

Potuckova addresses last OSCE Human Dimension Committee Meeting of 2023



Lucie Potuckova addresses HDC in Vienna, 12 December 2023

Speaking at Tuesday's OSCE Human Dimension Committee Meeting in Vienna, OSCE PA Third Committee Chair Lucie Potuckova (Czech Republic) emphasized the role of parliamentarians in upholding international humanitarian and human rights law in the OSCE region. She described the relevant OSCE PA tools and efforts, such as parliamentary oversight, noting that the Assembly serves as a platform for exchange on national legislative approaches to reflect global changes and ensure that human rights are protected at all times.

"At the OSCE PA, we are aware that we belong to a deeply connected world and that everything that is happening can easily

pass countries' borders," stressed Potuckova. "That is why it is crucial that we, as legislators, are aware of relevant developments in our region and can act accordingly. It is simple – if the decision-makers are not informed, the legislative framework will suffer too."

She urged OSCE participating States to ensure that international human rights principles are maintained at all times and to be diligent in holding one another accountable in this regard. "International human rights standards are created for when times are difficult," she emphasized. "It is precisely during such crises that we must maintain them."

While in Vienna, Potuckova met with Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE and Chair of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee Amb. Anne-Marie Callan, ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci, OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Civil Society Andreja Stojkovski, and Amb. Ivo Sramek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OSCE. The Chair also visited the Vienna Office of the OSCE PA International Secretariat.

Kauma and Karimi address international forum marking anniversary of Turkmenistan's neutrality

Addressing the international forum "Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace" remotely on Monday, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) noted that as the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act approaches, it is important to remember that diplomacy and co-operation are key to resolving conflicts and promoting peace.

Kauma spoke at the high-level plenary session of the event, which was organized by the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations in Turkmenistan, and was held on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan. In her remarks, Kauma stressed that it is critical to acknowledge that neutrality has helped facilitate dialogue and support conflict resolution throughout history and that the clever application of the policy of neutrality can play a special role in supporting peace and security processes in the OSCE region.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia Farah



Karimi (Netherlands) also spoke at the event, emphasizing that in today's interconnected world, where conflicts are complex and multifaceted, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security is more pertinent than ever. She noted however that the current security situation in the OSCE area, and in particular the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, is a reminder of the limitations we face, requiring reflection on the OSCE's experiences and greater efforts to ensure accountability.

Gulyev highlights MPs' role in addressing environmental challenges in the Mediterranean



Azay Gulyev speaking in Portoroz, 7 December 2023

Parliamentarians have an important role to play in promoting the green transition and addressing environmental challenges across the Mediterranean, OSCE PA Second Committee Chair Azay Gulyev (Azerbaijan) said 7 December at the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 23) in Portoroz. Gulyev pointed out that beyond shaping national legislation, lawmakers also allocate resources and hold governments accountable for their commitments, including those foreseen in the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols.

Gulyev highlighted the work of the Parliamentary Assembly in the economic and environmental dimension, noting that the

Mediterranean basin is a core focus of the PA's efforts. He pointed out that the OSCE PA officially contributes to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development by providing its strong parliamentary perspective, and underlined the importance of fostering international co-operation on pressing challenges. This, he said, is essential to ensure that the concerns of citizens are heard and addressed at the highest levels of decision-making.

"Governments, parliaments and civil society should join forces to promote green development across the Mediterranean basin while safeguarding its delicate environment," he said. Gulyev also highlighted the impact of climate change across the Mediterranean basin, stressing the need to redouble efforts to meet Paris Agreement commitments by drastically curbing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing co-operation across the board. In this sense, he noted that the Barcelona Convention, by helping translate environmental commitments into action, represents a significant step in the right direction.

The COP 23 took place on 5-8 December, convening concurrently with the UN Climate Change Convention in Dubai.

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