

## PA's General Committees debate, amend and adopt resolutions



Voting in the First Committee on 1 July.

The First Committee, chaired by Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania), continued its consideration on Tuesday of the draft resolution by Tobias Winkler (Germany). Following a lively debate, the committee agreed to 26 amendments before adopting the resolution by a vote today of 52-1, with three abstentions. The committee then considered two supplementary items. “Supporting Multilingualism Within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,” principally sponsored by Pascal Allizard (France), was adopted unanimously with three amendments. “Supporting the Recognition of the State of Palestine as a Means of Ensuring Peace, Regional Stability and Compliance with International Law,” principally sponsored by Anna Bilotti (Italy), was adopted in a close vote.

Chaired by Azay Guliyev, the Second Committee resumed work on the draft resolution authored by Paula Cardoso (Portugal). Following a lively debate that touched on an array of topics including climate change, AI and unfair barriers to trade, the committee adopted 12 amendments before agreeing to the resolution by a vote today of 42-2. The committee also considered five supplementary items.

“Youth Perspectives on Facilitating Brain Circulation and Preventing Brain Drain in the OSCE Area,” principally sponsored by Lucija Tacer (Slovenia), was adopted unamended and unanimously. “Responding to the Demographic Win-

ter,” principally sponsored by Gudrun Kugler (Austria), was adopted unanimously with several amendments. The SI “Promoting the Recovery and Safekeeping of Assets Confiscated from Organized Crime,” principally sponsored by Eugenio Zoffili (Italy), was adopted unanimously without amendment. “Addressing the Nexus Between Corruption, Organized Crime and Terrorism,” principally sponsored by Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), was adopted unanimously without amendment. “Climate Change, Corruption and Security: Addressing Interlinked Threats in the OSCE Region,” principally sponsored by Pere Pons (Spain), was adopted unamended with strong support.

The Third Committee, chaired by Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), resumed work on Rapporteur Carina Ödebrink (Sweden)’s draft resolution, adopting 18 amendments and agreeing to the resolution by a vote of 56-1. Taking up work on supplementary items, the committee considered “Strengthening Gender Equality and Protecting Women,” principally sponsored by Catia Polidori (Italy), which was adopted unamended.

The SI “Repercussions for Failure to Comply with Democratic and Electoral Standards,” principally sponsored by Ulrik Nilsson (Sweden), was adopted with three amendments. “Countering Russian Disinformation Regarding World War II and the Rewriting of History,” principally sponsored by Ruslanas Baranovas (Lithuania), was adopted with four amendments. “Strengthening Support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the OSCE Region,” principally sponsored by Hedy Fry (Canada), was adopted with overwhelming support. “Strengthening Actions to Prevent Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children,” principally sponsored by Chris Smith (United States) and presented by Robert Morrison (Canada), was adopted unanimously and without amendment.

## Side events focus on demographic decline, Ukraine and Helsinki legacy

Several side events took place on Tuesday covering thematic and regional issues such as demographic decline, youth in armed conflicts, and combating trafficking in human beings among Ukrainian refugees. In addition, the Portuguese and the Finnish OSCE PA delegations organized an exhibit entitled “Helsinki: The Final Act, photos to remember” and a screening of the documentary film “The Helsinki Effect” to celebrate the signing of the Helsinki Final Act and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the OSCE.

A side event entitled “Demographic Winter,” hosted by OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security Gudrun Kugler (Austria), focused attention on the subject of demographic decline and the future of free societies. Featuring keynote addresses by data scientist Stephen J. Shaw and Vladimir Gjorchev, National Co-ordinator for Demography, Youth and Human Resources in North Macedonia, the event explored the long-term political, social, and economic implications of demographic decline in OSCE participating States, reflecting on the societal and security-



Side event on combating human trafficking among Ukrainian refugees, 1 July

related consequences of declining birth rates and aging populations across the OSCE region.

A side event featuring the participation of OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Kari Johnstone noted that the remarkable resilience of Ukrainian refugees integrating into European labour markets masks a harsh reality, with millions of Ukrainians facing immense challenges, including the threat of human trafficking. The side event underlined that urgent action is needed to protect 6.9 million displaced Ukrainians with a comprehensive approach. Another Ukraine-focused event explored the role of youth in the rebuilding and formation of resilience in the country.