

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 23rd Autumn Meeting



17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

Contents

**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's
23rd Autumn Meeting**

Istanbul, Türkiye

17-19 November 2025

- 1** Summary
- 4** Parliamentary Conference Inaugural Session
- 7** Session One - Bridging Perspectives: Reinforcing Dialogue, Mediation, and Trust in an Era of Uncertainty
- 13** Session Two - Strengthening Rule-Based Global Trade: Safeguarding Fairness, Connectivity, and Sustainable Growth
- 21** Session Three - Human Dignity First: Protecting Lives, Upholding Rights, and Supporting Families and Communities
- 27** Closing Session
- 29** Mediterranean Forum - Situation in the Middle East
- 33** Standing Committee Meeting
- 37** Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committees

Summary

The 23rd Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 17-19 November 2025, under the theme “The OSCE at 50: Revitalizing Multilateralism through Dialogue and Co-operation.” Hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the event brought together around 200 parliamentarians from 53 OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

At the opening session, OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) reflected on the erosion of optimism in recent years but urged courage, leadership, and renewed dialogue. He committed to advancing peace in Ukraine and Gaza, enhancing engagement in economic-environmental security, and announced the PA’s joining of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children.

Turkish hosts, including Speaker Numan Kurtulmus and Head of Delegation Selami Altinok, highlighted Istanbul’s role as a cultural crossroads and the milestone anniversary as an opportunity to reinvigorate multilateralism. OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioglu underscored the organization’s legitimacy in fostering co-operation amid global crises.

The Parliamentary Conference included three thematic sessions: “Bridging Perspectives: Reinforcing Dialogue, Mediation, and Trust” (chaired by Pia Kauma, Finland); “Strength-

ening Rule-Based Global Trade” (chaired by Gudrun Kugler, Austria); and “Human Dignity First: Protecting Lives, Upholding Rights” (chaired by Luis Graça, Portugal), focusing on support for children and vulnerable groups in crises, and adherence to humanitarian law.

The meeting concluded with the Mediterranean Forum, chaired by President Pons, which addressed the Middle East situation, particularly Gaza. It featured remarks from Special Representative Pascal Allizard, Prof. Esra Albayrakoglu, and delegations from Algeria, Morocco, and the Palestinian National Council. Participants condemned militant violence, emphasized justice as essential for lasting peace, and urged active diplomacy alongside sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

Several side events enriched the programme, including a seminar on Ukraine’s post-conflict future and elections (co-organized with ODIHR), a session on protecting journalists from harassment (with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media), meetings of the Ad Hoc Committees on Migration and Countering Terrorism, and bilateral talks by President Pons and Special Representatives on Ukraine, Gaza, and broader co-operation.

Overall, the meeting reaffirmed the OSCE PA’s commitment to multilateralism, dialogue, and co-operative security in addressing ongoing regional and global challenges.

istanbul

OSCE PA

17-19 NOVEMBER 2025



OSCE PA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

istanbul

OSCE PA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

istanbul



istanbul
Perspective
from
the Core



ANDRÁS SZABÓ
OSCEPA

PAUL DAVOS
OSCEPA

ANNA KERTÜS
OSCEPA

SELAMI ALTINOK
OSCEPA

ROBERTO MONTELLA
OSCEPA

istanbul
OSCEPA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

OSCEPA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

istanbul

Parliamentary Conference Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Autumn Meeting took place in Istanbul on 17 November 2025, featuring addresses by Pere Joan Pons, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Selami Altinok, Head of the Delegation of Türkiye to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Feridun H. Sinirlioglu, Secretary General of the OSCE; and Numan Kurtulmus, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. President Pons expressed gratitude to the Turkish hosts for their hospitality and introduced the Session's speakers.

Inaugural Session



Pere Joan Pons, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

President Pons (Spain) reflected on Istanbul as a city that bridges two worlds at a time marked by tension, war, and hope. He contrasted the optimistic hopes of a stronger multilateral global order at the start of the 21st century with two major conflicts unfolding in Ukraine and in the Middle East. He stressed the importance of parliamentarians and their role in resolving these conflicts. President Pons reiterated the Parliamentary Assembly's unwavering support for Ukraine, underscored by the PA formally joining the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, and highlighted the consistency of the Assembly in supporting peaceful outcomes in Ukraine and Gaza.

President Pons commended the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations in their steps towards peace and noted the Assembly's continued engagement in Georgia with all political forces. He also wished for deeper co-operation with all Central Asian countries.

President Pons underlined the threat of climate change and the importance of a just energy transition. He continued by noting that 57 per cent of his new appointments have been women and called upon all parliamentarians to reaffirm their commitment to the Istanbul Convention. He also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. He concluded by calling for increased funding for election observation missions and reiterated the need to strengthen multilateral dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy, as these are the most powerful tools for resolving conflicts.

Selami Altinok, Head of the Delegation of Türkiye to the OSCE PA

Selami Altinok highlighted the OSCE's strength in promoting a common understanding of security, mutual respect and co-operation-based solutions, where dialogue and multilateralism are central. Issues such as climate change, disinformation, irregular migration, energy security, and humanitarian

crises, he argued, should unite States around OSCE shared values. Altinok drew particular attention to Gaza, and the humanitarian cost of Russia's war against Ukraine as examples of where dialogue and diplomatic efforts are essential. Parliamentary assemblies play a crucial role in keeping these elements alive, as parliaments carry the voice of the people. He viewed the OSCE's 50-year existence as showing that security is possible not only through military measures but also through mutual understanding, economic co-operation and the protection of fundamental human rights.

Feridun H. Sinirlioglu, Secretary General of the OSCE

Secretary General Sinirlioglu highlighted the OSCE's lack of legal personality as a hindrance to addressing international security challenges effectively and called for adopting a charter. Describing the Euro-Atlantic security architecture as "in ruins," he stressed the OSCE's role in rebuilding after the war in Ukraine, noting the humanitarian toll and the detention of three OSCE officials.

He then outlined five avenues for renewing the OSCE. The first avenue is restoring genuine dialogue. Second, he urged that conventional arms control should be re-introduced on the agenda, considering the OSCE's expertise and inclusive membership. Third, he highlighted conflict management as a core OSCE function. Fourth, he stressed the international importance of election observation. Fifth, he encouraged participating States to pursue joint solutions to common challenges.

Looking forward, he underlined that any post-war agreement in Ukraine must be fully imple-

mented and monitored, with the OSCE ready to act as an impartial observer. A new European security architecture, he said, is necessary to prevent an arms race, reduce militarization and confrontation. This architecture should include a set of principles that regulate and shape relations among States reflecting the UN Charter, as well as a robust arms control system and risk-reduction regime to ensure transparency and stability. The OSCE, he stated, is well-placed to build this system.

Numan Kurtulmus, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

Speaker Numan Kurtulmus started by outlining the looming global challenges present at the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, including climate change, migration, unequal wealth distribution, civil wars and increasing militarization. He called for a new international economic, political and economic architecture, arguing that existing international organizations, including the UN, are often ineffective. Thus, a new international order should be established based on various fundamental principles, including equality amongst people and states, justice, and accountability. Moreover, the new international system ought to be inclusive and representative, moving away from present-day double standards.

Kurtulmus condemned the humanitarian loss caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine and called for an enduring ceasefire to end the war, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. He highlighted the peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan as an example of dialogue and diplomacy to end conflict, and, finally, proposed that Palestine should become a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Session One

Bridging Perspectives: Reinforcing Dialogue, Mediation, and Trust in an Era of Uncertainty

Chaired by Pia Kauma (Finland), President Emerita of the OSCE PA, session one focused on mediation, with speakers highlighting Türkiye's initiatives such as the Black Sea grain deal and regional efforts, and stressing the importance of safe diplomatic spaces in multipolarity. Parliamentarians explored the importance of dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, mediation support, conciliation, and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Session One



Pia Kauma, President Emerita of the OSCE PA

President Emerita Kauma opened the session by stressing that dialogue, bridging perspectives, and mediation are a necessity in an age of increasing uncertainty and eroding trust. Lying at the core of the OSCE PA and its identity, they must nonetheless be paired with conditions which allow us to protect shared principles, honour commitments, and uphold international law standards, she said.

Kauma recalled President Pons's recent travel to Kyiv in October 2025, where an OSCE PA delegation met with President Zelenskyy, Verkhovna Rada Ruslan Stefanchuk and Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha, and reiterated the OSCE

PA's full and unwavering support for Ukraine following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

"Trust, however, is built, nurtured, and reinforced through repeated engagement, transparency, and inclusivity," President Emerita Kauma said. "It is forged when all voices are heard, when communities and governments alike are meaningfully engaged in shaping the decisions that affect them." At the same time, finding ways to reconcile principles of collective defence, commitment to international law, and belief in diplomacy has never been more urgent.

This, Kauma said, demands courage, persistence, and willingness to engage across differences.

Trust ... is forged when all voices are heard, when communities and governments alike are meaningfully engaged.

- Pia Kauma

Professor Cagrı Erhan, Senior Advisor to the President of Türkiye

Professor Erhan described the current period as an era of overlapping crises shaped by shifting and unpredictable power balances, warfare, environmental pressure, energy disputes, and technological uncertainty. As they erode trust, these dynamics also reinforce the need for dialogue and mediation. He highlighted Türkiye's longstanding commitment to fostering mediation at the UN, the OSCE, the OIC, and through various national platforms such as the Istanbul Mediation Conference and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. Notable endeavors include Türkiye's role in reconciliation processes in Iraq, Lebanon, and Kyrgyzstan, engagement in Balkan processes, involvement in Somalia-Somaliland dialogue and facilitation between Ukraine and Russia. The creation, in 2024, of a dedicated Directorate General for International Mediation with Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs further illustrates Türkiye's position as a dependable player committed to peaceful solutions.

Ambassador Helga Maria Schmid, President of the European Institute of Peace

Helga Schmid underlined that conflicts have grown more complex amid an increasingly fragmented international environments in which national interest often prevails over goodwill and conflict resolution. She described current times as difficult for international organizations as UN mechanisms weaken and the assumption that all nations agree to security co-operation stands disproven. Without shared rules, she said, strength becomes the determining factor of international relations, which is both unsustainable and undesirable. In these challenging times, the OSCE retains a unique role, owing to its original mandate to offer a platform for co-operation for states with opposing world-

views. She also welcomed the current Finnish presidency's focus on civil society as the right approach for strengthening multilateralism.

David Harland, Executive Director, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

David Harland noted the deterioration of Europe's security architecture: trust is low, co-operation limited, and many of the defining security norms were agreed upon in the second half of the 20th century, from the UN Charter to the OSCE itself. With over sixty active conflicts worldwide and rising death tolls, the current global landscape is reminiscent of the worst days of the Cold War as the risk of catastrophic warfare appears nearer due to expanding arsenals and lighter constraints on their use. This makes approaches like that of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, which rely on discretion and informal channels, particularly efficient as a complement to the OSCE's invaluable work. Harland cited the Black Sea Grain Initiative as an example of a successful deal made possible by gathering varied players from diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Debate

Participants underscored the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, weakened multilateralism, misinformation, AI, and overall eroding trust as the key drivers of the current security crisis. They stressed the centrality of dialogue and called for continued adherence to the Helsinki principles and the need to return to a rules-based approach which upholds human rights and international law. Speakers from across the OSCE region urged for intensification of OSCE activities from election observation missions to protection of minorities, while calling for more funding and inclusive security approaches involving civil society and women was also repeated.

A

25

istanbul

17-



HELGA MARIA SCHMID
PRESIDENT
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PEACE

ePA

EMBER 2025

istanbul

OSCE

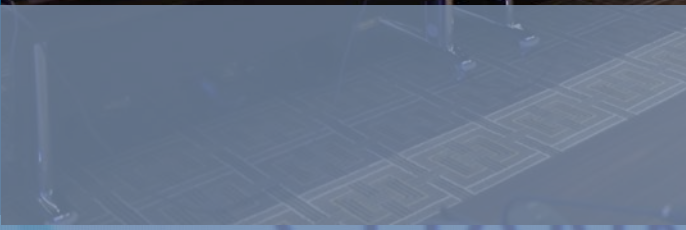
17-19 NOVEMBER



ÇAĞRI ERHAN
SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF TÜRKİYE







Session Two

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

Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Gudrun Kugler (Austria), session two of the Parliamentary Conference addressed the topic of “Strengthening Rule-Based Global Trade: Safeguarding Fairness, Connectivity, and Sustainable Growth”. Participants discussed how trade and connectivity could be protected, improved and diversified in the face of the challenges posed by climate change, conflicts and growing geopolitical competition.

PA
BER 2025

istanbu



GUDRUN KUGLER

VICE-PRESIDENT

OSCE PA



Gudrun Kugler, Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security

Opening the session, Gudrun Kugler welcomed the great interest in the economic and environmental dimension of security, as demonstrated by the large number of speakers who had registered for the session. She regretted the threat to economic connectivity stemming from the “weaponization” of energy and food exports. Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, she emphasized the need to tackle brain drain and strengthen rules-based trade co-operation and resilient supply chains.

Prof. Mustafa Ege Yazgan, Rector of Istanbul Bilgi University and Director of its Center for Financial Studies

Prof. Yazgan warned of the dangers of heavily one-sided economic dependencies and undiversified supply chains, with China accounting for more than 35 per cent of global manufacturing production. He also illustrated the

strong rise of industrial policy interventions, aimed at supporting specific national sectors, including subsidies, tariffs and export controls. To safeguard fair and rules-based trade, physical and digital connectivity, and sustainable growth, he called for increased transparency, predictability and co-operation. He commended the OSCE for fostering dialogue and transparency, promoting the alignment of standards, and mapping supply-chain vulnerabilities.

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

Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) stressed the crucial role of economic integration and sustainable trade for prosperity, peace and stability. Outlining threats to economic stability stemming from climate change, armed conflicts, and geopolitical competition, he emphasized the need for a green transition, the importance of multilateral diplomacy, and the necessity to refrain from unfair trade practices while



also reducing dependencies on single transit channels. Guliyev called for improving sustainable, fair global trade by urging closer regional co-operation, inclusive participation across all sectors of society, and a responsible digital transformation, leveraging the benefits of new technologies.

John Drummond, Head of Division, Trade Policy, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

John Drummond warned of the impacts of unfair trade practices, barriers, and trade fragmentations to national economies. In this context, he highlighted the special vulnerabilities of OSCE countries due to their deeper integration in global supply chains and higher dependency on trade in intermediate goods. Consequently, he underlined the importance of multilateral co-operation, fostering more resilient and diversified global supply chains, unlocking the benefits of AI, and promoting tax co-operation for greater certainty. In

closing he encouraged increased co-operation between the OECD and OSCE family.

Bakyt Dzhusupov, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Amb. Dzhusupov emphasized the essential role of predictability, non-discrimination and transparency for trade, transport connectivity and broader economic interaction. He also called on parliamentarians to help restore confidence in the rules-based framework. Outlining the OCEEA's activities, he informed about the projects promoting cross-border connectivity and green ports infrastructure in the Caspian and Black Sea regions.

Finally, he praised the agility and flexibility of the second dimension and emphasized the need for joint efforts aimed at pooling resources and avoiding duplication. In this context, he praised the co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly in linking policy and political momentum, and increasing visibility.

Session Two

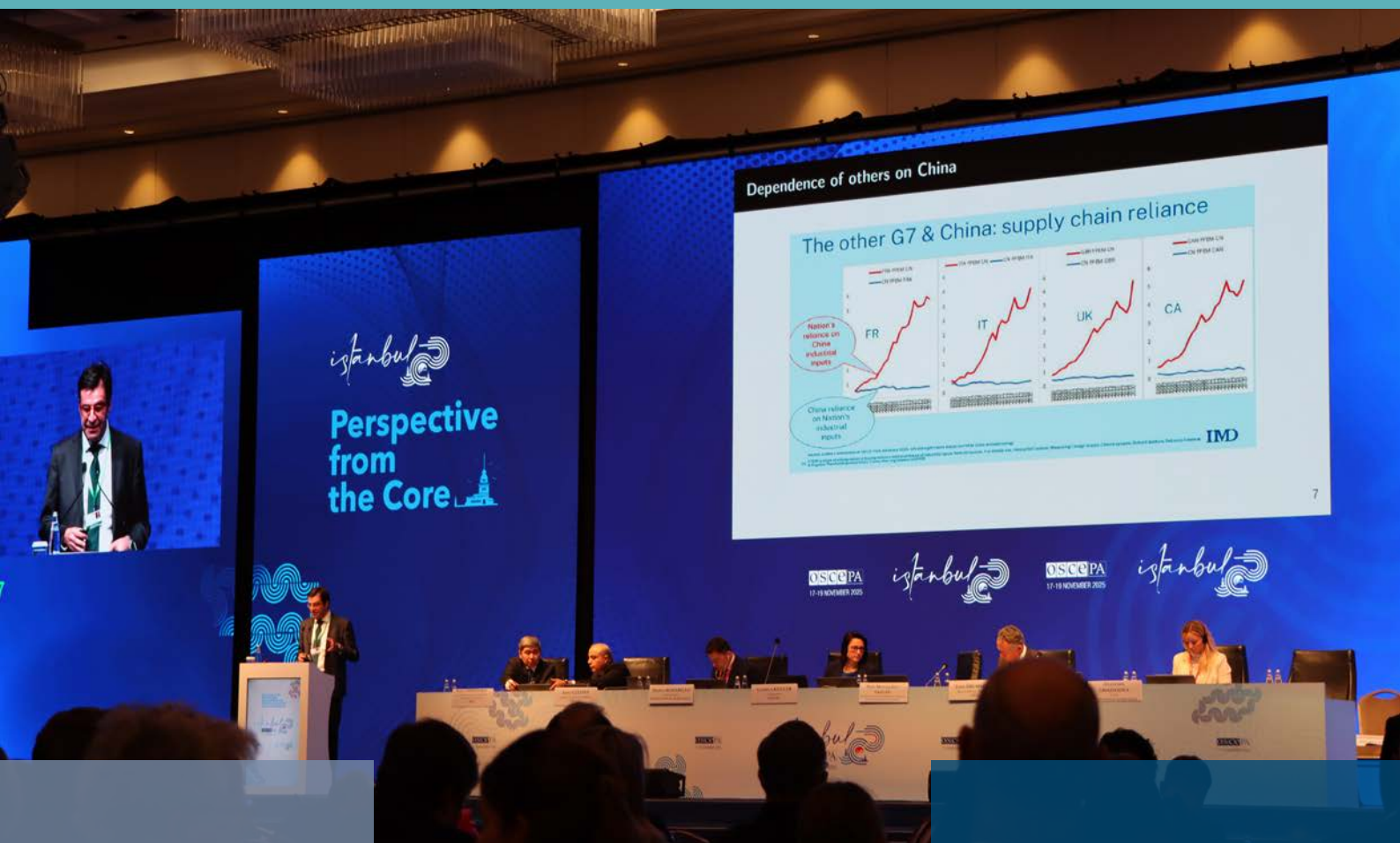


Debate

Thirty parliamentarians contributed to the ensuing debate, underscoring their commitment to a fair, rules-based trade, inspired by the principles of predictability, transparency, non-discrimination and equal access, and in the interest of prosperity, peace, stability and confidence building. They highlighted the heavy impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine, the need to abstain from unfair trade practices and "weaponization" of dependencies. Speakers emphasized the importance of a

green transition, harnessing the benefits of new technologies as well as the crucial role of parliamentarians in monitoring trade rules and informing institutional reform.

Paula Cardoso (Portugal), Rapporteur of the OSCE PA Second Committee, announced that the next Committee report would focus on the societal impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence, sustainable economic development and free trade, climate change and environmental crises, and preparations for the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.





Perspective from the Core



scePA
9 NOVEMBER 2025



Session Three

Enhancing Migration Governance in the OSCE Region to Foster Sustainable Development

Chaired by Luis Graça, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on the South Caucasus, the third session focused on the theme “Human Dignity First: Protecting Lives, Upholding Rights, and Supporting Families and Communities.” It featured addresses by Sarah Muscroft, Director of the Response Support Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Paolo Marchi, UNICEF Representative to Türkiye; and Sebnem Akçapar, Faculty Member, Social Sciences University of Ankara.



LUIS GRAÇA

VICE-PRESIDENT

OSCE PA

Session Three

Luis Graça, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on the South Caucasus

Vice-President Graça opened the session emphasizing that true security begins with people, cautioning that action often comes only after damage is irreversible. Reflecting on nearly four years of war in Ukraine, he welcomed Carina Öberbrink's appointment as Special Envoy on Russian Abductions and Deportations of Ukrainian Children. Graça highlighted the detention of three OSCE officials by the Russian Federation since April 2022 (Vadim Golden, Maxim Petrov, and Mitru Shabanov), reiterating the Assembly's call for their unconditional release.

On broader security challenges, Graça noted that the war in Ukraine underscores the imperative to safeguard human dignity. He drew attention to the 7 October attack in the Middle East, which triggered a devastating cycle of conflict in Gaza, deemed one of the worst humanitarian crises in modern history, with one in ten people killed or wounded. While a ceasefire offers hope, he cautioned that reconstruction will be long and difficult.

Graça emphasized regional crises' cross-border impact, highlighting the broader effects of conflicts and expressing concern over the growing disregard for international humanitarian law and human rights norms. He noted that the politicization of multilateral organizations erodes their legitimacy and leads to human suffering and stressed that human dignity must always guide the actions of elected representatives.

Sarah Muscroft, Chief of the Response Support Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Sarah Muscroft delivered the first keynote speech, warning of a global humanitarian funding crisis: only 21 per cent of global needs are funded, leaving operations under-resourced and forcing difficult choices between crises. She reminded governments of their obligations under international humanitarian law and emphasized the need for rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Muscroft outlined four areas for stronger parliamentary engagement: upholding humanitarian principles and protecting aid workers; prioritizing funding based on need; supporting effective humanitarian leadership and co-ordination; and investing in flexible financing, including pooled funds and risk-sharing mechanisms. She also stressed addressing root causes through development financing. She concluded by affirming that while under pressure, the humanitarian system is adapting, and collective responsibility remains to ensure actors have the space and resources to relieve suffering.

Paolo Marchi, UNICEF Representative to Türkiye

Paolo Marchi highlighted the disproportionate impact of crises on children, noting that by the end of 2023, nearly 50 million children were displaced, representing 40 per cent of all displaced people globally. He emphasized that



OSCCPA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

istanbul

OSCCPA
17-19 NOVEMBER 2025

istanbul



humanitarian action functions as an interconnected system, with weaknesses affecting all actors. UNICEF estimates 230 million children are in need, including in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan.

He observed that short news cycles often obscure ongoing humanitarian needs, even in well-developed countries, citing UNICEF's response to Syrian refugees in Türkiye and the 2023 earthquakes. Marchi concluded by underlining parliamentarians' role in supporting access negotiations, diplomatic co-ordination, and public engagement with humanitarian efforts.

Dr Senem Köser Akçapar, Professor of Sociology of Migration

Professor Akçapar emphasized human dignity

as the foundation of human rights and social justice, highlighting the need to protect life and ensure access to basic necessities. She called for accountability where legal frameworks are violated and noted that international agreements safeguarding human rights affirm human dignity.

Highlighting Türkiye's designation of 2025 as the Year of Families, she noted that social cohesion is strongest where human rights are respected. Effective migration policies, she argued, support cohesion and stability, and protecting human dignity requires inclusivity and solidarity toward refugees, women, workers, children, and older persons.

Akçapar urged OSCE participating States to view migration as linked to security, cautioning against the weaponization of migration.

She recalled the compassion shown in the 1950s and warned against waiting for another catastrophe to revive these values. She concluded by encouraging States to prioritize peace and human dignity and expressed hope that the OSCE can sustain meaningful partnerships with the EU, UN, and other actors.

Debate

Parliamentarians expressed concern over ongoing conflicts, particularly Russia's war in Ukraine, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and regional instability. Delegates condemned attacks on civilians, drone use, and violations of international humanitarian law, calling for accountability and international tribunals. Human rights violations, including media restrictions, arbitrary detentions, and discrimination against LGBTQI communities, were also highlighted.

Speakers addressed family rights and social inclusion, advocating for legal recognition of grandparents' rights, protection of "rainbow families," and support for young families. Gender-based violence was also emphasized, with calls to strengthen commitments to the Istanbul Convention. Migration and displacement were discussed, including internally displaced persons in Georgia and Ukrainian refugees, stressing dignified treatment, housing access, and equal rights.

Delegates underscored the importance of the rule of law and transparent legal procedures. Cases of detained activists, humanitarian workers, and political figures were cited as systemic concerns. Overall, discussions reflected a shared commitment to protecting human dignity across the OSCE region, with emphasis on accountability for war crimes, democratic norms, family rights, and urgent humanitarian response.





Closing Session

Selami Altinok, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA

The closing session was opened by Selami Altinok, Head of the Turkish Delegation, who spoke on behalf of the Grand National Assembly as host of the Parliamentary Conference. He thanked the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and all parliamentarians for their active participation over two days of discussions.

Altinok noted that the meeting had been characterized by constructive exchanges, sincere dialogue and a shared commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges facing the OSCE region. He recalled Istanbul's historic role as a bridge between continents, cultures and political traditions, stressing that the city once again provided an appropriate setting for parliamentary diplomacy.

He underlined that the atmosphere of co-operation demonstrated during the meeting was not only important for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly but also carried broader significance for the international community, as it showed the continued relevance of multi-lateral parliamentary engagement. He further noted that the Istanbul meeting formed part of the wider legacy of the OSCE as it marks 50 years of commitment to dialogue, security and co-operation.

Stressing his gratitude to all the staff who made the Autumn Meeting possible, Altinok concluded by expressing his hope that the discussions developed in Istanbul would continue to inform the Assembly's future work and invited delegates to continue their engagement at the Mediterranean Forum the following day.

Roberto Montella, Secretary General of the OSCE PA

Secretary General Roberto Montella took the floor to further reflect on the relationship between Türkiye and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and on the broader themes that had emerged during the meeting. He thanked the Turkish hosts and the Secretariat for their co-operation and highlighted Türkiye's long-standing engagement with the Assembly, particularly in the fields of migration and the fight against terrorism.

Recalling the PA's visit to Türkiye in 2012, Montella referred to the country's response to the Syrian conflict and its decision to host millions of displaced persons. He noted that Türkiye's approach to migration had influenced the Assembly's work and had contributed to the strengthening of its committees on migration and security. He also recalled the OSCE PA's visit to Türkiye following the attempted coup in July 2016, emphasizing that the Assembly had stood with Turkey at a difficult moment for its democratic institutions.

Montella described Istanbul as a place where different civilizations and political traditions meet, making it a natural venue for dialogue. He stressed that the OSCE PA is built on the principle of dialogue, even when views diverge, and warned against intellectual and political rigidity. Meaningful co-operation, he said, requires the ability to understand other perspectives and to engage constructively across differences.

Looking ahead, Montella referred to the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna and expressed confidence in working with the

Closing Session



Swiss Chairpersonship. He also reiterated the Assembly's strong support for Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioglu, noting the importance of an active and visible leadership for the organization. He concluded by thanking President Pons for his inclusive and pluralistic approach and for setting out a clear governance and reform agenda for the Assembly.

Pere Joan Pons, President of the OSCE PA

In his closing remarks, President Pons thanked the Turkish authorities, the International Secretariat, the interpreters and all staff involved in organizing the meeting. He apologized for not having been present at all sessions, explaining that many bilateral meetings had taken place alongside the formal programme.

President Pons highlighted three main messages emerging from the Istanbul meeting. First, he underlined the OSCE PA's role as a platform for dialogue, noting that the discussions in Istanbul had demonstrated the Assembly's capacity to bring together different viewpoints in

a constructive manner. Second, he stressed the importance of strengthening the Assembly's capacity to act, including through election observation, political engagement and follow-up activities. Third, he addressed the issue of resources, noting that the ability to fulfil these roles depends on adequate and sustainable funding.

He referred to specific outcomes of the meeting, including the Assembly's decision to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children and the discussions held on Ukraine's future. He also noted that emerging challenges, such as digital warfare and technological authoritarianism, would require further attention in upcoming meetings, including in Vienna.

President Pons concluded by recalling Istanbul's long-standing role as a bridge between East and West and encouraged delegates to continue building connections and dialogue beyond the meeting. He thanked all participants for their engagement and wished delegations a safe journey home.







Mediterranean Forum

Situation in the Middle East

The OSCE PA's 23rd Autumn Meeting closed with a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum focused on the situation in the Middle East. Chaired by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons, the forum featured remarks by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard (France), Prof. Esra Albayrakoglu of Bahcesehir University, and addresses by the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from Algeria and Morocco, as well as an intervention by the Delegation of the Palestinian National Council. The open debate focused on the situation in Gaza, with a look toward future, and included the participation of 24 parliamentarians from 14 countries.

Mediterranean Forum

Pere Joan Pons, President of the OSCE PA

President Pons opened the Mediterranean Forum by stressing that the Mediterranean area is in a critical moment, with heightened tensions across the region and civilians bearing the brunt of conflicts. He recalled the OSCE PA's call for the recognition of the State of Palestine, noting that several OSCE countries have since taken this step.

Referring to findings by the UN stating that acts amounting to genocide have occurred in Gaza, he warned that the war's effect extend across the Mediterranean through displacements, energy insecurity, and economic disruption, and that without co-ordinated action, the region runs the risk of divisions deepening further.

He urged immediate humanitarian access, protection of civilians, release of hostages, and a cessation of hostilities, calling the recent UN Security Council resolution a crucial step toward a sustainable ceasefire. President Pons underlined the responsibility of parliamentarians to maintain dialogue and strengthen co-operation with Mediterranean partners in areas such as security, migration, equality, and human rights.

Pascal Allizard, Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs

Joining remotely, Special Representative Allizard highlighted the Mediterranean as a shared political and human space. He recalled the OSCE PA's 2025 mission to Israel and Palestine and stressed the urgency of humanitarian access.

He outlined the forthcoming "Pact for the Mediterranean", which he envisions as a way to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean partnerships in three main spheres: the human (training, employment, mobility, education, sport, and tourism), the economic and environmental (trade, energy transition, development of medium-sized business), and the security aspect, which addresses border management, irregular migration, transborder crime, and terrorism.

Dr. Esra Albayrakoglu, Faculty Member, Bahcesehir University

Prof. Albayrakoglu placed the Gaza crisis in the broader regional context of the Middle East, which she described as marked by convergent crises spanning Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Libya, with links to instability in the Sahel region. Climate stress, insecurity, displacement, and declining state capacity aggravate the crisis in Gaza, which in turn influences regional dynamics. The heavy human cost of the conflict, she explained, must guide an international response based on a human-security approach focusing on the lived realities of affected populations, psychosocial support, and the expansion of humanitarian corridors.

Addresses by the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

In their interventions, parliamentarians from Algeria, Morocco, and the Palestinian Authority, focused on the dire humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, calling for immediate facilitation of humanitarian aid, reconstruction and a credible path to move forward with the



peace plan without delay. In particular, delegates stressed the right for self-determination, dignity and security for all people of the region to ensure lasting peace, complemented by accountability and the implementation of the two-state solution.

Open Debate

In the debate, parliamentarians urged accountability and full Gaza reconstruction, as well as a genuine two-state solution based on equality and sovereignty. They stressed that there can be no lasting peace without justice, condemned militant violence, and called for leadership focused on peace, while prioritizing sustainable development across the Mediterranean. Diplomacy must be active and assertive to achieve long-term solutions, it was stressed.

Parliamentarians also underlined that the fragile security situation in the Middle East cannot be isolated from security in the OSCE region

and beyond. In light of these developments, delegates reiterated calls to increase the Assembly's attention to the situation, while several delegations stressed that the Palestinian people's future cannot be held hostage by Hamas. Parliamentarians also condemned settler violence in the West Bank, noting that it challenges the core principles the OSCE represents.

Conclusions

In her concluding remarks, Prof. Albayrakoglu highlighted the sentiment expressed by many delegates that the two-state solution is the only way forward. While underscoring the need for greater understanding and constructive dialogue between Palestine and Israel to address shared challenges, she further stressed that any actor taking part in crimes against humanity, as well as those who remain silent to the evident humanitarian challenges, should equally be condemned by the international community.



Standing Committee Meeting



The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, Autumn Meeting and Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget and appoints the Secretary General.

Report of the President

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons opened the meeting by underscoring Istanbul's significance as a meeting venue amid heightened regional instability and ongoing conflict in Europe. He highlighted contemporary security challenges, including violations of national airspace, hybrid threats, disinformation, and cyberattacks.

President Pons reaffirmed Ukraine's central importance to the OSCE PA's mission, reiterated the Assembly's condemnation of Russia's full-scale invasion, and expressed continued support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In line with this priority, he

announced the Assembly's decision to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children as a contribution to ongoing humanitarian and justice efforts. He also introduced a proposal to establish a working group on the Middle East and Afghanistan to promote dialogue and stability in those regions.

Report of the Secretary General

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella noted the value of recent field visits to Ukraine (7-8 October), and to Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina (5-8 November), emphasizing the OSCE PA's contribution to reconciliation and diplomatic engagement. He

Standing Committee Meeting

further highlighted the growing importance of election observation amid rising threats such as foreign interference, disinformation, and the misuse of technology. The Secretary General also stressed the security implications of climate change, drawing attention to the link between environmental pressures and regional instability.

During the subsequent discussion, delegations outlined governance reform priorities, including enhanced transparency, strengthened accountability, improved regional balance, and greater gender equality and youth inclusion.

Report of the Treasurer

OSCE PA Treasurer Johan Büser emphasized the increasing need for resources to meet expanding operational requirements, particularly for election observation, described as the Assembly's "crown jewel." He called for a revised scale of contributions and encouraged additional extra-budgetary support. In the follow-up discussion, delegations underscored the importance of sustained funding to ensure the continuity of election observation and other field activities.

Election Observation Reports

Farah Karimi (Netherlands) highlighted the increasingly polarized electoral climate in Europe and the resulting strain on democratic institutions. She cautioned that election observation missions risk becoming entangled in political narratives and emphasized the need to safeguard impartiality and public trust.



Secretary General Roberto Montella echoed these concerns, noting that while the OSCE PA's appointment processes remain balanced, quota-based systems in other institutions face mounting political pressure. He recalled instances where public statements by politically appointed leaders diverged from ODIHR assessments, affecting media coverage and the coherence of the international message. Montella urged parliamentarians to defend ODIHR's methodology and resist external pressures that could compromise professional monitoring.

In the discussion, delegates underlined growing challenges posed by disinformation and manipulation, recommending the creation of a task force to examine elections in the digital information environment and to strengthen public communication.

Briefings on the parliamentary elections in

Standing Committee Meeting

Albania (11 May 2025) and the presidential election in Romania (4 May 2025, with a second round on 18 May 2025) highlighted the need for electoral reform, depoliticized administration, safeguards against misuse of state resources, clearer rules on online campaigning, and greater accessibility for minorities and persons with disabilities. Delegations stressed the importance of sustained legislative engagement.

Ad Hoc Committees

Kamil Aydın (Türkiye), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, reported on emerging threats, including the convergence of organized crime and terrorism and the misuse of artificial intelligence. He highlighted the Assembly's contributions to UN-level discussions and the launch of a school dialogue programme aimed at preventing youth radicalization.

Farah Karimi, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, outlined priorities linked to implementation of the EU Asylum and Migration Pact, local migration governance, and the development–migration nexus. She reported initial consultations with the European Commission and UNHCR and noted the Committee's forthcoming visit to Istanbul. Some Members advocated for a mission to Syria; Karimi acknowledged the relevance but noted practical constraints and agreed to continue consultations.

The newly appointed leadership of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine (PSTU) outlined priorities related to monitoring

humanitarian and security developments, supporting long-term recovery, and preparing for future elections. Delegates were briefed on the seminar "Forging Ukraine's Post-War Future," which examined reconstruction of electoral infrastructure and inclusion of displaced persons. The Special Envoy on the Return of Ukrainian Children, Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), described ongoing abductions and forced transfers by Russian authorities and recommended that the OSCE PA join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. The President affirmed that the Assembly would formalize its participation.

Discussion

The Committee considered a proposal to establish a working group on the Middle East and Afghanistan. While some delegations emphasized the regional implications for European security, most expressed reservations, citing limited resources and the need to remain focused on the OSCE area. The Secretary General recalled that establishing an ad hoc committee requires consensus, which was not present, and encouraged using existing mechanisms for thematic initiatives.

The meeting concluded with an overview of upcoming events, including the Winter Meeting in Vienna, the Bureau meeting in Copenhagen, the 2026 Annual Session in The Hague, and confirmation of Andorra as host of the 2026 Autumn Meeting. Delegations were invited to consider hosting the 2027 Annual Session. The President closed by underscoring the importance of unity and dialogue amid an increasingly turbulent security environment.

Standing Committee Meeting



Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration was established in 2016 to serve as a focal point for the PA's work in the field of migration. To strengthen the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians in addressing violent extremism, in July 2017 the PA established the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism. The Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine was established in July 2023 to promote support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine

In lieu of the usual working meeting of the PSTU, a high-level seminar organized by the OSCE PA and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions was held on 16 November, entitled "Forging Ukraine's Post-Conflict Future: Assessing Electoral Capacity and Readiness," participants explored Ukraine's preparedness to tackle the complex challenges of organizing post-conflict elections. With support from the national delegations of Ukraine, Türkiye, Canada, and the United Kingdom, the event served as a possible roadmap, raising key considerations for holding future elections.

Ukraine's next national elections, it was stressed, will unfold in an exceptionally demanding post-conflict environment marked by mass internal and external displacement, widespread destruction or occupation of polling infrastructure, fragmented voter lists, shortages of trained personnel and ongoing security risks that will remain significant even after active hostilities cease. Participants pointed out, therefore, that supporting Ukraine to prepare for elections must be a priority of the international community.

Speakers included OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA Selami Altinok, First Deputy

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Korniyenko, Member of the British Delegation to the OSCE PA Sir John Whittingdale, and Head of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA Hedy Fry. Also featuring the perspectives of practitioners and experts, including from countries that have experience with post-conflict elections, participants discussed the resilience of Ukraine's democratic institutions in the face of the ongoing war and looked to identify avenues for supporting Ukraine in addressing its readiness for organizing and conducting post-war elections.

Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

The meeting of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, chaired by Farah Karimi (Netherlands), on 17 November focused on the experiences of local authorities in the city of Istanbul with migration. The Chair introduced the main topic, noting that this was one of the topics which the Committee had agreed to prioritize with the aim to learn more about how local authorities in major urban centres respond to the complex realities of migration and to generate insights into how they can foster more effective, equitable and sustainable approaches to migration management while strengthening social cohesion.

The panel featured contributions by Serra Albayrakoglu, Head of the Department of

Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

Foreign Relations, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) of the Turkish Ministry of Interior, Merve Agca, Director of the Migration and Social Policy Center at the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) as well as Dr. Elif Menderes, Senior Program Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. Representatives of non-governmental organizations representing Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan communities living in Istanbul also contributed to the discussion.

The discussion focused on the sustainability of returns to Syria as well as lessons learned regarding municipal competencies in the area of migration management. Recommendations included strengthening the role of municipalities in this area as well as a call for more external resources and increased international-level responsibility sharing of refugees. The important role that municipalities can play in voluntary returns, for example in providing information, logistical support, institutional co-ordination and contribution to the reconstruction of Syria, was also underlined.

The Committee also discussed upcoming activities including a planned visit to Brussels in January to learn more about the state of play of preparations for implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, chaired by Kamil Aydin (Türkiye), met to discuss Türkiye's counter-terrorism experience, providing members with



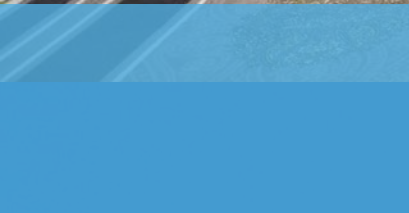
an opportunity to share lessons learned in this context. Members discussed future joint efforts, including the launch of a new "School Dialogues" project, which will bring together students, teachers, local authorities and parliamentarians to promote critical thinking, civic education and media literacy as key instruments to prevent youth radicalization to violent extremism.

Based on the OSCE PA's 2025 Resolution on Preventing Youth Radicalization, the School Dialogues project highlights the role of education in integrating civic and media literacy into curricula and for parliamentarians to engage closely with their communities. During the CCT meeting, members discussed plans to organize public dialogues in middle-high schools across their constituencies, where members could host debates and discussions with students on radicalization, misinformation, and cohesion.











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