

## Special Representative Pritchard strengthens Arctic dialogue in Denmark



Royal Danish Defence College (Forsvarakademiet) in Copenhagen

The Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), who serves as the OSCE PA's Special Representative for the Arctic and High North, met last week in Copenhagen with a number of experts for discussions on security and environmental challenges in the region. On 28 April, Special Representative Pritchard held discussions with senior leadership and researchers at the Royal Danish Defence College (Forsvarsakademiet) and the Danish Institute for International Studies. The visit enabled senior-level engagement with key stakeholders and constructive exchanges on Arctic developments, including discussions on Arctic priorities within a broader decision-making context, with

particular attention to Greenland's role in the region.

Discussions reflected ongoing priorities in Danish defence planning and NATO's engagement in the Arctic, including the importance of maintaining situational awareness, strengthening co-operation among allies, and ensuring a balanced and responsible approach in a changing strategic environment. The talks also touched upon broader regional dynamics, including evolving security considerations and the need to safeguard key interests in a measured and constructive manner.

They also addressed climate change, including the rapid environmental changes affecting sea ice, coastlines, and accessibility across the region. These developments were noted as having wider implications for security dynamics and defence planning, as well as for the resilience of Indigenous communities, who are among the most directly affected. The Special Representative's meetings provided an opportunity to deepen engagement at senior level with key stakeholders and to better integrate Arctic considerations into policymaking and related discussions.

## OSCE PA and PACE Presidents publish op-ed, Winter Meeting report now available

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons and PACE President Petra Bayr published a joint op-ed last week arguing that ensuring peace and security requires full respect for norms of human rights and international law.

To read the article, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3PnWvGi>

Also last week, the OSCE PA International Secretariat published the final report on the OSCE PA's 25th Winter Meeting, available here in PDF and Flipping Book formats: <https://bit.ly/4wccJTo>

## German parliamentarian Nancy Faeser appointed Chair of the PSTU

President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) has appointed Nancy Faeser (Germany) as the new Chair of the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU). The President noted that Faeser brings an extensive set of political experience to this role, expressing confidence that her leadership will help ensure that Ukraine's needs remain at the forefront of the OSCE PA's activities.

A member of the PA's German Delegation since 2025, Faeser has held numerous leadership positions at both state and federal levels in Germany, including serving as Interior Minister from 2021 to 2025. In that capacity, she was re-



Nancy Faeser addresses the Bundestag in Berlin. (Photo: Reuters)

sponsible for national security, migration policy, and the protection of democratic institutions, gaining extensive experience in crisis management and international co-operation.

## PA participates in Paris conference on election observation



Paris conference participants, 29 April 2026 (Photo: CoE)

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and Head of Elections Stephanie Koltchanov represented the Assembly at a conference held in Paris on election observation last week. Entitled "Towards Trusted and Inclusive Electoral Processes: The Role of Observers" and organized by the Council of Europe, the conference took place

on 28-29 April, bringing together representatives from the CoE, EU, and the OSCE, as well as practitioners, experts and CSOs involved in elections and election observation.

The conference addressed the growing challenges to election observation in complex political environments, including pressures on observers, increased polarization, disinformation, and "fake" observers, as well as the conduct of elections in conflict and post-conflict situations. It emphasized election observation – both domestic and international – as a cornerstone of democratic legitimacy, transparency, integrity, and public trust in elections, noting that observers act as watchdogs of democratic processes.

Montella and Koltchanov actively contributed to discussions, stressing the importance of building co-operation with partners and ensuring that different perspectives are respected.

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