

## Pons and Ödebrink participate in high-level meeting on returning Ukrainian children



Pere Joan Pons addresses the High-Level Meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children in Brussels, 11 May 2026



President Pons meets with Peter De Roover, President of the Belgian House of Representatives, and Senator Valerie De Bue, Head of the Delegation of Belgium to the OSCE PA, Brussels, 11 May 2026

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) addressed on Monday the High-Level Meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, co-hosted by the European Union, Ukraine and Canada, and bringing together foreign ministers, ambassadors and leaders of international organizations. Urging the international community to intensify efforts to return and reintegrate thousands of Ukrainian children illegally deported or forcibly transferred by Russia, President Pons described the issue as not only a humanitarian tragedy but a profound test of the international rules-based order.

“Europe’s future must include a secure and sovereign Ukraine. Yet that future cannot be fully realized as long as thousands of Ukrainian children remain illegally deported, forcibly transferred, or stripped of their identity,” President Pons stated.

He highlighted the OSCE PA’s strong and consistent support for Ukraine, noting that the Assembly was the first parliamentary institution to join the International Coalition. He recalled the 2024 Bucharest Declaration, in which OSCE parliamentarians condemned the deportations and called for the creation of the Coalition, and reaffirmed the OSCE PA’s full commitment to keeping the issue high on the political agenda.

Pons outlined three key areas where the parliamentary dimension can add value: one, by maintaining political pressure on tracing and verification until every child is accounted for; two, by reinforcing international co-ordination and diplomatic

tracks to turn UN condemnations into concrete action; and three, by supporting post-return protection and reintegration, including psychological care, education, and family reunification.

“Every abducted child is an affront to our common humanity and a failure we cannot normalize,” Pons stated. “Every successful return reaffirms that no power and no conflict can justify the theft of children from their families and their identity.”

While in Brussels, Pons held a number of bilateral meetings, including with Peter De Roover, President of the Belgian House of Representatives, and Senator Valerie De Bue, Head of the Delegation of Belgium to the OSCE PA.

Also participating in the Brussels event was OSCE PA Special Envoy on Russian Abductions and Deportations of Ukrainian Children Carina Ödebrink (Sweden). Attending the High-Level Meeting and High-Level Reception, as well as the film screening of the 2024 documentary “After the Rain: Putin’s Stolen Children Come Home,” Ödebrink held a number of bilateral discussions with senior officials to advance efforts to strengthen tracing systems, boost diplomatic efforts, expand post-return support, and enhance accountability.

Special Envoy Ödebrink emphasized in particular the importance of promoting accountability for contraventions of OSCE commitments, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as possible war crimes with respect to the forced relocation of Ukrainian children.

## Annual Session web page updated with available reports and draft resolutions

Ahead of the 33rd Annual Session, taking place in The Hague from 4 to 8 July 2026, available reports and draft resolutions of the three general committees, along with important deadlines for amendments, have been posted at the Assembly’s website here: <https://bit.ly/4uB1JO2>

## Pejovic highlights youth research and OSCE PA initiatives at Vienna event



Jevrosima Pejovic addresses youth event in Vienna, 13 May 2026

OSCE PA First Committee Vice-Chair and member of the Network of Young Parliamentarians Jevrosima Pejovic (Montenegro) today addressed the opening of the youth event “Global Transformation for Future Generations” in Vienna, organized by the OSCE. Aimed at connecting OSCE structures and delegations with young researchers and discussing global challenges, the event highlighted the work of scholars participating

in the Regional Academy on the United Nations programme.

In her remarks, Vice-Chair Pejovic highlighted the importance of youth-driven, evidence-based research in addressing global challenges such as geopolitical tensions, AI governance, disinformation, and water security. She praised the event for bridging young researchers’ fresh perspectives with policymaking and emphasized the OSCE PA’s initiatives — including the Network of Young Parliamentarians and the Youth, Peace and Security platform — to ensure young people actively shape policies that affect them. She also committed to sharing the researchers’ findings with parliamentarians.

Policy papers discussed at the event focused on water management, security sector governance and reform, the role of multilateralism in the current complex geopolitical context, responsible AI in the defence sector, media accountability, and disinformation legislation.

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