

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



By President Margareta Cederfelt
24 - 25 November 2022

Dear Members,

Let me first sincerely thank you for the trust you placed in me as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during our Annual Session. Since our last meeting, I have continued [to implement the priorities identified by our Assembly in the Birmingham Declaration](#).

Although numerous challenges throughout the OSCE region call for our continued attention, the [war in Ukraine](#) remains our biggest concern. Following ten months of fighting, the situation on the ground is radically different from the one we discovered on the first day of our Winter Meeting, on 24 February 2022. However, key issues remain, requiring our Parliamentary Assembly to stand firm on our shared principles. We need to continue defending Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and we need to continue to call out the violations of the Helsinki Principles and of international law committed by the Russian Federation.

In line with our mandate and our existing resources, an updated [action plan](#) has been shared with the OSCE PA Bureau. Given the limited options for parliamentary engagement at the present stage, our current efforts should focus on raising awareness about the Birmingham Declaration, continuing with strong and targeted public messaging, and providing a space for debates.

At the end of October, I represented the OSCE PA at the first [Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform](#) in Zagreb, Croatia. Together with the leadership of over 40 parliaments and parliamentary assemblies, our message was clear: we will continue to support Ukraine, diplomatically and politically, and we will continue to demand that the Russian Federation end this unprovoked and unjustified war. I further underlined this message when I addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna.

In response to the steps taken by the Russian Federation to double down in its clear and gross violations of the Helsinki Final Act, including through sham referenda to illegally annex more territory, the [joint statements](#) issued with Chairman-in-Office Rau, Secretary General Schmid, Secretary General Montella, and Heads of Institutions, have displayed the OSCE family's unity and resolve.

The "Call for Action / Helsinki+50 initiative" has offered a platform for [monthly discussions](#) on how the OSCE can address the war in Ukraine and its consequences. We must continue to use such opportunities to interact with our colleagues in Kyiv and to inform our work in our national parliaments.



Since my re-election in Birmingham, I have continued to reach out to our [institutional partners](#) to ensure that our efforts do not overlap but rather complement each other. In September, I met with the President of the [UN General Assembly](#), Csaba Kőrösi, to discuss the obtention of observer status for the OSCE PA. I also exchanged with several ambassadors to the United Nations on the work of our Assembly.

Through my participation in the Session of the Baltic Assembly in Riga, Latvia, I exchanged with Speakers of Parliament on the security situation in the [Baltic Sea Region](#), particularly in the context of the war in Ukraine. Regular consultations with regional parliamentary assemblies must continue to ensure that all perspectives are reflected in our work.

Although the OSCE was once again unable to hold its flagship human rights meeting, the [Warsaw Human Dimension Conference](#) was a great opportunity to reconnect with civil society representatives. However, I remain concerned that the instruments that help the OSCE promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law are continually being sabotaged.

The [state of the OSCE](#) overall is deeply troubling. Lack of consensus on the 2022 budget threatens the OSCE's ability to assist participating States in a number of key areas. I am also alarmed at the prospect of closures of Field Operations in the coming months.

I discussed these issues with the [incoming Chairman-in-Office](#), North Macedonian Foreign Minister Bujar Osmani, a few weeks ago in Skopje. As demonstrated in recent years, a relationship of trust and mutual assistance between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Chairmanship helps to amplify your voice and ensures that your engagement on behalf of the OSCE PA has the greatest impact.

In Skopje and during my visit to San Marino in September, I held valuable exchanges with Members of the OSCE PA to discuss current and upcoming activities. The [input of all Delegations](#) – big or small – is necessary to exploit our potential and fulfil our mission. In this spirit, our "[OSCE PA Town Hall](#)" in October provided an opportunity for all our Members to comment on our work. Support for our new [women's network and the network of young parliamentarians](#) should also contribute to promoting inclusive debates and decision-making.

[Regular meetings with the International Secretariat](#) have enabled a rolling review of OSCE PA activities and helped identify issues of concern well in advance. This includes discussions on [amending our Rules of Procedure](#) to introduce a suspension mechanism in cases of serious violations of the Helsinki Final Act, which will be decided during our Autumn Meeting. [Mid- and long-term efforts to revitalize the OSCE](#), such as the event hosted by the Parliament of Finland in September, must also serve to adequately address security challenges in our region.

Given that our collective success relies on the [active engagement of all OSCE PA delegations](#) and strong political support from the national parliaments, I am grateful for your vigorous participation in all our meetings, as again demonstrated during this Autumn Meeting, and our activities in the field, in particular the [election observation missions](#) deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to the United States.

Let me also express my gratitude for the assistance provided by the International Secretariat to support my activities as President and the wide array of projects carried out by Members on behalf of the OSCE PA.



Margareta Cederfelt