

Second Inter-parliamentary Conference on Combating Organised Crime in the OSCE Region

*#STOPDRUGS – Fighting Drug Trafficking together to Defend
Security, Health and the Rule of Law*

Italian Chamber of Deputies

Rome, 14–15 May 2026

HIGHLIGHTS



Executive Summary

The Second Inter-parliamentary Conference on Combating Organised Crime convened in Rome on 14-15 May 2026, bringing together more than 150 parliamentarians, experts, and institutional representatives from across the OSCE area and beyond, including high-level Italian law-enforcement authorities, along with representatives of the OSCE, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Conference participants also had the opportunity to be received in a private audience by Pope Leo XIV, who stressed that combating organized crime and drug trafficking requires strong international co-operation rooted in the rule of law, effective prevention strategies and the protection of human dignity.



His Holiness Pope Leo XIV speaking at the private audience, Vatican City, 15 May 2026. Photo credit: Vatican Media

The Conference highlighted the rapid spread of synthetic opioids and the need for science-based, coordinated international responses. It also stressed the importance of addressing addiction through prevention, mental-health support, therapeutic communities and social reintegration. Finally, experts underlined that dismantling organised crime requires targeting its financial structures by “following the money”, recovering assets and co-operating internationally in monitoring illicit financial flows.

The discussions produced important insights and key suggestions, which emphasize the importance of inter-parliamentary and law-enforcement co-operation, science-informed legislative frameworks, and the importance of prevention and protection of young people and other vulnerable individuals from drug trafficking.

OPENING SESSION

The conference opened with a welcome address by Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, followed by the OSCE PA Vice-President, Head of the Italian Delegation, and Special Representative for the Fight Against Organized Crime, Hon. Eugenio Zoffili. The floor was then given to the OSCE PA President, Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, OSCE PA Secretary General, Roberto Montella, and Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior, Nicola Molteni.



Vice-President and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili opens the conference, Rome, 14 May 2026

During the opening interventions, a special tribute was paid to the victims of organised crime, honouring the memory of Judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino and the members of the law-enforcement community who lost their lives in service.

The introductory remarks highlighted how narcotics consumption, particularly among young people, produces cascading social, economic, and security consequences. Families and communities bear the burden of addiction, while criminal organisations exploit technological anonymity, digital marketplaces, and globalised financial systems to expand their influence. It was emphasized that effective responses must remain people-centred, combining law enforcement with prevention, education, rehabilitation and psychological support, especially for young people affected by addiction.

A recurring theme was the recognition that no state can confront these challenges in isolation. The transnational nature of drug markets, the speed of technological change, and the adaptability of criminal networks require coordinated international action, strengthened parliamentary diplomacy, and a renewed commitment to the culture of legality.

SESSION I: *The Silent Wave: The Threat Posed by Fentanyl and Synthetic Opioids*

Keynote speakers: *Debbie SEGUIN*, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; *Giuseppe SPINA*, Director of the Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Services of the Ministry of the Interior; *Raffaele COVETTI*, Commander of the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Health (NAS); *Justice TETTEY*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). **Discussants:** *Fatmir MEDIU*, Member of the Assembly of Albania, former Minister of Defence and Minister of Environment.

Discussion

The first session examined the unprecedented rise of synthetic opioids, which have reshaped global drug markets due to their low production costs. Keynote speakers, including representatives of the United States, Italy and the United Nations, shared national and international approaches to tackling the growing threat posed by fentanyl and synthetic opioids. Participants noted that fentanyl and its analogues evolve at a pace that often outstrips regulatory and forensic capacities. Even in countries not yet experiencing a full-scale emergency, early indicators, such as diverted pharmaceuticals, isolated overdoses, and the appearance of non-medical synthetic opioids, demonstrate a concrete and growing threat. Participants repeatedly described synthetic opioids as a “silent wave” whose consequences are devastating for communities, public institutions and national security. Speakers stressed that the rapid spread of fentanyl and other synthetic substances constitutes not only a public health emergency, but also a geopolitical, economic and security challenge with transnational implications.

The session highlighted the need for effective and coordinated legislation, as well as for a stronger connection between law and science. Wastewater analysis, toxicological networks, early-warning mechanisms, AI-supported predictive tools, and upgraded operational capacities were highlighted as essential instruments for anticipating emerging substances. Participants stressed that legislation must evolve as rapidly as synthetic drug markets themselves in order to close loopholes exploited by criminal networks and ensure that investigative and forensic tools remain effective.

Drug traffickers increasingly rely on encrypted communication, online marketplaces, and cryptocurrencies, which complicate investigations and require equally sophisticated responses. Several speakers warned that organized criminal groups exploit technological anonymity, weaknesses in regulatory systems and delays in international co-operation to expand their activities and profits.

Participants also discussed the obstacles to international co-operation, including uneven recognition of the scale of the problem, limited detection capacity, and insufficient engagement from producer and transit countries.

Conclusions

The session concluded that traditional, reactive approaches are no longer sufficient. Criminal networks innovate faster than regulatory systems, and institutions must therefore adopt strategies that are equally agile, science-driven, and internationally coordinated.

A comprehensive and forward-looking response is therefore required, one that is supported by harmonised legislation capable of adapting swiftly to new chemical variants, by robust forensic and toxicological infrastructures, and by mechanisms for real-time information-sharing across borders. At the same time, prevention efforts must be reinforced through sustained public awareness, targeted education initiatives, and the early detection of emerging substances. Ultimately, the session affirmed that the fight against synthetic opioids must combine supply-side disruption with demand-side reduction, including treatment, community support, and targeted prevention strategies.

SESSION II: *From Fragility to Rebirth: Admission, Therapeutic Communities and Prevention*

Keynote speakers: *Simone FEDER*, Co-Ordinator of the Youth and Addiction Unit at the Casa del Giovane Community in Pavia; *Angela CROWDY*, Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organisation of American States (OAS); *Mario ENZLER*, Senior Adviser at the Heritage Foundation; *Jean-Benoit MANHES*, OSCE Deputy Co-Ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; *Antonio BOSCHINI*, Therapeutic Manager at San Patrignano Community. **Discussants:** *Kyriakos HADJIYIANNI*, Vice-President of the OSCE PA; *Catia POLIDORI*, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA; *Anna BILOTTI*, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA.

Discussion

The second session focused on the human dimension of addiction, emphasising how social isolation, emotional distress, and marginalisation create vulnerability to substance abuse and criminal exploitation. Speakers noted that growing mental-health challenges among young people require societies to move from reactive emergency responses toward long-term prevention, early intervention and integrated care. Testimonies from therapeutic communities illustrated how environments marked by degradation and loneliness can shape behaviour.

Therapeutic communities were presented as essential actors in long-term recovery. Their holistic and person-centered approach, which addresses biological, psychological and social dimensions, provides stability, structure and a sense of belonging. The session also addressed the need for integrated care systems that combine mental-health services, family support, education, and social reintegration. Early intervention was identified as a decisive factor in preventing marginalisation and reducing vulnerability to exploitation.

A significant part of the discussion addressed the intersection between drug trafficking and human trafficking. Participants also reflected on the limitations of punitive approaches to

addiction, noting that criminalisation has often deepened marginalisation and hindered recovery.

Conclusions

The session concluded that addressing addiction requires a paradigm shift in how societies understand fragility. Vulnerability should not be treated as a stigma but as a starting point for recovery and personal transformation. Investment in mental-health services, family support, and reintegration pathways is essential. Prevention must be understood as an ethical and strategic investment in the future, requiring strong engagement from schools, families, and local institutions.

The session also affirmed that punitive approaches have historically failed to reduce addiction and may exacerbate social exclusion. A more humane and effective strategy prioritises treatment, early intervention, and community-based support. By addressing the root causes of fragility, societies can reduce vulnerability to both addiction and criminal exploitation.

SESSION III: *The Fight Against Drugs: “Follow the Money” — Targeting Proceeds, Dismantling Criminal Networks*

***Keynote speakers:** Antonio QUINTAVALLE CECERE, Commander of the Central Investigation Bureau on Organised Crime of the Italian Financial Police; Martha STICKINGS, Deputy Head of the OSCE’s Strategic Police Matters Unit and Cybercrime Advisor; Simonetta MATONE, Former magistrate and prosecutor, member of the Justice Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. **Discussants:** Emanuele LOPERFIDO, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Vice-President of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism; Gianluca CANTALAMESSA, Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA.*

Discussion

The third session examined the financial architecture of organised crime, emphasising that illicit profits are the foundation of criminal power. Participants described how criminal networks increasingly use legal businesses, false invoicing, and complex financial chains to launder money. The use of cryptocurrencies, dark-web platforms and underground banking systems has expanded dramatically, enabling rapid, opaque transactions that complicate investigations and facilitate transnational criminal operations.

The session highlighted the growing collaboration between different criminal groups across borders, including interactions with underground banking systems. These alliances allow criminal enterprises to diversify their activities and exploit regulatory gaps.

A recurring theme was the importance of speed. Criminal groups operate with agility, using short-lived companies, micro-transactions, and digital smurfing techniques to evade detection. Asset recovery emerged as a particularly powerful tool for weakening criminal

networks. Confiscating illicit profits disrupts operations and prevents reinvestment in further criminal activity.

The discussion also addressed the social dimension of organised crime and drug trafficking. Participants warned that young people are increasingly targeted through social media and online platforms with false promises of wealth, status and belonging. Speakers additionally highlighted the changing social profile of drug consumption, noting that drug use increasingly affects all sectors of society and that consumers often underestimate their indirect role in financing organised criminal and terrorist networks.

Participants further stressed the importance of whole-of-society approaches involving governments, financial institutions, civil society, educators and local communities. Several interventions also underlined the need to strengthen the role of women in prevention and resilience-building efforts, noting that inclusive approaches can significantly improve the effectiveness of anti-crime strategies.

Conclusions

The session concluded that dismantling organised crime requires striking at its economic foundations. As long as criminal networks can generate, move, and conceal vast financial resources, enforcement efforts will remain limited in impact. Financial investigations must therefore be central to anti-crime strategies, supported by harmonised legislation, rapid information-sharing, and strong international co-operation.

Authorities must adopt investigative methods that match the speed and sophistication of criminal enterprises. This includes monitoring crypto-transactions, identifying false invoicing schemes, and strengthening cross-border co-operation between financial-intelligence units, prosecutors, and law-enforcement agencies.

Asset recovery was identified as one of the most effective tools for weakening criminal networks. At the same time, protecting young people from recruitment requires targeted prevention, digital-literacy programmes, and early identification of risk factors. The session affirmed that “following the money” is not merely a technique, but a strategic philosophy that must guide all efforts to dismantle organised crime.

Recommendations

During the two-day Conference, the following policy suggestions were repeatedly voiced:¹

International Co-operation, Legislation and Technical Capacities

- States should strengthen international co-operation through timely information-sharing, joint investigations, coordinated enforcement actions, and closer engagement among producer, transit, and destination countries to ensure a comprehensive approach to drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.
- The contribution of parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary co-operation in fostering trust, harmonising legislative frameworks, and facilitating the exchange of best practices across the OSCE region should be promoted and duly supported.
- Stronger investment in advanced forensic and toxicological laboratories, data-analytics tools, early-warning systems, wastewater analysis, AI-supported predictive tools, and real-time overdose monitoring to anticipate trends, identify new threats, and support evidence-based policymaking.
- States should align financial-crime legislation across borders to close loopholes exploited by criminal networks and strengthen cross-border asset recovery.
- States should ensure that legislation remains sufficiently flexible and adaptive to respond rapidly to new synthetic substances and evolving trafficking methods, including the misuse of cryptocurrencies, online marketplaces, and encrypted communication platforms.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on financial investigations and the “follow the money” approach, including tracing illicit financial flows, identifying false invoicing schemes, monitoring crypto-transactions, and strengthening co-operation among financial-intelligence units, prosecutors, and law-enforcement agencies.
- International organisations and participating States should support specialised training programmes for law-enforcement officials, prosecutors, forensic experts, and healthcare professionals dealing with synthetic drugs and organised crime.

Prevention and Reintegration

- Need to strengthen prevention strategies by investing in schools, families, and community-based programmes that address the root causes of vulnerability, including social isolation, mental-health challenges, and economic marginalisation.
- States should develop comprehensive digital-literacy initiatives and public-awareness campaigns to help young people recognise online recruitment tactics used by criminal networks and the risks associated with drugs.

¹ This list is not meant to be exhaustive of all the suggestions which have been voiced during the event, but merely indicative of some of the most frequent proposals.

- Promote access to long-term, person-centred treatment programmes, including therapeutic communities, as well as promotion of mental-health services and reintegration pathways, recognising that recovery requires sustained, holistic support.
- Prevention policies should place young people at the centre, promoting emotional resilience, social inclusion, civic responsibility, and meaningful opportunities for participation in society.
- Policies should support early identification of vulnerability factors and strengthen community-based responses aimed at reducing recruitment into criminal networks and substance abuse.



Family photo with the Conference participants, Rome, 14 May 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 14 May 2026	
10.30	Registration of participants
11.30	<p>OPENING OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND WELCOME ADDRESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorenzo FONTANA, <i>President of the Chamber of Deputies</i> • Eugenio ZOFFILI, <i>Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Head of the Italian Delegation and Special Representative on Combating Organised Crime</i> • Pere Joan PONS SAMPIETRO, <i>President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> • Nicola MOLTENI, <i>Undersecretary of State to the Ministry of the Interior</i> • Roberto MONTELLA, <i>Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i>
13.00	Family photo
13.15	<i>Light lunch</i>
14.30	<p>SESSION 1. The silent wave: the threat posed by Fentanyl and synthetic opioids</p> <p>Keynote speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie SEGUIN, <i>Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy</i> • Giuseppe SPINA, <i>Director of the Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Services of the Ministry of the Interior</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffaele COVETTI, <i>Commander of the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Health (NAS)</i> • Justice TETTEY, <i>Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</i> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatmir MEDIU, <i>Member of the Assembly of Albania, former Minister of Defence and Minister for the Environment</i> <p>Debate</p>
15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15	<p>SESSION 2: From fragility to rebirth: admission, therapeutic communities and prevention</p> <p>Keynote speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone FEDER, <i>Co-Ordinator of the Youth and Addiction Unit at Casa del Giovane Community in Pavia</i> • Angela CROWDY, <i>Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organisation of American States (OAS)</i> • Mario ENZLER, <i>Senior Adviser at The Heritage Foundation</i> • Jean-Benoit MANHES, <i>OSCE Deputy Co-Ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings</i> • Antonio BOSCHINI, <i>Therapeutic Manager at San Patrignano Community</i> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyriakos HADJIYIANNI, <i>Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> • Catia POLIDORI, <i>Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> • Anna BILOTTI, <i>Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i>

	Debate
18.00	<i>Tasting of typical Italian products hosted by the Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Head of the Italian delegation, Eugenio Zoffili</i>
Friday, 15 May 2026	
07.30	Departure from the Chamber of Deputies for Vatican City
09.00	Audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
<i>Followed by</i>	Return to the Conference venue
11.00	<p>SESSION 3: The fight against drugs. “Follow the money”: targeting proceeds, dismantling criminal networks</p> <p>Keynote speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio QUINTAVALLE CECERE, <i>Commander of the Central Investigation Bureau on Organised Crime of the Italian Financial Police</i> • Martha STICKINGS, <i>Deputy Head of the OSCE’s Strategic Police Matters Unit and Cybercrime Adviser</i> • Simonetta MATONE, <i>Former magistrate and prosecutor, member of the Justice Committee of the Chamber of Deputies</i> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emanuele LOPERFIDO, <i>Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - Vice-President of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism</i> • Gianluca CANTALAMESSA, <i>Member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</i> <p>Debate</p>
12.30	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugenio ZOFFILI, <i>Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Head of the Italian Delegation and Special Representative on Combating Organised Crime</i>
13.15	End of the Conference

Press Release 14 May 2026

OSCE parliamentarians call for combating drug trafficking at Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Organized Crime in Rome

ROME, 14 May 2026 – The second Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Fight Against Organized Crime in the OSCE Region opened today at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome. Hosted by the Italian Parliament at the initiative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Vice-President and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili (Italy), the two-day event brings together over 150 parliamentarians and experts from more than 40 OSCE participating States under the theme "#STOPDRUGS – Fighting Drug Trafficking together to Defend Security, Health and the Rule of Law."



The conference follows up on the first edition held in Rome in June 2025 by focusing on the growing threat of drug trafficking – particularly the spread of synthetic opioids and fentanyl – and the financial networks that sustain criminal organizations across

the OSCE region.

The event was opened by President of the Chamber of Deputies Lorenzo Fontana and featured opening remarks by Vice-President Eugenio Zoffili, OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain), Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior Nicola Molteni and OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Vice-President Zoffili stressed the need to help young people escape drug addictions, which often lead to desperation and tragedy. "Drug trafficking is not just a serious public order problem, it is a threat to the stability of our democracies and the security of our citizens," he said in his opening remarks. "Mafias thrive on the trafficking of illicit substances. Every drug is a commodity and a source of profit for organized crime. Fighting drugs means fighting the mafia. And fighting the mafia means fighting drugs."

President Pons praised Italy's experience and leadership in fighting criminal organizations that seek to accumulate wealth and power at the expense of citizens and states, noting that the new geopolitical landscape demands co-ordinated parliamentary approaches to terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime. "We need



to understand where organized crime and drug trafficking are heading in a hyperconnected world of high mobility," he said. "These phenomena represent concrete risks for the security of our region and require a co-ordinated parliamentary response, which is exactly what the citizens we represent expect of us."

Secretary General Montella highlighted the unique role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in addressing threats that transcend national borders, emphasising that criminal networks exploit legal gaps between jurisdictions. "No single parliament, no single government, can dismantle them alone," he said. "But every country is affected, and every country has a duty to act."

The first afternoon session addressed one of the most pressing security and public health crises in the OSCE region: the rapid spread of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. The session brought together senior representatives from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Italian Ministry of the Interior's Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Services, the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Health, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Speakers explored the evolving threat landscape in the OSCE region and Italy's pre-emptive National Plan for the prevention of synthetic opioid misuse as a model for integrated interagency governance. Discussions also focused on the growing misuse of synthetic substances among young people, the rapid evolution of online drug markets, and the increasing use of cryptocurrencies and postal systems by criminal networks. Participants stressed the importance of prevention through education and awareness campaigns, as well as the urgent need for stronger intelligence-sharing, early-warning mechanisms, and international co-operation across the OSCE area.

The second session turned to the human dimension of the drug crisis: recovery, prevention, and the essential role of therapeutic communities in rebuilding lives

damaged by addiction. The discussion featured representatives from therapeutic and rehabilitation communities, the Organization of American States' Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and the Heritage Foundation. Speakers stressed that effective drug policy must place the individual at the centre of care and move from a culture of emergency and reaction to one of prevention, anticipation and long-term support. Discussions highlighted the growing mental health challenges and loneliness affecting young people, the importance of integrated care systems combining early intervention, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and the need to strengthen communities, schools and local networks as active partners in prevention and recovery.

Ahead of the conference, OSCE PA President Pons held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Fontana. The two leaders underscored the importance of inter-parliamentary diplomacy in addressing shared security challenges, praised Italy's longstanding and internationally recognized leadership in combating organized crime, and exchanged views on the ongoing war in Ukraine and its implications for the OSCE region.

The conference will continue on Friday morning with a private audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican City. Subsequently, the conference will conclude with a session on "Follow the Money: Targeting Proceeds and Dismantling Criminal Networks," benefitting from the expertise of the Italian National Anti-Mafia Prosecutor Giovanni Melillo, of senior officials from the Guardia di Finanza and the OSCE's Strategic Police Matters Unit.

The conclusions of the conference will feed into the OSCE PA Annual Session in The Hague.

Videos of the conference is available [here](#).

Photos from the event are available on [the OSCE PA Flickr page here](#).

Press Release 15 May 2026

Pope Leo XIV receives OSCE PA delegation, calls for stronger prevention and international co-operation against drug trafficking and organized crime

VATICAN CITY, 15 May 2026 – Participants in the second Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Fight Against Organized Crime in the OSCE Region were received today by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican in what marked the first-ever meeting between a large delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Pope.



The audience took place in the Clementine Hall and brought together parliamentarians and representatives from across the OSCE region participating in the conference hosted by the Italian Parliament under the theme “#STOPDRUGS –

Fighting Drug Trafficking together to Defend Security, Health and the Rule of Law.”

In his address, Pope Leo XIV stressed that combating organized crime and drug trafficking requires strong international co-operation rooted in the rule of law, the protection of human dignity and effective prevention strategies. He emphasized the importance of comprehensive approaches that combine law enforcement, criminal justice, rehabilitation and social reintegration, while also underlining the key role of education, families and schools in preventing drug abuse among young people.

The Pope further highlighted the need for societies to address addiction through medical, psychological and social support systems and expressed appreciation for the work and sacrifices of law enforcement and judicial authorities combating organized crime. He concluded by expressing hope that the conference would bear lasting fruit in strengthening international co-operation against organized crime and drug trafficking, and wished participants wisdom, courage and peace in their deliberations.

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) thanked Pope Leo XIV for receiving the delegation and for his message of support for international co-operation and human dignity in addressing organized crime and drug trafficking.



“This meeting represents an important moment for parliamentary diplomacy, peace and international co-operation across the OSCE region,” he said. “We fully support Pope Leo XIV’s call to ‘disarm language’ and promote dialogue and mutual

understanding. It was particularly meaningful that Ukrainian parliamentarians were present among the delegation gathered today at the Vatican. Security, justice, prevention, peace and the protection of human dignity must always go hand in hand.”

Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili (Italy) highlighted the significance of the audience in the broader context of the conference and the Assembly’s work against transnational criminal networks.

“The Holy Father’s words reinforce the importance of our common efforts to combat drug trafficking, protect young people and strengthen prevention and education,” he said. “We are honoured to have presented His Holiness with a copy of the Helsinki Final Act, the founding document of the OSCE process and a symbol of dialogue, co-operation and peace.”

During the audience, President Pons and Vice-President Zoffili presented Pope Leo XIV with a copy of the Helsinki Final Act on behalf of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

For the full speech of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, please [click here](#).