



**Annual Report on the Activities of the OSCE PA Special Representative on
Fighting Corruption
Vice-President Irene Charalambides**

Reporting Period: July 2024 – June 2025

Throughout the past year, I have had the honour of serving as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Fighting Corruption. My efforts have focused on advancing the fight against corruption, strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation, and supporting democratic oversight and checks and balances. Below is a summary of my key activities during the reporting period.

Resolution on “Preventing Corruption from Being Used as a Foreign Policy Tool”

I sponsored the resolution “*Preventing Corruption from Being Used as a Foreign Policy Tool*,” which was adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its Annual Session in Bucharest.

Summary of the Resolution:

The resolution highlights corruption as a serious threat to democracy, the rule of law, and international stability—particularly when used strategically as a foreign policy instrument. It underscores that grand corruption and state capture, often involving senior officials and private interests, erode public trust, compromise institutions, and enable malign foreign influence.

Key concerns raised include:

- The use of corruption to exert illegitimate influence over other states.
- The exploitation of defence, security, and energy sectors for political leverage.
- The risk of corruption as a component of hybrid warfare, alongside cyberattacks and disinformation.

- The role of anonymous shell companies, money laundering, and illicit trade in facilitating corruption.
- Impunity and suppression of oversight mechanisms by corrupt elites.

The resolution also:

- Commends efforts such as Malta’s prosecution of high-level corruption.
- Calls for robust anti-corruption mechanisms, particularly in international aid and public procurement.
- Urges the establishment and use of beneficial ownership registers to track illicit financial flows.
- Stresses the importance of independent anti-corruption agencies, whistleblower protections, civil society engagement, and international cooperation to trace, freeze, and repatriate stolen assets.
- Encourages progress toward a global definition of grand corruption.

12 October 2024 – OSCE PA Delegation Visit to Serbia

As part of a high-level OSCE PA delegation led by President Pia Kauma, I participated in a two-day visit to Belgrade. The delegation held meetings with:

- Speaker of the National Assembly Ana Brnabić,
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Ivica Dačić, and
- Members of Serbia’s OSCE PA Delegation.

We were hosted by Ambassador Jan Braathu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The 14-member delegation, representing 12 OSCE participating States, received in-depth briefings on democratization, the rule of law, and security cooperation.

9 December 2024 – Statement for International Anti-Corruption Day

Marking **International Anti-Corruption Day**, I issued an official statement in my capacity as OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption:

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2024/statement-of-special-representative-charalambides-marking-international-anti-corruption-day>

In my statement, I emphasized our shared responsibility to combat corruption in all its forms. As legislators, our role extends beyond passing laws—we must also ensure their effective implementation. Independent institutions, such as Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Authorities, must be empowered and adequately resourced to detect, investigate, and address corruption. Strengthening these institutions is essential to uncovering malpractice and restoring public trust.

27 March 2025 – Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum (OECD, Paris)

In my capacity as OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative, I participated in the **Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum**, hosted by the OECD in Paris on 26–27 March.

The forum featured discussions on:

- Leveraging AI in anti-corruption compliance systems,
- Whistleblower protection and empowerment,
- Safeguarding political integrity from undue influence.

In my intervention, I emphasized the need to protect journalists and whistleblowers and underlined the importance that the OSCE PA places on this issue. I noted that while relevant legislation exists in many countries, the cultivation of trust between individuals and institutions remains essential. Without such trust, the fear of retaliation can prevent corruption from being reported.

I also addressed the specific challenges small states face in maintaining whistleblower anonymity. Social media, I noted, can be both a tool for exposing corruption and a weapon for targeting and intimidating whistleblowers.

On the sidelines of the forum, I held bilateral meetings with **Roby Senderowitsch**, Governance Global Manager at the World Bank, as well as representatives of civil society organizations active in anti-corruption efforts.

5 June 2025 – Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Organized Crime (Rome)

As part of the **Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Organized Crime**, co-hosted by the Italian Parliament and led by OSCE PA Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime **Eugenio Zoffili**, I co-organized a session titled *“The Fight Against Corruption in the OSCE Region.”*

In my opening remarks, I recalled Pope Francis’s words during a 2014 Mass:

“Corruption is paid by the poor.”

I also moderated a session examining the nexus between organized crime, corruption, and terrorism, which involved over 80 parliamentarians from more than 25 countries. The session included expert inputs and an open dialogue on best practices.

The session featured institutional and grassroots approaches to anti-corruption, emphasizing that effective efforts must be systemic, transparent, and inclusive.

12 June 2025 – 20th GLOBSEC Forum (Prague)

At the **20th GLOBSEC Forum**, held in Prague on 12–13 June, I met with **Ihor Bezkravainyi**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine, to discuss humanitarian mine action, anti-corruption cooperation, and international support for Ukraine’s reconstruction following Russia’s aggression.

I reiterated the OSCE PA’s unwavering support for Ukraine, recalling:

- The Assembly’s consistent prioritization of Ukraine since 24 February 2022,
- High-level visits to Kyiv by OSCE PA leaders,
- The establishment of the **Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU)** in 2023.

“The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly stands firmly with Ukraine,” I stated.

“We are committed to supporting your sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to contributing to Ukraine’s recovery and future through parliamentary diplomacy and practical engagement.”

I also underscored the critical role of **anti-corruption measures** in the reconstruction process:

“If we are to ensure that international assistance truly benefits the people of Ukraine, we must work together to foster transparency, accountability, and good governance.”

Since being appointed **Special Representative on Fighting Corruption in 2019**, I have remained fully engaged in relevant OSCE PA activities and international initiatives focused on advancing anti-corruption efforts.