

OSCE PA Secretaries of Delegation briefed on modalities for Remote Annual Session



An online meeting was held Tuesday to brief OSCE PA Secretaries of Delegation on the modalities and technical aspects of the 29th Annual Session, which will take place during the first week of July for the first time in an online format. Due to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person meeting in Bucharest had to be cancelled, it was explained, and the OSCE PA Bureau decided on 19 April to hold a Remote Annual Session, which will consist of meetings of the Standing Committee, the three general committees, and one plenary session.

The agenda of this virtual session will be limited to reports, topical debates, election of officers, administrative issues, and questions of urgency. Reports prepared by

the committee rapporteurs will be presented at the Annual Session on matters related to OSCE's three dimensions of security, and urgency items, it was explained, must be pertinent to the OSCE process and relate to an event which has taken place or come to public knowledge less than 24 days before the Annual Session. The Standing Committee, which will meet on 5 July, must agree by the principle of consensus-minus-one to place the urgency items on the agenda of the plenary, which will vote on them on 6 July.

Opened by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, Tuesday's meeting covered issues such as practical and procedural arrangements, timeline and deadlines, and the voting procedures for elections of Assembly and general committee officers. 7 June is the registration deadline for eligible voters, Secretaries of Delegation were told, as well as for presenting candidatures. On 10 June, a Bureau meeting will be held to validate candidatures, for rapporteurs to present reports, and to take a decision on approval of the Remote Session agendas.

A follow-up meeting will be held on 11 May for a more practical training session to acquaint staff with the online registration system.

Third Meeting of the OSCE PA "Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Process"

The Third Meeting of the OSCE PA's Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Process Initiative, "Discussion on Revitalizing Dialogue," will take place Wednesday 5 May at 14:30 CET. The event will livestream here, where you can also find details on the programme: <https://bit.ly/3vEfyN9> More information on the OSCE PA's OSCE Call for Action - Helsinki +50 initiative, including videos of previous events, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2QThJ00>

OSCE PA Special Representative on Arctic Issues meets with Sami Council

Special Representative on Arctic Issues Torill Eidsheim (Norway) met on Monday with Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of the Environmental and Arctic Unit of the Sami Council, the largest organization bringing together representatives of Sami people in five different countries. The meeting focused on the impact of the climate crisis on Arctic indigenous communities and on other challenges faced by the Sami in the High North.

Discussions also touched upon the dynamics of political representation of Sami people in national parliaments as well as their engagement in international bodies. Special



Representative Eidsheim reiterated, in particular, the intention to include views and perspectives of Arctic indigenous communities in her work in the PA.

Featured tweets @oscepa

The officers of the Third Committee – Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis (Cyprus), Vice-Chair Michael Georg Link (Germany) and Rapporteur Kari Henriksen (Norway) – tweeted on Monday to mark World Press Freedom Day. The human rights leaders stressed that there are too many journalists imprisoned in the OSCE area, and that media freedom is essential for democracy. "The best way to defend democracy, fight corruption and ensure accountable government is to promote #MediaFreedom," tweeted Link. "On today's #WorldPressFreedomDay we celebrate journalists who provide reliable information and commit ourselves to supporting free and independent media."



MP Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis (DHΣΥ)
@KHadjiyiannis

In the @OSCE area, there are far too many journalists who are imprisoned. But those who suffer from attacks on #MediaFreedom are not just those in prison, but also those of us who rely on the information that can only be provided by ensuring press freedom. #WorldPressFreedomDay 🙏

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