



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 32nd Annual Session



2025
29 June to 3 July

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**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's
32nd Annual Session**

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29 June - 3 July 2025**

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Summary

The 32nd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place 29 June - 3 July 2025 in Porto, Portugal, under the theme "Commemorating 50 Years of the Helsinki Final Act: Responding to a New Reality in the OSCE." Speaking at the opening session, President of the Portuguese Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Parliament José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, and Head of the OSCE PA's Portuguese Delegation Paula Cardoso noted the enduring importance of dialogue and co-operation, especially in these challenging times.

The largest event on the Assembly's calendar, the Annual Session culminated in the adoption of the Porto Declaration, containing recommendations to governments, parliaments and the international community in the fields of security, human rights, and economic and environmental concerns. On the final day, the PA elected its leadership for the coming year.

Reiterating the continued importance of the Helsinki Final Act and recommitting to its principles, the Porto Declaration covers a wide range of topics, including the Russian Federation's full-scale war against Ukraine, critical infrastructure and nuclear safety, water scarcity and migration, artificial intelligence and misuse of technology, the situation in the Middle East, demographic change, organized crime, gender equality, youth radicalization and violent extremism, energy security, good governance, maritime security, child trafficking and sexual exploitation, and climate change.

Pere Joan Pons Sampietro (Spain) was elected to a two-year term as OSCE PA President. The Assembly also elected four Vice-Presidents: Eugenio Zoffili (Italy), Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), Gábor Hajdu (Romania), and Irene Charalambides (Cyprus). Johan Büser (Sweden) was re-elected Treasurer. The three general committees also elected their leadership for the coming year.

The First Committee elected the following officers: Chair Marc Veasey (United States), Vice-Chair Jevrosima Pejovic (Montenegro), and Rapporteur Tobias Winkler (Germany). The Second Committee re-elected Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) as Chair, Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) as Vice-Chair, and Paula Cardoso (Portugal) as Rapporteur. The Third Committee elected Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia) as Chair, Baroness Christine Blower (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair, and Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) as Rapporteur.

The PA's final two plenary sessions featured speeches by OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioglu, OSCE/ODIHR Director Maria Telalian, NATO PA President Marcos Perestrello, President of PACE Theodoros Rousopoulos, Head of the Finnish OSCE 2025 Chairpersonship Task Force Jouni Laaksonen, OSCE PA Vice-President and Luís Graça (Portugal), and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

The outgoing President Pia Kauma (Finland) and incoming President Pons also addressed the Assembly, noting that the work of the parliamentarians in Porto will contribute substantively to Euro-Atlantic security.





OSCE PA
PORTO 2025

JUNE 29
JULY 3

OSCE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

PIIA KAUMIA
FINLAND

MARY S. CRITCH
UNITED STATES

Opening Plenary Session

The opening plenary of the 32nd Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was chaired by President Pia Kauma and featured distinguished speakers including the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa; the President of the Portuguese Parliament, José Pedro Aguiar-Branco; UN Secretary General António Guterres (via video); and Head of the Portuguese Delegation, Paula Cardoso. Parliamentarians considered three supplementary items: "50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act: Global Challenges for Peace and Security in the OSCE Region"; "The Helsinki Process Fifty Years On"; and "Strengthening a Positive Agenda for Co-operation in the Western Balkans". The leaders of recent election observation missions also reported to the Assembly during the plenary session.

Opening Plenary Session

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa reflected on the 1975 Portuguese Revolution and the democratic momentum inspired by the Helsinki Process at that time, affirming that the legacy of the Helsinki Final Act (HFA) remains as relevant today as it was during the Cold War. He commended the OSCE's unique approach to peace, combining political-military, economic and environmental, and human rights dimensions, and praised the PA's role in promoting democratic values and the rule of law. Expressing concerns over the current geopolitical tensions and the war against Ukraine, he underscored the need for safeguarding the OSCE's added value as the world's largest regional security organization.

José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, President of the Portuguese Parliament

José Pedro Aguiar-Branco highlighted Portugal's historic support for the OSCE, stressing the enduring value of the HFA in today's security landscape. He underscored how the OSCE's mission of bridge-building represents an approach deeply rooted in Portugal's identity. He urged parliamentarians to lead through diplomatic wisdom and to find innovative approaches to safeguard the HFA's principles.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations

In a video address, Secretary General Guterres noted that the OSCE PA's work in protecting human rights, strengthening democracy, and promoting sustainable development is essential, and pledged the UN's continued co-operation and support. "You gather as



our world faces great and grave challenges – from raging conflicts, to rising inequalities, to the out-of-control climate crisis," Guterres said. "But you are standing up for something different. By encouraging dialogue between parliaments, you have helped strengthen democracy, advance co-operation, and promote comprehensive security."

Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) marked the 50th anniversary of the HFA by urging members to take a forward-looking approach to the future of European security. She reaffirmed that Ukraine must remain central to the Assembly's agenda, calling for ending the war and readiness to act in a post-conflict scenario.

Amid current geopolitical tensions, she highlighted the Assembly's added value in shaping innovative responses to challenges in all three dimensions of security, from cybercrime and the misuse of emerging technologies, to addressing climate change, fostering sustainable development and ensuring the respect for human rights.

Opening Plenary Session



Paula Cardoso, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Paula Cardoso firmly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine, stressing that peace must be just, lasting, and include Ukraine at the negotiating table. She recalled the HFA's transformative impact on democracy and human rights across the OSCE region, underscoring the need to uphold its principles of security, territorial integrity, and fundamental freedoms, all values rooted in Portugal's own democratic journey that began with the revolution in Porto.

Supplementary Items

Three supplementary items were considered and agreed to by a majority in the plenary session. "50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act: Global Challenges for Peace and Security in the OSCE Region," principally sponsored by Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine), commemorates the 50th anniversary of the HFA and con-

demns the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. It reaffirms core principles enshrined in the HFA's Decalogue, including of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, peaceful settlement of disputes and the respect for human rights. It calls for demilitarization of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, strengthening nuclear safety, addressing ecological damage caused by the war, the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression, and the use of frozen Russian assets for Ukraine's reconstruction.

"The Helsinki Process Fifty Years On," principally sponsored by Pia Kauma (Finland), reflects on the origins of the HFA, born out of a period of deep mistrust, and its pivotal role in fostering dialogue, easing tensions, and shaping comprehensive security in Europe since World War II. It recognizes the HFA as a cornerstone of the transatlantic security architecture and calls on the OSCE Ministerial Council to revitalize political dialogue, drawing inspiration from the spirit of co-operation

Opening Plenary Session



that guided the original Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It urges the Council to enhance mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of OSCE commitments and to consider reducing the reliance on consensus for certain administrative and procedural decisions.

“Strengthening a Positive Agenda for Co-operation in the Western Balkans,” principally sponsored by Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), addresses ongoing challenges in the Western Balkans, including unresolved disputes, democratic backsliding, and polarization. It underscores the urgent need to rebuild trust, reinforce democratic institutions, and promote reconciliation.

The resolution advocates for concrete, future-oriented steps to deepen regional co-operation in the Western Balkans and support the region’s EU integration trajectory, and encourages inclusive dialogue, stronger inter-parliamentary co-operation, and trust-building initiatives to overcome divisions and foster lasting peace, stability, and integration in South-East Europe.

Election Observation Missions

Farah Karimi (Netherlands) reported on the election observation mission (EOM) in Albania, commending a strong electorate’s engagement despite a polarized political environment. While overall election administration was effective, concerns were raised about voter intimidation, misuse of social media, and procedural inconsistencies. She emphasized the need to regulate social media’s role in elections.

Lucie Potuckova (Czechia) reported on the EOM in Romania, commending efficient administration and high voter participation. However, she flagged concerns about online disinformation and limited transparency between voting rounds. She also noted budgetary constraints affecting the mission.

In the discussion, Romania expressed concern over the impacts of online disinformation. Spain and Andorra underlined the strategic importance of OSCE PA EOMs, especially in confronting digital threats and safeguarding democracy amid growing geopolitical challenges.



Standing Committee Meeting

The Standing Committee met on 29 June. OSCE PA President Pia Kauma presented her report, emphasizing the turbulence of today's international situation. She expressed support and solidarity for Ukraine, which continues to face brutal attacks from the Russian Federation. She recalled the Bureau meeting held in Kyiv earlier in the year, as well as visits to the Middle East.

The OSCE PA Bureau continuously engages in long-term strategic planning in order to harness its position, she said. In this regard, President Kauma commended the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Organized Crime held in Rome, which highlighted the crucial role of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing the cross-border nature of organized crime. She further stressed the importance of emerging issues when it comes to the work of the Assembly in election observation, highlighting the need to demonstrate leadership in addressing disinformation and algorithm manipulation.

Additionally, President Kauma reported on the activities of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians and expressed support for discussing the establishment of an ad hoc committee, proposed by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement. While noting that additional discussion may be needed, parliamentarians widely expressed their support for the institutionalization of the Network, which was included as a recommendation in the 2022 Birmingham Declaration.

OSCE PA Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) presented his report, outlining that during this

two-year period, notable organizational reforms have been implemented and budgeting practices have been strengthened. He particularly highlighted the unwillingness of the Russian Federation to meet its financial obligations and noted the challenging financial landscape. The report introduced a supplementary item on securing the stability of the Parliamentary Assembly's financial situation and expressed gratitude to extra-budgetary contributions made by various delegations.

Following the circulation of the initial draft budget, and in response to feedback received, the revised budget proposal reflects a zero nominal growth principle. Büser raised attention to the impact of a zero nominal growth budget, which imposes constraints on the Assembly's operational and institutional capacities. Parliamentarians discussed the impact that the revised budget might have on election observation missions (EOMs), stressing that EOMs are at the very heart of the Assembly's work in ensuring democratic oversight and free and fair elections, against foreign interference. Additionally, parliamentarians reiterated the statutory obligations of the Assembly regarding translation and interpretation services. The Standing Committee approved the revised budget proposal, as circulated on 23 June, for the upcoming financial year without objection.

Secretary General Roberto Montella took the floor and introduced his report by emphasizing the crucial role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and stressing the importance of parliamentarians in tackling major international questions. He extended compliments to

Standing Committee Meeting



President Kauma for embracing the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, reiterating that conflict resolution and diplomacy are complementary to ensuring security, and expressed gratitude to the President and the International Secretariat for ensuring an administratively stable and financially secure Assembly. Secretary General Montella also reiterated the leadership role of the OSCE PA regarding election observations and highlighted the work of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine. He also thanked OSCE PA delegations for the contributions made to hosting statutory meetings and encouraged continued engage-

ment in supporting the organization of future events. Prior calls to ensure gender balance within parliamentary delegations were raised, with suggestions for further deliberation in the rules committee.

The Standing Committee concluded with the announcement of updates on the upcoming statutory meetings, including the Autumn Meeting to be held in Istanbul on 17-19 November 2025, followed by the Winter Meeting in Vienna on 19-20 February 2026. The 33rd Annual Session will take place in The Hague between 4 and 8 July 2026.

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Acting Committee Chair Costel Dunava (Romania) opened the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security on 30 June. The committee amended and adopted the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Tobias Winkler (Germany), as well as supplementary items related to multilingualism, recognition of the State of Palestine, youth radicalization, maritime security, and Moldova's independence. The committee concluded its work with elections of officers for the coming year.



TOBIAS WINKLER

RAPPORTEUR OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

GERMANY

GUSTAVO PALLARES

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

OSCE PA

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Opening the meeting of the First Committee on 30 June, acting Chair Costel Dunava (Romania) noted that the committee's work is increasingly vital amid today's deteriorating global security environment. He lauded the broad participation in the committee and emphasized the urgent need for international co-operation. Central to the discussion was Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which Dunava described as an unjustifiable war and a direct assault on the Helsinki Final Act's principles. He stressed that any resolution must respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Dunava also drew attention to concerning regional developments, including hybrid threats in Moldova, democratic setbacks in Georgia, and repression in Belarus. He highlighted escalating conflicts in the Middle East, urging continued commitment to dialogue and peaceful resolution. He also addressed the OSCE's internal challenges, particularly the persistent failure to reach consensus on administrative matters, which hampers the organization's effectiveness. Highlighting the committee's recent focus on nuclear escalation and protection of critical infrastructure, Dunava called for renewed commitment to OSCE principles.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Tobias Winkler (Germany) presented his report and draft resolution, underlining that the OSCE region is experiencing a period of profound political and security upheaval that demands a renewed commitment to co-operative security.

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against

Ukraine was the central focus of the report, which Winkler condemned as a flagrant violation of international law and the Helsinki Final Act. The resolution called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces and urged sustained international support for Ukraine across political, military, financial, and humanitarian domains.

Beyond Ukraine, the report addressed regional threats such as Russian hybrid tactics in Moldova, repression in Belarus, and the presence of Russian troops in Georgia's occupied regions. Positive developments, including the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace talks and the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border agreement, were noted as examples of diplomacy's potential.

The volatile Middle East situation also featured prominently, with a call for humanitarian improvement and a two-state solution. Emphasizing resilience in the face of aggression, disinformation, and energy insecurity, the report underlined the OSCE PA's role in upholding democratic institutions and human rights. Marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, Winkler urged collective action to defend its enduring principles.

In the debate, members called for continued support for Ukraine, accountability for war crimes, and stronger multilateral co-operation. Concern was expressed over rising global instability, hybrid threats, democratic backsliding, and the need to revitalize the OSCE as a platform for dialogue, peace, and security.

The First Committee resolution was adopted with a total of 26 amendments.

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Supplementary Items

The committee moved on to consider the supplementary item on multilingualism within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, principally sponsored by Pascal Allizard (France). The item reaffirms the importance of multilingualism as a cornerstone of diversity, dialogue, and effective multilateralism, calling for the consistent translation of documents into all six official languages to broaden accessibility and impact. The resolution was adopted with three amendments.

Introducing “Supporting the Recognition of the State of Palestine as a Means of Ensuring Peace, Regional Stability and Compliance with International Law,” Anna Bilotti (Italy) stressed the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza. The resolution urges OSCE participating States to formally recognize the State of Palestine within the 1967 borders as a step toward a lasting two-state solution, condemns violations of international humanitarian law, and calls for enhanced parliamentary and institutional efforts to promote peace, human rights, and conflict resolution in the region. It was adopted unamended.

“Preventing Youth Radicalization to Violent Extremism and Terrorism through Education and Media and Information Literacy” was introduced by its principal sponsor Kamil Aydin (Türkiye), who noted the urgent threat of youth radicalization to violent extremism, emphasizing that children and teenagers are increasingly targeted online through social media and gaming platforms. He called for a preventative, education-based approach

involving digital literacy, critical thinking, and public-private co-operation to protect and empower young people. It was adopted with two amendments.

The next supplementary item, “Maritime Security: An Integral Part of the OSCE’s Comprehensive Security,” was introduced by its principal sponsor Ville Kaunisto (Finland). The resolution calls on the OSCE and its participating States to strengthen co-operation and uphold international law to ensure the free, safe, and secure use of maritime zones amid growing threats to maritime infrastructure, navigation, and environmental security across key seas in the OSCE region. It was adopted unamended.

The First Committee also considered the supplementary item on supporting Moldova’s independence and democracy. Principally sponsored by Pawel Zalewski (Poland), the item invites OSCE participating States to condemn Russian interference in Moldova’s elections, support Moldova’s resilience against hybrid threats, and reaffirm commitment to its sovereignty, EU integration, and peaceful resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict. The resolution was amended and adopted with overwhelming support.

Election of Officers

Chair: Marc Veasey (United States)

Vice-Chair: Jevrosima Pejovic (Montenegro)

Rapporteur: Tobias Winkler (Germany)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Committee Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) chaired the sessions of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment during the Annual Session in Porto. Members considered the report and resolution proposed by Paula Cardoso (Portugal) and several supplementary items dealing with demographic change, organized crime, youth perspectives on brain drain, strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, and climate change.



ALEX GOLDFEV
OSCE PA

PROCEDURAL
ADVISOR

DARIA BOYARSKAYA
SENIOR ADVISOR
OSCE PA

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

In his opening remarks, Committee Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) stressed the committee's focus on economic resilience, environmental sustainability, and technological transformation amid complex global challenges. Guliyev deplored the economic and environmental impacts of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and warned of rising instability in the Middle East, with wider implications for global energy, trade, and security.

He emphasized that "only together – and not divided by war and destruction – can we achieve the steps needed for stability and security in Ukraine and the whole OSCE area." Guliyev further highlighted urgent climate threats, including water scarcity and climate-induced migration and urged reinforced, co-ordinated action to tackle these challenges, recalling that "true generosity toward the future consists in giving everything to the present."

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Paula Cardoso (Portugal) presented her report and draft resolution, which highlighted climate security, water scarcity, and climate-induced migration, recalling the importance of international financing and co-operation following COP29 outcomes. She emphasized threats of climate change, stressed the need to continue diversification of energy supplies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and to promote good governance to combat corruption.

The report and resolution particularly under-

score the need for international collaboration to address pressing global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, digital transformation, and demographic shifts, emphasizing energy transition, climate finance, and resilience. They call for a comprehensive and cautious approach to climate-induced migration. The documents also stress the importance of youth, women, and marginalized groups in shaping inclusive and forward-looking policy. A major focus is the condemnation of Russia's war against Ukraine, citing its severe socio-economic and environmental impacts. The resolution calls for accountability, recovery support, and the use of frozen Russian assets for reconstruction. Stronger co-operation is urged on energy security, anti-corruption, climate-related migration, and responsible use of emerging technologies, while calling for greater focus by the OSCE PA on artificial intelligence, as well as promoting gender equality.

Parliamentarians took the floor to debate the resolution, emphasizing the urgency of the climate crisis, the challenges of AI and unfair trade barriers. They stressed the importance of continued support for Ukraine and the need to strengthen European economic competitiveness and brain circulation. Following the discussions, the resolution was adopted with overwhelming support and 13 amendments agreed to in total.

Supplementary Items

Committee members considered the supplementary item "Responding to the Demo-



graphic Winter,” principally sponsored by Gudrun Kugler (Austria), the OSCE PA Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security. The item highlights the critical need to address ageing populations, low birth rates, and depopulation across the region. It calls for family-friendly policies, sustainable pension and healthcare systems, workforce development, and smart migration strategies. The resolution was adopted unanimously with several amendments.

Eugenio Zoffili (Italy), OSCE PA Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime, presented his supplementary item on “Promoting the Recovery and Safekeeping of Assets Confiscated from Organized Crime,” which urges participating States to adopt a “follow the money” approach to trace, seize, and repurpose criminal assets for public benefit. It emphasizes transparency, international co-operation, and dedicated asset management bodies, and was adopted unanimously without amendments.

The committee also took up the item “Addressing the Nexus Between Corruption, Organized Crime and Terrorism,” principally sponsored by Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption. Stressing their interconnected nature, with corruption enabling criminal and terrorist networks, it urges participating States to adopt integrated anti-corruption and counter-terrorism strategies, enhance transparency, support whistleblowers and journalists, and strengthen international co-operation. The resolution was adopted unanimously without amendment.

Lucija Tacer (Slovenia), OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement, presented her supplementary item on “Youth Perspec-

tives on Facilitating Brain Circulation and Preventing Brain Drain in the OSCE Area,” which recommends evidence-based strategies, return incentives, and youth involvement in policymaking to address brain drain. The resolution, which also highlights the role of young parliamentarians, civil society, and academia in creating inclusive migration policies, was adopted unamended and unanimously.

Additionally, the committee considered the supplementary item on “Climate Change, Corruption and Security: Addressing Interlinked Threats in the OSCE Region,” principally sponsored by Pere Joan Pons (Spain), then-OSCE PA Special Representative on Climate Change. The resolution highlights how climate change and corruption together threaten security by damaging infrastructure and trust, worsening conflicts, and hindering climate action. It urges OSCE states to improve transparent governance and prevent corruption in climate finance, and was adopted unamended and with overwhelming support.

Lastly, the members adopted with a large majority the item “Strengthening Parliamentary Diplomacy and Co-operation to Safeguard Future Generations,” principally sponsored by Farah Karimi (Netherlands), OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia. The resolution calls on parliaments to integrate intergenerational equity and sustainability into legislation, support climate action, and promote youth participation in decision-making. To this end, it commends investment in education, innovation, and social protection.

Election of Officers

Chair: Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)

Vice-Chair: Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)

Rapporteur: Paula Cardoso (Portugal)



General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

The Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions, chaired by Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), met four times during the Annual Session in Porto. Delegates reviewed a comprehensive report presented by Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) along with a draft resolution and six supplementary items. The committee's discussions primarily centered on human rights violations and breaches of humanitarian law amid the Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as developments in the South Caucasus and the Middle East. Key issues addressed included civil rights, together with the democratic and socio-economic challenges facing the OSCE region.



FREYJA KOÇI
SENIOR ADVISOR
OSCE PA

CARINA ODEBRINK
RAPporteur OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
SWEDEN

SARGIS KHANDAN
VICE-CHAIR OF THE THIRD COMM
ARMENIA

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

In her opening remarks, Chair Lucie Potuckova (Czechia) welcomed participants and briefly reflected on the committee's work over the past year. She stressed the growing urgency of the committee's mandate amid worsening human rights conditions, the erosion of Helsinki principles, and rising authoritarianism across the OSCE region.

Potuckova condemned Russia's continued war in Ukraine, now entering its fourth year, citing war crimes and immense civilian suffering. She also highlighted the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, with tens of thousands dead, aid blocked, and regional tensions rising. Increasing forced displacement, abuse of migrants at European borders, and shrinking civic space were also addressed. The Chair praised the active role of the Vice-Chair, Rapporteur, and the committee's work with partners including ODIHR and the Finnish Chairpersonship. She called for stronger engagement with civil society and renewed commitment to defending rights and international law.

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Carina Ödebrink focused on several urgent challenges: the impact of armed conflicts on civilian populations, the erosion of fundamental freedoms, the situation of minorities and displaced people, and the role of the OSCE as a key defender of human rights. She recalled the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, warning that its founding values, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, are increasingly under threat. Emphasizing the need for international solidarity, she called for accountability in response to

violations in Ukraine and Gaza, and condemned growing restrictions on civil society and media. She stressed that gender equality and equal protection of all communities are essential to real democracy. "Human rights are inalienable," she affirmed, urging the OSCE PA to act with unity and determination.

During the debate, members addressed a wide range of pressing human rights issues across the OSCE region. Several parliamentarians denounced the increase in political prisoners, calling it a warning sign for the decline of democracy, while others urged the Assembly to counter disinformation and uphold international law without double standards. The situation of LGBTI individuals, refugees, and religious minorities was also highlighted, with concerns over growing discrimination and legal repression. The war in Ukraine was a central focus, with repeated calls for solidarity, accountability, and recognition of the conflict as a broader threat to the international order.

Some delegates expressed concern over the use of the OSCE PA as a platform for political agendas, while others underscored the importance of sincere dialogue. The need to protect women's rights, ensure freedom of expression, and address humanitarian crises was also emphasized. Overall, many called for renewed commitment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, reaffirming the OSCE's essential role in defending democracy and human rights.

The committee considered 23 amendments to the resolution, ultimately agreeing to 17, including one oral sub-amendment. The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly.

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Supplementary Items

The supplementary item “Strengthening Gender Equality and Protecting Women” was introduced by Catia Polidori (Italy). During the discussion, members emphasized that women’s rights are human rights, recalling the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and stressing the timeliness of the resolution, with support expressed the initiative and parliamentarians underlining that women are not only victims of conflict but also active agents of peace. The supplementary item was adopted unanimously without amendments.

Ulrik Nilsson (Sweden) presented the supplementary item “Repercussions for Failure to Comply with Democratic and Electoral Standards.” Members highlighted the OSCE’s unparalleled role in election observation but noted the challenges of limited capacity and trust-building. The supplementary item was adopted with three amendments, enhancing the resolution’s language on promoting a high level of commitment and engagement from the OSCE PA on election observation follow-up.

The supplementary item “Countering Russian Disinformation Regarding World War II and the Rewriting of History” was presented by Ruslanas Baranovas (Lithuania), with members stressing that disinformation is a threat to democracy and highlighting Russia’s manipulation of historical narratives to discredit Ukraine. The supplementary item was adopted unanimously with a number of amendments.

Hedy Fry (Canada) introduced the supplement-

tary item “Strengthening Support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the OSCE Region.” She warned of growing threats to hard-won progress in SRHR, particularly for vulnerable communities, and stressed the role of parliamentarians in countering stigma and misinformation. The supplementary item was unanimously adopted without amendments.

The supplementary item “Strengthening Actions to Prevent Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children” was sponsored by Joe Wilson (United States) and presented by Robert Morrison (Canada). The initiative was strongly welcomed, with members calling for increased visibility and co-ordination on this important topic, including through international intelligence-sharing. The supplementary item was adopted in full.

Paweł Zalewski (Poland) put forward the supplementary item “Supporting Democracy and OSCE Values in Georgia,” which prompted a lively debate. Delegations differed on the details of the resolution, while there was broad agreement on the need to prevent democratic backsliding, including through pressure on civil society and restrictions on media. The supplementary item was adopted with several amendments.

Election of Officers

Chair: Lucie Potuckova (Czechia)

Vice-Chair: Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia)

Rapporteur: Carina Odebrink (Sweden)

Working Lunch on Gender Issues



O SCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) welcomed participants to the 2025 Working Lunch on Gender Issues on 30 June, held under the theme “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the OSCE Region – Protecting Gains, Countering Threats.” Dr. Fry opened the session by stressing the importance of understanding gender as a broad and inclusive concept, emphasizing that progress in this field depends on recognizing and respecting a spectrum of gender identities. She underscored that gender justice is not ideological, but a matter of fundamental human rights.

Special Representative Fry highlighted the importance of safeguarding bodily autonomy and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including comprehensive sexual

education, maternal healthcare, and the right to choose. She also drew attention to the need for inclusive, respectful healthcare that recognizes the realities of gender-diverse individuals, and voiced concern over regressive policies and misinformation campaigns threatening young people’s access to gender-affirming care.

Paula Cardoso, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE PA, offered opening remarks, thanking the Canadian Delegation and Dr. Fry for organizing the event and reaffirming Portugal’s support for advancing gender equality.

President Pia Kauma (Finland) also commended the organizers and underscored the significance of the annual Working Lunch on Gender Issues. She reiterated that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

are central to public health, gender equality, and human dignity. Acknowledging increasing challenges, including misinformation and restricted access, she reaffirmed the OSCE PA's commitment to collective action and legislative advocacy in support of SRHR.

In his remarks, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella marked the third anniversary of the OSCE PA Informal Gender Network and reiterated the Assembly's ongoing commitment to advancing gender equality. He emphasized the crucial role of SRHR in protecting human rights, particularly for youth and marginalized communities.

Other notable speakers included Monica Ferro, Director of the United Nations Population Fund's London Office, who emphasized the necessity of building inclusive, community-centered systems that ensure equal access to healthcare and essential services. She highlighted the importance of incorporating the voices of marginalized populations in policymaking and urged governments to invest in modern, dignified, and responsive systems. Ferro also presented the work of UNFPA in Portugal, noting that structural and resource-related challenges continue to disproportionately affect women and underserved groups.

During the discussions, parliamentarians explored key barriers to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights across the OSCE region. Among the most pressing concerns were political polarization, the spread of misinformation, and increasing resistance to these rights in certain contexts.



Economic pressures, particularly the high cost of childcare and limited access to reproductive healthcare, were also recognized as major influences on individuals' decisions around family planning. Additionally, participants underscored the profound effects of conflict and instability, highlighting the emotional, financial, and demographic tolls that war imposes on families.

To address these challenges, participants stressed the need for sustained political will and cross-party collaboration to protect and promote sexual and reproductive rights. It was recommended that participating States prioritize equitable access to care, combat disinformation, and invest in supportive policies that alleviate economic pressures on families. Continued dialogue within the OSCE framework was seen as essential for fostering shared understanding, exchanging best practices, and ensuring meaningful progress across the region.



Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on 30 June 2025 with 12 members of the committee in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Vice-President Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), acting in his capacity as the most senior Vice-Chair of the Committee, following the departure of Dr. Daniela De Ridder (Germany), who chaired the Committee from 2023 until March 2025.

The meeting began with a review of the committee's recent work and discussions on future priorities. Vice-Chair Hadjiyianni also welcomed OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Kari Johnstone and reaffirmed the committee's strong interest in continued co-operation on countering trafficking in the context of mixed migration flows.

A central point of the meeting was the discussion of the committee's recent field visit to Madrid and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in March 2025, hosted by the delegation of Spain to the OSCE PA. Participants expressed appreciation for the organization of the programme and recalled that the visits to migrant reception centres offered valuable insight into Spain's migration management.

Members noted Spain's humane and structured approach to migration, stressing the value of witnessing both mainland and island responses to migration flows, and highlighted the familiarity of such challenges in other countries. This, they said, underlined the need for co-ordinated regional responses

to migration. Baroness Winterton (United Kingdom) reinforced the need to tackle the role of organized crime in facilitating irregular migration and called for strengthened co-operation and intelligence sharing between OSCE participating States.

Dr. Johnstone shared some key takeaways from her visit to Spain in February 2025, pointing to good practices such as the use of specialized police units and an emphasis on labour market inclusion to prevent trafficking. She also noted the importance of engaging non-governmental organizations in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking, contributing to a 'whole-of-society' approach in countering this trend.

Looking ahead, the committee considered a broad range of thematic and geographic priorities for the 2025–2026 period including a focus on implementation of the EU's Migration and Asylum Pact. Members discussed potential future field visits, expressed interest in further co-operation with the OSCE SR/CTHB, as well as with the OSCE PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine on the topic of refugee returns and post-war reconstruction.

Vice-Chair Hadjiyianni concluded the session by thanking members for their active participation. He informed the committee that he would report on the meeting during the Assembly's plenary session and that the Secretariat would communicate details regarding the next meeting, once a new Chair had been appointed, in the autumn.

Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine



The Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) met on 30 June and heard remarks from President and PSTU Chair Pia Kauma (Finland), Vice-President and PSTU Co-Chair Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine); Special Rapporteurs Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), and Mati Raidma (Estonia); and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

In her opening statement, President Kauma noted that since its creation two years ago, the PSTU has worked to support Ukraine's sovereignty, promote justice and accountability, and contribute to long-term resilience and recovery. She highlighted key activities over the previous year, recalling the Bureau meeting in Kyiv in February 2025, which was the first such gathering by any international parliamentary institution in Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion began. She reinforced the message that there can be no discussion about Ukraine without Ukraine, and assured Ukrainian colleagues of the PA's shared political will and solidarity.

The PSTU meeting featured reports by the three Special Rapporteurs, including a special report on Russian abductions and deportations of Ukrainian children. Rapporteur Ödebrink noted that the report builds upon information made available by internation-

ally recognized actors inside and outside of Ukraine, with the aim of exposing the magnitude of Russia's violation of international humanitarian law and OSCE commitments. Many of the deported children are forced to undergo intense efforts to erase their Ukrainian identity and are subjected to Russification and militarization, including being forced to speak Russian, sing the Russian national anthem, participate in military marches and handle firearms, the report notes.

These actions, the report claims, are likely violations of numerous provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other bodies of international law, and the OSCE PA, as an organization dedicated to the human rights and security of all children, has a responsibility to act to ensure that these children are returned to their home country. Together with international partners, the report stresses, the OSCE PA must take resolute action to ensure accountability for the abductions of Ukrainian children and keep their situation a high priority.

The PSTU meeting also included a follow-up discussion on the Side Event "Countering Propaganda, Misinformation, Disinformation and Interference in Internal Affairs of OSCE Participating States," which was held earlier in the day.

Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism

Chair Kamil Aydin (Türkiye) opened the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) with a briefing on three major trends affecting the OSCE region: 1) lone actors attacks; 2) the misuse of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes; and 3) youth radicalization to violent extremism in the digital space. These dynamics, while distinct, often intersect, creating a particularly high-risk landscape for youth. The Chair highlighted how extremist groups increasingly target minors for recruitment purposes, exploiting their low profile and reduced legal accountability. To counter these challenges, he stressed the need for proactive, preventive strategies focused on education, digital literacy, and community engagement, as well as greater co-operation with tech companies to limit the spread of violent extremist content online.

The thematic discussion featured a presentation by a Senior Representative of the Information Services of the Portuguese Republic, who outlined Portugal's counter-terrorism experience. Among the current threats of radicalization faced by Portugal, the expert highlighted the situation in the Middle East and the Islamic State propaganda, which remains significant, often appealing to minors. In this regard, the representative emphasized the importance of schools in identifying early signs of radicalization and in fostering resilience and social integration through education. Disinformation campaigns aimed at Portugal's Muslim communities were also identified as a major concern in terms of deepening marginalization of migrant populations.

During the following debate, members raised a variety of issues. The psychological roots of youth radicalization, especially among mi-

nors, were explored, including unstable family environments and the search for identity, sometimes finding it in extremist ideologies. The importance of international co-operation, particularly in addressing the challenges posed by the free movement of people within the Schengen area, the compliance with data protection frameworks, and unregulated immigration, was underscored.

Questions regarding co-operation with the European Union were addressed, with the representative confirming that Portugal maintains a high level of co-ordination, swiftly sharing alerts. With respect to tracking terrorism financing, the expert added that while traditional financial channels remain relevant, the use of cryptocurrency has introduced new complications. The need for further investigating the connection between terrorism, emerging technologies and organized crime was underscored.

Members also reflected on broader radicalization patterns and the emotional impact of the conflict in Gaza, which was identified as a major trigger of political and ideological polarization in Europe. The rise of nihilist violent extremism was examined, with the representative noting that even if such acts, often detached from ideological or religious motives, fall outside the scope of traditional counter-terrorism, they are being closely monitored due to their increasing occurrence.

The Chair then provided an overview of recent CCT activities, including the committee's visit to the United States on 18-22 May 2025. Looking ahead, the Chair confirmed that the 2025 Autumn Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will place significant emphasis on counter-terrorism.

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Following the adoption of the supplementary item “Securing the Stability of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Financial Situation,” the plenary session on 2 July featured speeches by OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioglu and OSCE/ODIHR Director Maria Telalian, followed by a Q&A session, as well as general debates on the situation in the Middle East and the state of the OSCE 50 years after Helsinki. Chaired by President Pia Kauma (Finland), the session’s wide-ranging debates touched on a variety of issues. On 3 July, the Assembly adopted the Porto Declaration and elected its leadership for the coming year.



Supplementary Items

Introducing his resolution, “Securing the Stability of the Parliamentary Assembly’s Financial Situation,” Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) noted the importance of ensuring the continued financial stability of the Assembly. During the debate, Members pointed out that the PA’s high level of activity requires appropriate funding, which is essential to ensure that important activities are not compromised. It was also pointed out that since the Russian Delegation is no longer contributing to the budget, a different fiscal approach is needed, and perhaps an update to the scales of contribution is in order. The supplementary item was adopted without amendments.

Address by OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioglu

In an address to the parliamentarians, OSCE Secretary General Sinirlioglu warned that the collective security architecture is on the brink of collapse. Selective application of international law has eroded norms, he said, while arms races and use of force have supplanted dialogue as default responses to crises. He urged a reversal of the politics of brinkmanship that is pushing the international system to the edge, insisting that breached fundamental principles—such as sovereign equality and territorial integrity—cannot become the new normal.

Sinirlioglu outlined three urgent steps: first, end ongoing wars, including in Ukraine, by supporting settlement efforts, boosting confidence-building measures like prisoner exchanges, and securing the release of detained OSCE officials. Second, recommit unequivocally to the Helsinki Final Act and UN Charter principles, making them the compass for security. Third, initiate candid discussions on

systemic failures, misinterpretations, and the dangers of over-relying on military deterrence. Emphasizing that true security demands co-operation and dialogue, he positioned the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as vital for honest engagement and mutual accountability. Preserving and reinvigorating the OSCE, he concluded, requires renewed political will to forge a safer, more stable future.

Remarks by the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Maria Telalian

In her remarks, ODIHR Director Maria Telalian underscored that co-operation is indispensable for upholding OSCE commitments in democracy, rule of law, and human rights—foundations of the Helsinki Final Act, the anniversary of which is a reminder of human rights’ role in shared security. Amid mounting challenges to this framework, she urged governments and parliamentarians to defend the Helsinki vision for sustainable peace. Highlighting election observation missions (EOMs) as vital to democratic trust, Telalian stressed the importance of unified statements, national implementation of ODIHR recommendations, and addressing technological threats and foreign interference. She also lauded the good co-operation during EOMs between ODIHR and the PA.

On Ukraine, she praised the Assembly’s political and humanitarian efforts, noting six published reports on victim testimonies and a forthcoming seventh on trials of Ukrainian POWs and civilians. ODIHR stands ready to support future elections through timely co-operation. Regarding Georgia, she expressed concern over the foreign influence law stifling civil society and breaching standards, offering assistance in defending rights,

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rule of law, and election monitoring.

Telalian renewed calls for robust parliamentary partnerships, affirming the OSCE PA's pivotal role in bolstering legislatures to advance human rights and security.

Question and Answer

During the Q&A session, parliamentarians raised a number of points, including concern regarding the impasse over the OSCE budget and whether it is impacting the Organization's functions. The Secretary General noted that the OSCE is highly efficient and adaptable, but agreed that adjustments should be made.

In response to a question regarding the validity of registering foreign agents, the ODIHR Director responded that it is important to ensure that legal frameworks do not adversely affect the ability of civil society to perform its work. She recalled that ODIHR stands ready to work with countries to review legislation.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly President Marco Perestrello

In his address, NATO PA President Marco Perestrello declared unwavering resolve to bolster support for Ukraine, asserting that true peace demands a robust NATO. He hailed the recent NATO summit's decisions to enhance deterrence, adopt ambitious defence investments, and rebalance transatlantic burdens, with NATO's Parliamentary Assembly pivotal in realizing these goals.

Perestrello urged expanding spending beyond military hardware to fortify democratic institutions' resilience against hybrid warfare. He

advocated widening NATO's global network and forging ties with partners like India and Brazil, while parliamentarians lead in championing democratic governance.

There is no lasting democracy without security, he stressed, framing defence investment not as preparation for war but as guardianship of peace. This commitment to peace, security, and justice, he concluded, is an enduring duty for every participating State — ensuring Europe is governed by right, not might, and by freedom, not repression.

President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Theodoros Rousopoulos

In his address, PACE President Theodoros Rousopoulos lamented war's return to Europe, posing the perennial question: how to secure peace, freedom, and dignity for all. He hailed the 1975 Helsinki Final Act as a moral cornerstone linking state security to human security — reaffirming the importance of comprehensive security through democratic safeguards like free elections, media freedom, and human rights.

Amid a trend of rising authoritarianism that sometimes allures youth, he warned that election interference erodes democratic integrity, underlining the need to revive a commitment to and belief in democracy again. Support for Ukraine, he insisted, defends international law and the rules-based order. Belonging to the same organization without shared values breeds chaos; principles must be upheld universally, he said.

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Appeasement, Rousopoulos noted, often leads to failure, urging that international law prevail over force. Reviving faith in democracy, he concluded, is essential to ensure security rooted in dignity, not domination.

General Debate on the Situation in the Middle East

In the debate, OSCE parliamentarians offered a range of views on the state of the Middle East turmoil, condemning Hamas's attack on 7 October 2023 and its ongoing holding of hostages but also expressing strong reservations over Israel's response. Concerns focused on Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe — with mass civilian deaths, starvation, aid blockades, and infrastructure ruin — amid accusations of collective punishment. Speakers decried the erosion of international law, with Israel's actions widely criticized as disproportionate. Iran's nuclear advances and regional proxy conflicts fueled fears of wider escalation, threatening energy routes and migration flows.

Parliamentarians called for immediate, permanent ceasefires, unhindered aid, hostage releases, and a viable two-state solution, alongside sanctions and arms embargoes. Double standards undermined global credibility, some Members stressed, noting that only an unwavering adherence to law, human rights, and compassion, could halt the spiral and restore hope for just, lasting peace.

General Debate on the OSCE 50 Years After Helsinki

The debate reaffirmed the Helsinki Final Act as the bedrock for European security amid Russia's aggression in Ukraine — targeting ener-

gy infrastructure, psychological warfare, and hybrid threats like cyberattacks and disinformation. Speakers urged unified political and economic pressure to curb imperial ambitions, while emphasizing dialogue, ceasefires, and equal adherence to international humanitarian law.

Emerging challenges — unprotected critical infrastructure, nuclear transparency, migration weaponization, and live-streamed conflicts — highlighted the need for strengthened multilateralism and a bolstered role for the OSCE in conflict prevention. Broader regional tensions, including Middle East de-escalation, underscored human security priorities: energy, climate, minority rights, and economic development. Parliaments were called to champion inclusion, transparency, and diplomacy over inertia, ensuring the OSCE remains a credible forum for trust-building and lasting peace.

Address by Amb. Jouni Laaksonen, Head of the Finnish OSCE 2025 Chairpersonship Task Force

Speaking on behalf of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Elina Valtonen, Ambassador Jouni Laaksonen outlined Finland's 2025 priorities under three guiding principles: respect, respond, prepare. He reaffirmed unwavering support for Ukraine, highlighting the CiO's recent visit, and demanded the release of detained prisoners and abducted children.

Since January, Finland has advanced a robust agenda: in the human dimension, a conference combating antisemitism through inter-faith dialogue and three Vienna meetings on

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civic space; in politico-military aspects, cybersecurity and counter-terrorism; in economic-environmental realms, a climate conference. Cross-cutting themes include enabling civil society, fostering resilient societies, and mainstreaming youth via a July Helsinki Youth Forum advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. Supporting people with disabilities is another focus of the Chairpersonship.

The Helsinki+50 initiative will bolster OSCE operations via a dedicated fund and launch dialogues to reinforce Helsinki Final Act principles, the Ambassador said. Laaksonen also praised the Parliamentary Assembly's vital role in monitoring commitment implementation within the broader OSCE community.

Reports by OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committees

Chair Kamil Aydin (Türkiye) presented the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism's report, highlighting lone actor attacks (93 per cent of Western terrorism deaths), AI misuse, and rapid youth self-radicalization online. Minors are prime targets due to vulnerability and leniency, Aydin pointed out. The committee, he said, urges embedding digital literacy and critical thinking in education, plus multi-stakeholder prevention. As called for in a supplementary item adopted in Porto, AI should be regulated to ensure ethical use, parental empowerment, and whole-of-society action to steer youth toward democratic engagement.

Vice-Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) reported on the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration's March visit to Spain, which examined

surging irregular migration to the Canary Islands and identified best practices. The Committee, Hadjiyianni said, strives to unite the OSCE PA and the broader international community against migrant smuggling and trafficking, especially of women and children. Priorities of the committee include ensuring implementation of the EU Migration Pact, migrants' labour contributions, Ukrainian refugees, and broader OSCE-wide management.

The three Special Rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) highlighted Ukraine's resilience amid war: Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) praised on-the-ground solidarity and PSTU's Kyiv visit honoring fallen youth, while Lucie Potuckova (Czechia) stressed rule-of-law reforms and democratic progress despite some limitations, as well as the need for ongoing principled support from the international community. Mati Raidma (Estonia) emphasized youth engagement, critical infrastructure protection, and Ukraine's growing resilience mechanisms, urging sustained international backing for reconstruction.

Adoption of the Porto Final Declaration

Following the consideration of each resolution paragraph by paragraph and all of the supplementary items, the Porto Declaration was adopted without objection.

Remarks by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella

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closed the Porto Annual Session praising the adopted Porto Declaration — representing the collective voice of 1 billion citizens — and parliamentarians’ serious commitment amid global challenges.

He contrasted the PA’s ability to speak up with the governmental OSCE’s paralysis, noting there has been no Ministerial Declaration since 2002. Stressing the OSCE’s founding purpose of dialogue among adversaries, not likeminded allies, he urged continued engagement without expulsion tools. Montella hailed President Kauma’s leadership, reforms, and commitment to the Helsinki spirit, leaving the Assembly financially stable and politically central. Finally, he thanked Portugal for its hospitality and the Secretariat for its dedication.

Remarks by OSCE PA Vice-President Luis Graça

Luis Graça (Portugal) welcomed the adoption of the Porto Declaration and thanked leaders for their efforts. He expressed concern over ongoing conflicts, human suffering, and the regression of human rights in Europe amid Russian aggression. Emphasizing the importance of dialogue over militarization, he recalled historical successes in resolving disputes through diplomacy, urging similar efforts between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Gaza.

Graça called for restraint and emphasized that the OSCE was founded upon peace through diplomacy, highlighting the power of words and negotiations over violence to achieve lasting peace.

Announcement of the Election Results for the Assembly Vice-Presidents

At the Porto Annual Session, the Assembly chose new leadership, with Pere Joan Pons (Spain) elected to a two-year term as OSCE PA President. The Assembly elected four Vice-Presidents: Eugenio Zoffili (Italy), Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), Gábor Hajdu (Romania), and Irene Charalambides (Cyprus). Johan Buser (Sweden) was re-elected Treasurer.

Address by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons

Newly elected OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons Sampietro (Spain) expressed gratitude to Portugal for hosting the Porto Annual Session and praised its commitment to multilateralism. He pledged unwavering unity with Ukraine, recalling Europe’s past abandonment of Russian dissidents and urging all parliamentarians to sustain support. He highlighted Spain’s role in launching Ukraine’s EU accession under its presidency.

President Pons referred to upcoming Assembly meetings, framing them as both practical opportunities for continuing dialogue and symbolic messages about the need to foster multilateralism in an increasingly turbulent world — with the Istanbul Autumn Meeting in November serving as a bridge between East and West, and the Annual Session at The Hague in the summer of 2026 serving as a reminder of the importance of peace and international justice. Finally, he thanked outgoing President Pia Kauma for her leadership.

Porto Declaration

Adopted on 3 July, the Porto Declaration contains three general committee resolutions plus 21 supplementary items dealing with a wide range of topics.

Commemorating the OSCE's 50th anniversary year while lamenting that many of its core principles of co-operation and dialogue have been undermined by a trend of noncompliance with international rules and commitments, the Porto Declaration calls for all OSCE participating States to recommit to the spirit of co-operation that inspired the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975.

The Porto Declaration, adopted unanimously in plenary session by the OSCE PA, reiterates the continued importance of the Helsinki Final Act,

and recommits to upholding and promoting its principles, including respect for sovereign equality, refraining from the threat or use of force, the inviolability of frontiers, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Focusing heavily on the Russian Federation's full-scale war against Ukraine, the Assembly demands the immediate cessation of all acts

of aggression and the full withdraw of Russian forces from the entire territory of Ukraine. It further welcomes international initiatives aimed at achieving a peace agreement, and urges such initiatives to align with the UN Charter, OSCE principles and commitments, as well as international law.

The Porto Declaration contains recommendations in all dimensions of security, with its many important topics including critical infrastructure and nuclear safety, water scarcity and migration, artificial intelligence and misuse of technology, the situation in the Middle East,

demographic change, organized crime, gender equality, youth radicalization and violent extremism, energy security, good governance, maritime security, minorities and vulnerable groups, reproductive health, child trafficking and sexual exploitation,

climate change, and OSCE institutional co-operation.

The result of several days of work in general committees and plenary sessions in Porto, the Declaration represents the collective voice of the OSCE's parliamentary dimension, helping to inform the policies of national governments, parliaments and the international community.

The OSCE PA recognizes the Helsinki Final Act as a cornerstone of the transatlantic security architecture that has underpinned peace, security and prosperity in Europe since World War II, and reaffirms the importance of transatlantic partnerships and co-operation.

- Porto Declaration



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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

www.oscepa.org

osce@oscepa.dk

OSCE PA International Secretariat

Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Tel: +45 33 37 80 40

Fax: +45 33 37 80 30