit more generally.

The Committee will visit Brussels in January 2026 to discuss in greater detail EU migration policy.