

In Skopje, President and SG build synergies between incoming Chairmanship and PA



OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella were in Skopje this week, meeting with high-level representatives to discuss areas where the 2023 OSCE Chairmanship of North Macedonia and the OSCE PA can co-operate and build upon each other's rems. On 14-15 November, Cederfelt and Montella met with the President of North Macedonia, Stevo Pendarovski, and the Foreign Minister and incoming Chairman-in-Office, Bujar Osmani. Meetings

were also held with President of the Assembly of North Macedonia, Talat Xhaferi, as well as members of North Macedonia's Delegation to the OSCE PA, headed by Igor Janushev.

Cederfelt and Montella commended North Macedonia for assuming the responsibility of chairing the OSCE during turbulent times and expressed appreciation for the role of North Macedonia's parliament in supporting the OSCE Chairmanship and actively participating in OSCE PA meetings and activities. The PA leaders also highlighted the work of the OSCE Mission to Skopje as crucial, with Cederfelt and Montella congratulating the outgoing Head of Mission, Amb. Clemens Koja, for the achievements of the mission during his tenure.

Discussions focused on the war in Ukraine and the priorities of North Macedonia's Chairmanship in 2023, in particular safeguarding the fundamental principles of the OSCE, implementing the commitments made by all participating States, and rebuilding stability by restoring dialogue.

Youth engagement in focus in Special Representative's New York visit and Yerevan event

OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi (The Netherlands) was in New York last week for a series of meetings last week with UN officials. The talks, held on 9-11 November, focused on ways to enhance the youth dimension and improve co-ordination of efforts in youth empowerment between international organizations, including co-operation in the area of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Karimi welcomed efforts of the UN to address the needs of young people as a cross-cutting priority, emphasizing the necessity for the OSCE to use UN best practices in working with youth. Karimi expressed a willingness to intensify co-operation with the Office of the Envoy on Youth in the area of national implementation of the UN SCR 2250 on Youth Peace and Security, in particular through the interparliamentary diplomacy. She also welcomed the recent UN General Assembly Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2022 on Establishment of the United Nations Youth Office.

On Monday, the OSCE PA's informal network of young par-



liamentarians held its fifth meeting, which focused on addressing threats to democracy and security challenges facing the OSCE region, as well as the role of young politicians in addressing these security threats. The meeting, held in Yerevan, Armenia, featured participation of a dozen parliamentarians under the age of 35, and was addressed by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt. Meetings were also held with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Vahe Gevorgyan, the President of the Republic of Armenia, Vahgn Khachaturyan, and the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan.

CCT Chair Lopatka presents Coordinating Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies in Zimbabwe

Last week, OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) presented the Co-ordinating Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies, which is chaired this year by the OSCE PA, to the 44th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union in Zimbabwe. Lopatka stressed the need to deepen co-operation with African parliamentary colleagues to learn how to address

counter-terrorism in an integrated and holistic approach. He also pointed out that the work programme of the Co-ordinating Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies includes concrete initiatives specifically for the affected Sahel states including Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Africa needs international support to address diverse challenges, he stressed, which is also important in curbing irregular refugee flows.

Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement meets with UN officials in New York

OSCE PA Special Representative for Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) held a meeting earlier this week at the UN, speaking with representatives of the Department of Global Communications and the Economic and Social Affairs Council's NGO Branch. The meeting focused on matters of strengthening the participation of civil society and co-operation between the United Nations and the OSCE PA in this field.

The position of Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement was created in 2019 to promote co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and representatives of civil society.

