

OSCE PA President leads delegation to Turkey in aftermath of attempted coup



OSCE PA delegation (left) meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, 16 August



Wreath-laying ceremony at the Ataturk Mausoleum in Ankara, 16 August



Christine Muttonen and Speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly Ismail Kahraman (centre) in Ankara, 16 August

OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria), has led a high-level delegation to Turkey this week following the attempted coup of 15 July. In meetings with the President, Speaker of Parliament, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and other officials, and leaders of opposition parties, the delegation has expressed the solidarity of the OSCE PA with Turkey and its people in the aftermath of the attempted seizure of power.

The delegation visited Ankara exactly one month after the coup attempt. In addition to President Muttonen, the delegation included OSCE PA Vice-Presidents Isabel Santos (Portugal) and Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan), and the Chair of the Assembly's human rights committee, Ignacio Sanchez Amor (Spain), as well as Secretary General Roberto Montella and Ambassador Paul Bekkers, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. The delegation met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Speaker of Parliament Ismail Kahraman, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Members of Turkey's OSCE PA Delegation, and leaders of all political parties represented in parliament.

The OSCE PA delegation expressed its appreciation for the unity shown by all parties in parliament following the attacks on 15 July, and strongly encouraged all democratic political forces to remain united and actively engaged. Continued engagement and robust oversight by parliament can contribute

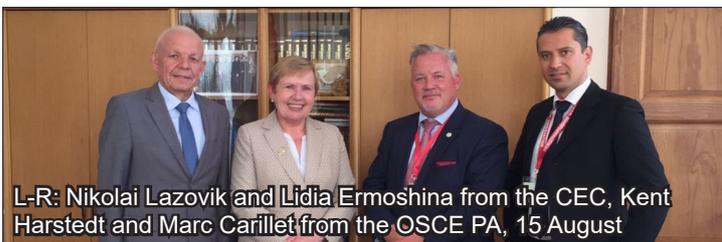
to transparency and enhance public trust as the country deals with the aftermath of the attempted coup, said the delegation.

In response to concerns raised by the PA, the Turkish authorities stressed their intention to hold those responsible for the coup attempt accountable in accordance with the rule of law, and their firm resolve to fully respect all of Turkey's international commitments. The delegation was provided with extensive and detailed information on actions taken by state authorities, including suspensions, dismissals and detentions, following the coup attempt. The delegation took note of concerns raised, including by opposition parties, regarding alleged over-reach by authorities since the coup attempt.

The OSCE parliamentarians reiterated the readiness of the OSCE to support Turkey as it addresses the challenges related to the attempted coup, reminding officials of the various tools that the OSCE and its executive structures are ready to offer. The delegation took note of the authorities' expressed hopes that the State of Emergency, imposed for three months, may be ended earlier.

Members of the delegation continue meetings with representatives of civil society and the media in Istanbul Thursday. The delegation is supported by Chief of the Executive Office Andreas Baker and Programme Officer Loic Poulain from the International Secretariat.

Special Coordinator Harstedt visits Belarus in advance of September parliamentary elections



L-R: Nikolai Lazovik and Lidia Ermoshina from the CEC, Kent Harstedt and Marc Carillet from the OSCE PA, 15 August

Following his appointment by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office as Special Coordinator to lead the OSCE's short-term observer mission for the 11 September parliamentary elections in Belarus, OSCE PA Vice-President Kent Harstedt (MP, Sweden) visited the country from 14-16 August, meeting with a range of election officials and stakeholders in Minsk and Mogilev. The visit was intended to follow up on previous recommendations and ascertain the pre-electoral conditions

in advance of the OSCE PA election observation mission next month. Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic) will serve as Head of the OSCE PA delegation for this mission, which will include more than 30 MPs from 13 OSCE participating States.

Harstedt's visit to Belarus included meetings in Minsk with Lidia Yermoshina, Chairperson of the CEC; Vladimir Andreichenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Viktor Guminsky, Head of the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE PA; Evgeny Shestakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; representatives of political parties, NGOs and civil society; and long-term observers from the OSCE/ODIHR. The pre-electoral visit included a deployment to the regional capital of Mogilev where, inter alia, meetings were held with the local electoral administration.

Harstedt was accompanied on his visit by Marc Carillet, Deputy Director of the PA's Vienna Liaison Office.