

The Hague Annual Session speakers announced, agendas posted

The 33rd Annual Session will take place in The Hague

Preparation continues for the OSCE PA's 33rd Annual Session taking place 4-8 July at the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague, Netherlands. The theme of the Annual Session is "International Law and Shared Principles: Foundations for Security and Co-operation in the OSCE Area." Supplementary items continue to be uploaded to the Assembly's website, which has also been updated with details on the agendas for the plenary sessions and Standing Committee. (More names of speakers will be announced in due course.)

The opening plenary session on 4 July will feature speeches by President of the Senate of the Netherlands Mei Li Vos, President of the House of Representatives Thom van Campen, Head of the Dutch Delegation to the OSCE PA Farah Karimi, OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain), and the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Ignazio Cassis. This will be followed by Question & Answer session with the Chairperson-in-Office and consideration of supplementary items.

After three days of work in the general committees, the Assembly will meet again in plenary session on 7 July for consideration of supplementary items and a general debate on "International Law and Shared Principles: Foundations for Security and Co-operation in the OSCE Area." The debate will be opened with keynote introductions by President of the International Criminal Court Tomoko Akane and Chair of the Board on

Relations with Partners of Eurojust Boštjan Škrlec.

In the plenary session on 8 July, OSCE parliamentarians will hear an address by OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, followed by Q&A session and reports on OSCE PA activities. Following the adoption of The Hague Declaration, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella will address the Assembly before the announcement of the elections of Assembly Officers.

The largest event on the Assembly's calendar, the Annual Session will bring together hundreds of members of parliament from 56 different countries with the peace and justice community in The Hague. During several days of committee work, parliamentarians will debate and amend resolutions dealing with the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, arms control, hybrid threats, strategic competition in the Arctic, and developments in the Middle East. Resolutions will also cover climate change, resource competition, and the relationship between conflict and geoeconomics, as well as the "democratic recession" in the OSCE area characterized by political repression, weakened rule of law, restricted civic space, and the instrumentalization of democratic mechanisms to entrench power.

Other important topics to be debated include artificial intelligence governance, international law, demographic change in the OSCE region, drug trafficking, and cybersecurity.

Annual Session deadlines reminder

Amendments to the draft resolutions must be received at the Secretariat with the required signatures by Monday 22 June.

Amendments to supplementary items must be received with the required signatures by Monday 29 June.

Valid supplementary items to be considered at the 33rd Annual Session in The Hague are available on the website at the following link: <https://bit.ly/43WuxoG>

PSTU responds to Russian Federation's escalation in Ukraine

In its latest public messaging, the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) issued a series of warnings about the growing risks stemming from Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. Taken together, the statements serve as an early alert regarding the escalation of military activity and the widening regional implications of the conflict.

At the same time, the PSTU emphasized its appreciation for all credible efforts aimed at de-escalation. It welcomed the engagement of international partners and supported Ukraine's sovereign right to explore diplomatic avenues. In this context, the PSTU also noted President Zelenskyy's readiness to con-



Meeting in the Verkhovna Rada, Kyiv, 12 February 2025

sider a meeting with the President of the Russian Federation. The most recent statement, focused on identifying possible de-escalatory measures, was additionally joined by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons, who has also issued a number of social media posts in response to developments.

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