



**23rd Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Istanbul, 17–19 November 2025**

*Parliamentary Conference: “The OSCE at 50: Revitalizing
Multilateralism through Dialogue and Co-operation”*

**SESSION II: Strengthening Rule-Based Global Trade: Safeguarding
Fairness, Connectivity, and Sustainable Growth**

Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 09:00

Mr. Azay Guliyev

Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science,
Technology and Environment

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and in particular to my dear friend, the Head of Delegation, Mr. Selami Altınok for their warm hospitality and the outstanding organization of the 23rd Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

My profound thanks also go to you, dear Gudrun, for your leadership in moderating today's discussion.

It is a privilege to take part in this important session here in the magnificent city of Istanbul , bringing together such distinguished panelists to discuss an issue that lies at the heart of our shared security and prosperity.

Within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, promoting connectivity and safeguarding a rules-based global trading system have long been central priorities.

In line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, we affirm that economic integration and sustainable trade are not only engines of our prosperity, but also essential pillars of lasting peace and stability.

Dear Colleagues,

In my remarks today, I will focus on **three key challenges** in this context: climate change, armed conflicts, geopolitical competition and reliable connectivity.

First challenge: Climate Change

We all know that the climate crisis is reshaping our economies and our security environment. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, over the past two decades, climate-related disasters have cost the global economy more than 15 trillion USD, further deepening inequalities and undermining governance.

Moreover, extreme weather events are disrupting infrastructure and supply chains, while the transport sector - responsible for about a quarter of global greenhouse-gas emissions - remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Yet, our collective response still falls short. According to the United Nation Environmental Programme (UNEP), even full implementation of current emission-reduction pledges under the Paris Agreement would raise global temperatures by 2.3 to 2.5 °C, with serious implications for stability.

We must act with urgency, strengthening mitigation, adaptation, and fair financing mechanisms. At the same time, this is an opportunity to make trade and transport more sustainable by improving energy efficiency, decarbonizing mobility, and investing in renewables.

In that sense, it would be reasonable to recall our Porto Declaration, which calls on governments to adopt ambitious climate action plans aligned with the outcomes of COP29 held in Baku and with the targets of the Paris Agreement. This includes enhancing mitigation, adaptation, and a just transition away from fossil fuels-

encompassing economy-wide emission reductions, and mobilizing at least US \$300 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries by 2035.

I also wish to inform our distinguished colleagues that, in my capacity as Chair of the Second Committee, I represented our Assembly at the 2025 OSCE Environmental and Economic Dimension Implementation Meeting, held on 28–29 October in Vienna. There, I conveyed our firm position and urged all OSCE participating States to intensify their efforts to strengthen resilience in the face of mounting global challenges. I emphasized that resilience must not be viewed merely as the ability to recover from crises, but as a comprehensive approach rooted in prevention, preparedness, and effective, accountable governance.

Second challenge: Wars and Armed Conflicts

Wars and conflicts also place a severe strain on connectivity and economic stability. They destroy infrastructure, disrupt supply chains, paralyze trade, and erode trust far beyond the directly affected areas.

The Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine is a stark example. Beyond its human and environmental cost, it undermines global trade, jeopardizes energy security, and destabilizes supply chains.

Recalling again our Porto Declaration, I firmly condemn all attacks on energy and civilian infrastructures as well as targeting diplomatic missions, including the recent renewed missile strike on the building of Azerbaijan's Embassy in Ukraine.

Targeting such facilities threatens the economic and energy stability of the entire region and blatantly violates the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly supports all diplomatic efforts toward a just and lasting peace based on international law including its core principles concerning the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and continues preparing for post-conflict recovery - addressing stabilization, energy security, and ecological rehabilitation. This strong stance of our Assembly was once again underscored by President Pere Joan Pons during his recent meeting with President Zelensky in Kyiv

Third Challenge: Geopolitical Competition and Reliable Connectivity

Beyond conflicts, another destabilizing factor stems from rising competition in global markets.

The growing competition for strategic resources, critical materials, and emerging technologies is increasingly undermining the foundations of open and rules-based trade. Unfortunately, in many cases long-term multilateral co-operation gives way to short-term bilateral strategies that prioritize immediate advantage over collective prosperity.

Another concern is that the introduction of excessive tariffs and other restrictive measures risks fragmenting markets and undermining the resilience of global supply chains.

According to the World Trade Organization, global merchandise trade is projected to contract by 0.2% in 2025, driven largely by rising trade policy uncertainty and

protectionist measures. Between October 2024 and May 2025, the share of import restrictions among all trade interventions reached 44%, while export restrictions more than doubled to 14%, illustrating a systemic shift toward restrictive practices.

Dear Colleagues,

As I mentioned before, today, global connectivity and supply chains are strained by geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, and infrastructural gaps. Disruptions to key transport routes, higher logistical costs, and limited alternative corridors weaken the predictability and security of international trade.

In this context, reliable connectivity has become essential for global commerce and sustainable growth. In this respect, the strategic significance of the Middle Transport Network and its enhancement through the Zangezur corridor or the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) continues to grow. Together with the broader Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, these routes serve as vital, secure, and future-oriented arteries linking Asia and Europe.

By providing safer, more efficient, and diversified transport links, we can not only strengthen regional connectivity, but also reduce dependence on single transit channels, thereby mitigating geopolitical vulnerabilities and contributing to greater stability, resilience, and prosperity across the wider region.

As Parliamentarians, we must redouble our efforts to revitalize multilateral cooperation - ensuring that connectivity and trade remain drivers of security, inclusiveness, and sustainable development.

Here, I am pleased to acknowledge that, alongside the statutory institutions of our Assembly, the Silk Road Group within the OSCE PA has played and stands ready to continue playing a pivotal role in promoting dialogue and practical co-operation among participating States. Its efforts are instrumental in advancing connectivity, particularly across key sectors such as transport, trade, energy, investment, tourism, and intercultural exchange.

Dear Colleagues,

While the challenges before us are considerable, they also offer new opportunities to build stronger, fairer, and more sustainable connectivity.

To move forward, we must reinforce global trade in three key respects:

1. Closer co-operation through regional agreements, resilient transit corridors, green infrastructure, and shared resource management - turning interdependence into mutual strength;
2. Inclusive participation across society, engaging the private sector, civil society, and local communities, and ensuring gender equality and youth empowerment as drivers of innovation and prosperity;
3. Responsible digital transformation, using new technologies for early warning, data sharing, and smarter economic planning - while preventing misuse and promoting digital diplomacy as a force for peace and progress.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly contributes to these goals by generating political will, fostering dialogue, and promoting policy coherence.

Legislators can translate co-operation into tangible results - strengthening trust between nations and between institutions and citizens.

Partnership with our executive structures is essential in this effort. This is why I am very grateful to the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), in particular Ambassador Dzhusupov for inviting me to 2025 OSCE Environmental and Economic Dimension Implementation Meeting and joining us today and sharing the organization's efforts in this field.

Looking ahead, I firmly believe that by investing in connectivity, sustainability, and shared progress, we can build a more stable and forward-looking region.

I thank you.