

Cederfelt expresses PA's support for Ukraine at Crimea Platform Summit



Participants of the Crimea Platform Parliamentary Summit, 25 Oct.

PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) spoke Tuesday at the Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform in Zagreb, noting that every day, OSCE parliamentarians feel the suffering of millions of Ukrainians, and remain steadfast in their support for Ukraine and its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. "Since 2014, we have denounced Russia's annexation of Crimea as a clear, gross, and uncorrected violation of the Helsinki Final Act," Cederfelt said. "Our latest Declaration, adopted in July, the Birmingham Declaration, condemns in the strongest terms the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine."

On the sidelines of the summit, President Cederfelt held consultations with colleagues, discussing the best way forward

to support Ukraine. Discussions were held with Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chair of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and with Othmar Karas, Vice-President of the European Parliament. In talks, Stefanchuk welcomed the OSCE PA's Birmingham Declaration on continued support for Ukraine. Cederfelt and Karas discussed the importance of reinforcing complementarity between the European Parliament and the OSCE PA to ensure greater impact and avoid duplication of efforts.

The one-day summit, held for the purpose of increasing international pressure to promote the de-occupation of Crimea and its peaceful return to Ukraine, included the participation of dozens of speakers and deputy speakers of parliaments, as well as heads of inter-parliamentary assemblies, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and NATO PA.

Other OSCE PA Members in attendance included Ukrainian parliamentarian Yevheniia Kravchuk; Nikoloz Samkharadze, Head of the Georgian Delegation and Chair of the OSCE PA's human rights committee; and Wolfgang Sobotka, Head of the Austrian Delegation and President of the National Council of Austria.

OSCE PA webinar focuses on support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity

At a webinar held by the OSCE PA on 19 October, several Ukrainian parliamentarians shared details about the situation on the ground and explained what is needed to help defend Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. OSCE PA Members heard an analysis from Marco Pedrazzi, Professor of International Law at the University of Milan, on the illegitimacy of the recent "referenda" that were held in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

In her opening remarks, PA President Margareta Cederfelt stressed that when it comes to Ukraine, silence is not an option, recalling that PA Members have a voice both in the OSCE and in national parliaments. It is important to continue to forcefully defend OSCE principles in all available forums, she said. Head of Ukrainian Delegation Mykyta Poturaiev highlighted Ukraine's

need for additional financial support and urged international isolation of Moscow. Other members of the Ukrainian Delegation of the OSCE PA Yevheniia Kravchuk and Pavlo Frolov also took the floor, emphasizing that Ukraine is resolved to continue defending itself.

In the discussion, OSCE parliamentarians noted the importance of ensuring sustained support for Ukraine. Participants also discussed strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and emphasized the need for renewed diplomatic efforts to find a sustainable solution, as well as increased support for the victims of the war, including through war crimes investigations.

The webinar was held in the framework of the OSCE PA's Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative and was moderated by OSCE PA High-Level Expert Lamberto Zannier.

OSCE PA Second Committee leaders meet with Special Representatives to discuss priorities

On 20 October, leaders of the OSCE PA's Second Committee were joined by several OSCE PA Special Representatives for an online consultation and exchange of views on priorities and plans and explore possible synergies on issues of common concern. The meeting was chaired by Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) and featured welcoming remarks by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella, who welcomed the initiative as an additional avenue to strengthen the wealth of expertise and experience which members of parliament continue to lend to the Assembly.

Committee Chair Guliyev noted that the OSCE area is experiencing multiple, overlapping crises and there is a need to utilize all OSCE parliamentarians' abilities, networks and tools

to overcome the challenges. In this respect, the committee leaders heard reports from Special Representative on Digital Agenda Radu-Mihai Mihail (Romania), Special Representative on Arctic Issues Bryndís Haraldsdóttir (Iceland), Askar Shakirov (Kazakhstan), Vice-President and Special Representative on Sustainable Development Goals, and Roger Padreny (Andorra), representing the informal network of young parliamentarians.

Interest was expressed by participants in collaborating on projects and possible field visits. It was also agreed that economic and environmental concerns impact first and foremost on youth, and it is therefore critical to involve young people in the OSCE PA's work.

Secretary General Montella represents Assembly at OSCE Mediterranean Conference

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella represented the Assembly at the 2022 OSCE Mediterranean Conference held this week in Jordan. On 24-25 October, Montella joined high-level representatives of the OSCE's governmental side and Foreign Ministers from Mediterranean Partner States for discussions on challenges facing the region, including climate change, human trafficking, women's economic empow-

erment, and security.

Speaking at the conference, SG Montella stressed the linkages between European security and the Mediterranean region, and the importance of sustained dialogue and co-operation with OSCE Mediterranean Partners. On the margins of the conference, he also held a number of informal talks with counterparts from the OSCE and representatives of Partner States.