Report by the Special Representative on Eastern Europe,

Dr Daniela De Ridder,

at the OSCE PA 30th Annual Session

outlining her activities in the period from July 2022 to June 2023



Madam President,

Colleagues,

It was an honour for me to be reappointed Special Representative on Eastern Europe in July 2022. My mandate covers Ukraine, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova. The entire region is confronted by extreme challenges as a result of the imperialist war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine. The subject matter of my work is significantly determined by those horrific events. I see it as my job to take the opportunity afforded by my mandate to stand in solidarity with the unjustly attacked Ukraine. Over and above that, I want to help ensure that the conflicts in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova are not neglected.

My specific role as Special Representative on Eastern Europe includes promoting dialogue throughout all sections of society, especially at the parliamentary level, in order to act in a supporting role in the areas of parliamentary diplomacy, confidence-building, reconciliation and advancing dialogue. Additionally, I have drawn up recommendations that have significance for the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.

I would like to take the opportunity to give you an overview of my activities to date as Special Representative on Eastern Europe.

Ukraine

Not long after my reappointment as Special Representative, I met **OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid** several times in Berlin to hear about the OSCE's ongoing measures in the war in Ukraine and discuss options for coordinating the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly and its parent organisation. The focus was on a rapid solution to fill the gap left by the long-serving OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, who had had to cease operating as a result of Russia's veto at the end of October 2022. In its entirely extra-budgetary Support Programme for Ukraine (SPU), the OSCE has found an innovative solution in record time for dealing with Russia's obstructive stance. I have advocated at the Federal Chancellery for Germany to provide the maximum support to the SPU.

I was, moreover, in close liaison throughout the reporting period with political foundations and research institutions in order to draw on external expertise for my work as Special Representative. My contacts included Ambassador Ekkehard Brose, President of the Federal Academy for Security Policy; Dr Claudia Major, head of the International Security Research Division at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik – German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); Peer Teschendorf, former head of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Russia, Felix Hett, FES Representative for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and Alexey Yusupov, Director of the FES Russia Programme; Dr Stefan Meister, Head of the Center for Order and Governance in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the German Council on Foreign Relations; Dr Sabine Fischer, expert on Russian foreign and security policy as well as EU-Russian relations at the SWP; der Director Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Dr. Jörg Forbrig and Professor Andrii Portnov and Dr Susann Worschech of European University Viadrina. The insights gained were significant for my parliamentary committee work at the Bundestag, especially in respect of the grain deal and the EU solidarity lanes for agricultural imports from Ukraine as well as preparing the concept for this year's Leinsweiler Seminar in Germany. I also got in touch with the Ukrainian Ambassador, His Excellency Oleksii Makeiev; Germany's Ambassador to Ukraine, and the Polish Ambassador, His Excellency Dariusz Pawłoś, as well as with various offices of the German Government, particularly in the Federal Chancellery and Federal Foreign Office, both to inform them about my activities as Special Representative and to keep myself up to date about Ukraine-related support measures.

For example, I asked the Federal Government to take action against Russia's disregard of its obligations under international humanitarian law and the OSCE human dimension by pursuing national criminal investigations, in accordance with the principle of universal jurisdiction, and thereby combat impunity for Russian war crimes. In relation to this, the Moscow Mechanism constitutes an indispensable instrument for identifying and documenting human rights abuses. As part of that endeavour, I also met **Her Excellency Isabel Frommelt-Gottschald, Ambassador of Liechtenstein**

to Germany, as Liechtenstein does sterling work at the international level to advance the prosecution efforts of the International Criminal Court. The focus was on the systematic abduction of children from Ukraine to Russia, which urgently needs an effective response from the international justice system.

For reasons of restorative justice, I wholeheartedly supported the tabling of a **crossparty motion in the Bundestag** (<u>The Holodomor in Ukraine: Remembrance –</u> <u>Commemoration – Exhortation</u>) in November 2022 for **political recognition of the Holodomor** (great famine) in Ukraine as genocide perpetrated by the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union. This also paved the way for Ukraine's involvement in the European culture of remembrance in the fields of academic research, reckoning with the past, civic education, preservation of memorial sites and conservation of monuments.

The safety of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, occupied by the Russian armed forces, was the topic of a meeting with Victoria Voytsitska, former Member of the Verkhovna Rada and chair of its energy and nuclear safety committee, and Olena Halushka, member of the Board of Ukrainian NGO AntAC, the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (https://antac.org.ua/en/) Ensuring the safety of the nuclear power plant and protecting (not only) the Ukrainian people from radioactive fallout is a top priority. I would like, at this point, to express my sincere thanks to IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and his whole team for their tireless work. I share the concern, however, about the consequences of the blowing up of the Kakhovka dam for the security of the nuclear plant's cooling-water supply.

With **Dr Sebastian Rubatscher, Chair of the Executive Board of the non-profit organisation** *enpact* (<u>https://enpact.org/</u>) and **project manager Elisabeth Uhlig**, I discussed the possibilities of direct development-policy support for Ukrainian entrepreneurs. The aim is to safeguard infrastructure capacities in the area of small and medium-sized enterprises in order to improve the underlying conditions for economic recovery. As Special Representative, I added my voice to support the application to the Federal Government for project funding.

Furthermore, I advocated for supporting the project work in Ukraine of non-profit association PeaceBread (https://friedensbrot.eu/en/home/), which has existed since 2012, by giving it access to funding from political foundations. At a meeting with **Board Chairman Anton Blöth** and **General Manager Dr Gibfried Schenk**, I familiarised myself with the initiative's work in detail. It is an international network whose members are involved on a voluntary basis, out of dedication to the idea of understanding among nations, and operate in, at the last count, eleven countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe to combine the reciprocal relationship between international peacekeeping and sustainable agriculture with tangible projects. In the context of food supply chains disrupted by war, especially regarding deliveries of grain from Ukraine, direct international cooperation at the level of civil society in this area is deserving of special praise.

The agenda-setting for the Leinsweiler Seminar in Germany – the first since the series was suspended in view of the pandemic – focused, at my suggestion, on the challenges to the European security architecture presented by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Qualified experts and former office-holders, including

Dr Claus Neukirch, former Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Piet Blondé, former Deputy Head of Office of the OSCE Special Representative in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, and Malgorzata Twardowska, Deputy Director of the Operations Service within the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE Secretariat, assessed best practice in OSCE field work in Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Moldova) and South-Eastern Europe as a basis for discussing suitable parameters for future field work in these changed and more difficult circumstances. In total, the Leinsweiler Seminar held in Berlin in early May welcomed 48 participants, including 24 parliamentarians from 12 OSCE participating States as well as President of the OSCE PA Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella (https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2023/osce-pamembers-gather-in-berlin-to-discuss-the-future-of-european-security).

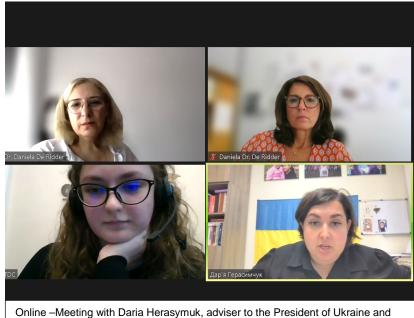


Participants of the Leinsweiler Seminar 05 – 07 May 2023

On my initiative and with the support of my colleague Renata Alt, cross-party discussions were held at the Bundestag in May 2023 with **Tatjana Kiel, CEO of Klitschko Ventures** (https://klitschko-ventures.com/en/home-en/) on the fate of the abducted children from Ukraine. To date, more than 19,000 Ukrainian children have been snatched from holiday camps, care facilities or orphanages and illegally deported to Russia, to be adopted by Russian citizens and re-educated for the purpose of assuming Russian identities. Deliberately transferring children of one population group to another is a clear indicator of genocide under the relevant 1948 UN convention. Klitschko Ventures concerns itself with documenting the individual cases and offering investigative assistance and other support to affected Ukrainian families. Various options were discussed for raising international public awareness of the issue and

taking suitable measures to counteract the state-organised child abduction by the Russian Federation. Structures were also established at the working level to coordinate information-sharing between Members of the German Bundestag and Klitschko Ventures.

Daria Herasymchuk, adviser to the President of Ukraine and ombudswoman for children's rights (vgl. <u>https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/darya-gerasimchuk-na-specialnij-zustrichi-radi-bezpeki-oon-r-82553</u>), also spoke via video link about the kidnappings and deportations of children to Russia. She referred in that context to the official Ukrainian Government website (<u>https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/en/</u>) where all known cases and different forms of abuse of children's rights during the war are being systematically collated and publicly documented in accordance with the Moscow Mechanism. By its count, 490 children have been killed and 1,032 wounded since February 2022, and 632 are missing. Of the more than 19,000 children deported to Russia, 4,390 are orphans or were living in care.



Online –Meeting with Daria Herasymuk, adviser to the President of Ukraine ombudswoman for children's rights (bottom right)

The humanitarian situation in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine was also at the heart of an online meeting with **Executive Director Sasha Romantsova** and her colleague **Roman Nekoliak of the renowned Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties** (https://ccl.org.ua/en/), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022. It became clear that no practical arrangements had yet been found for addressing various existential humanitarian concerns under wartime conditions. This applies, for instance, to the issue of conveying the remains of people who have been killed or have died from the occupied territories to their family members elsewhere in Ukraine. Added to this is the evidently systematic imprisonment of civilians by the Russian military or security forces, with the detained civilians often mistreated and denied access to legal counsel. Unlike the combatants of both conflict parties, who can be freed through reciprocal prisoner exchanges, there is no such prospect for civilians, not least because only the people of Ukraine are affected. In effect, this is a matter of politically motivated hostage

taking as part of Russia's psychological warfare to grind down the morale of the Ukrainian people.

In an online meeting with Yuliya Sporysh, founder and head of the NGO Girls (https://www.help-ev.de/en), and Darya Romanenko, Ukrainian project partner of the development assistance organisation Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (https://www.help-ev.de/en), we talked about the specific day-to-day situation for women in wartime, from having to become sole providers for their families because the men eligible for military service have been conscripted, to traumatic experiences of flight and loss and personal experience of sexual violence. It became clear that more personnel and more funding are urgently needed to even come close to tackling the enormous demand for counselling and help. All this is exacerbated by the fact that, in spite of strict political neutrality on the part of the women's organisation and all other NGOs, the Russian side categorically refuses them access to the occupied territories.

The conversation also took in the as yet unforeseeable ramifications of the destruction of the Kakhovka dam on the Dnieper River near Kherson. This was the intentional creation of a large-scale humanitarian emergency and the crossing of another threshold in the escalation of crimes against the civilian population of Ukraine. On the first day alone, around 17,000 people were in acute danger from the rushing waters and the ensuing flood. Large swathes of the river delta are at risk of remaining uninhabitable for a long time as a result of the flooding. Despite the necessary mass evacuation of civilians living in the flooded river region, air strikes and artillery bombardment by the Russian armed forces continue unabated.

I owe special thanks to **Stepan Rusyn**, **Coordinator of the German-Ukrainian Partnership Program at the Transatlantic Dialogue Center in Kyiv**, for his dedicated and proactive support in putting me in touch with the right people in Ukraine.



Stepan Rusyn, Coordinator of the German-Ukrainian Partnership Program

Belarus

Ever since the fraudulent presidential election of 2020, repression of the internal opposition in the Republic of Belarus has been systematically aggravated, with the result that the leading figures of the opposition movement have now been imprisoned or else have fled the country. In the context of its full support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Lukashenko regime has followed up its obliteration of the organised political opposition by launching another unparalleled wave of repression against Belarusian civil society designed to stifle, by means of draconian tightening of criminal legislation, any individual political activity and any critical expression of opinion and to criminalise them as threats to national security or even as terrorism. The wave of state persecution has now penetrated every area of society and targets all the activities of self-governing civil organisations. Unprecedented numbers of people are being prohibited from exercising their professions, arrested and tortured and confronted with the death penalty, the scope of which has been extended to the politically construed preparation of "acts of terrorism", the mere use of social media to organise demonstrations being regarded as sufficient grounds for incrimination.

In these circumstances it was not possible for me to undertake a working visit to the Republic of Belarus. Instead, I have sought in-depth discussions with members of the Belarusian opposition living in exile in Germany and other countries and with non-governmental organisations dedicated to the interests of Belarusians persecuted by the state. My aim is to give these people a voice and to help ensure that the disastrous human rights situation in Belarus does not fade into oblivion in the shadow of the war in Ukraine.

At the very start of my new term as Special Representative, I had a meeting with Lisa Kretschmer, Head of Advocacy at Reporters without Borders, on the situation regarding politically motivated imprisonment of journalists in Belarus (see https://rsf.org/en/country/belarus). It may be assumed that the total number of political prisoners in Belarus amounts to at least 1500. In addition, I have been in regular contact with Executive Director Marco Fieber and other members of the independent German-Swiss non-governmental organisation Libereco - Partnership for Human Rights, which is dedicated to the protection of human rights in Belarus and Ukraine (see https://www.libereco.org/). The main subject of our talks was facilitation of the humanitarian admission of persecuted scholars, journalists and artists from Belarus by means of simplified visa procedures as well as perpetuation of their residence status in cases of temporary admission with a view to ending the existing practice of repeatedly renewing temporary suspensions of deportation, which make the people concerned feel highly insecure and seriously complicate their attempts to plan their personal lives. I reported the knowledge and wishes that I gleaned from these talks to the thematically competent working bodies of my parliamentary group.

I am involved, moreover, in the work of the cross-party Friendship Group for a Democratic Belarus, which constituted itself in the Bundestag at the start of this year to address these and other concerns in the parliamentary framework. Within the Bundestag I have also campaigned vigorously for greater use of the *Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians* programme, which not only focuses on persecuted Members of Parliament from other countries but is also open to threatened human rights

defenders, journalists and others, who can become part of a political patronage scheme. Experiences of political patronage schemes are very encouraging. In numerous documented cases, they have contributed to tangible improvement of the living conditions of individuals adopted into the scheme by arousing critical public sympathy for their personal fate.



Swetlana Tichanowskaja, former presidential candidate and Belarusian opposition leader

In April 2023, with the aid of stringent security arrangements, I had a meeting with former presidential candidate and Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. The main topic of our conversation was the human rights situation in the wake of the Lukashenko regime's extensive support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Ms Tsikhanouskaya expressly requested me to ask the Parliamentary Assembly to keep a critical eye on the situation in Belarus. I am happy to honour that request.

An online meeting with Rudi Friedrich, co-founder and executive director of the Connection association, Elvin Cetin, Advocacy and Lobbying Officer at the German Peace Society - United War Resisters, and Olga Karatch, founder of the Belarusian pro-democracy movement Nash Dom ("Our Home") and recipient of the 2019 Bremen Peace Prize for her grass-roots work for peace, who now lives in Lithuania (see https://global-peacebuilders.org/peacebuilders-2/olga-karatch/), focused on the fate of Russian conscientious objectors who are stranded in the Republic of Belarus and other countries bordering on the Russian Federation but will sooner or later be deported back to Russia. After the partial mobilisation in September 2022, it is estimated that some 150,000 young men left Russia in great haste for fear of being conscripted for war service. I emphatically urge the Parliamentary Assembly to address this important humanitarian problem. By deciding not to take part in Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine, the conscientious objectors effectively burned their bridges and are regarded in Russian society as traitors. In the event of their being returned from Belarus and other neighbouring countries, they can expect at least long prison sentences under especially harsh conditions as well as total social ostracism.

According to information obtained from the non-governmental organisation Libereco, only France and Germany have so far issued humanitarian visas to Russian conscientious objectors. Not only is humanitarian admission a symbolic act of right and

proper humanity that testifies credibly to the values by which we in the Parliamentary Assembly feel bound; a generous humanitarian admission would also deprive the Russian war machine of important human resources for the continued pursuit of the war. What is more, the young Russians who have fled from the clutches of the regime will constitute important human capital for what we hope will be a more peaceful Russia in the post-Putin era.

Moldova

Following my reappointment as Special Representative, I had a meeting with **His Excellency Aureliu Ciocoi, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Germany**. Besides the effects of the war in Ukraine on the Republic of Moldova, we also discussed the priorities of the Moldovan Government in its continuing process of convergence with the EU, focusing particularly on planned judicial reforms.

To this end, the parliamentary groups of the governing coalition tabled a joint motion in the Bundestag (for the German text, see https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/043/2004332.pdf), which reaffirmed the European perspective of the Republic of Moldova. Key demands relate to the granting of direct ring-fenced budgetary aid for the Moldovan national budget and encouragement of direct talks between the Moldovan central government and the de facto leadership of the Transnistria region with a view to settling the long-standing internal conflict and thereby restoring the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. I pressed successfully for inclusion in the motion of an acknowledgement of the role of the OSCE mission in Moldova and the need to keep supporting it.

In my other capacity as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, I took part in a field visit to the Republic of Moldova, which provided me with valuable insight for my work as Special Representative. The programme included meetings with representatives of the Moldovan Government (Alexej Buzu, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, and Jana Costachi and Adriana Cazacu, Ministers of State at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education respectively, with parliamentarians Lilian Carp, chair of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security, Defence and Public Order, and Maia Bănărescu, Ombudswoman for Children's Rights, with members of the Moldovan delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, with OSCE representatives, including Ambassador Kelly Keiderling and with numerous representatives of international organisations and Moldovan NGOs, including UNICEF, UNHCR and the La Strada International Centre (see https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/press-2023/moldova-sefforts-in-hosting-and-providing-safe-transit-to-ukrainian-refugees-applauded-byosce-pa-migration-committee).



It emerged clearly that the Republic of Moldova had made great efforts and done a great deal to help people from Ukraine. With its population of some 2.6 million, it had admitted more than 100,000 refugees from Ukraine, about 70% of whom were from the area around Odessa. In terms of percentages of the host population, Moldova has taken in the most refugees of any country. It has also ensured the safe transit of more than 800,000 people to other European countries. The majority of the refugees are concentrated in the capital, Chişinău, and its environs, with more than 90% being housed in dispersed non-collective accommodation or hosted by families in their homes. Among them are many members of especially vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors, elderly people and people with disabilities, Roma and victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Under the presidency of Maia Sandu, the Republic of Moldova, despite its limited resources and a high inflation rate of some 25%, has taken exemplary measures for the protection of refugees' human rights and for their integration into Moldovan society. For example, the refugees have been granted access to legal employment opportunities in the Moldovan labour market, and almost 1000 Ukrainian nationals are currently benefiting from this concession. In addition, a new system of consolidated temporary protection has been introduced for the period up to March 2024, offering Ukrainians a secure residential status and enabling them to access accommodation, education, basic medical care and state welfare benefits, even if the great demand cannot be satisfied in some areas. The measures are designed to be inclusive, meaning that the new improvements are also available to the indigenous population

so as to preclude the generation of internal social tension. Children of refugees can attend day nurseries free of charge. Problems exist, on the other hand, with refugee children of school age; although they are equipped with laptops and digital learning aids, because of the language barrier they have to receive home schooling with content from Ukraine based on Ukrainian curricula.

Overall, I was deeply impressed by the great solidarity of the Moldovan population with the Ukrainian refugees, which remains unbroken in spite of diverse Russian efforts to exert influence. It was reported to me that pro-Russian elements who are still in the Republic of Moldova are being used, at relatively little expense, to engage in treacherous disruptive activities with considerable destabilisation potential. Before football matches, for instance, they buy up tickets on a grand scale with a view to provoking mass brawls with the aid of hooligans, which spill over onto the streets afterwards. I believe that the purpose of these activities is to undermine public safety and create a revolutionary situation; they also include organised protests by pro-Russian factions which are presumably orchestrated by Russia.

A side meeting in Chişinău with **Ion Manole, Executive Director of the non-governmental organisation Promo-LEX** (see <u>https://hrdworldsummit.org/portfolio-</u><u>item/ion-manole//</u>), focused on the current situation in the breakaway Transnistria region. He told me that the separatist *de facto* regime feared for the survival of its economic model and its own political survival in the wake of the war in Ukraine. For this reason, the regime had, on the one hand, become more receptive to the idea of a political settlement with the central government. On the other hand, he said, the situation had led to a spiral of internal political repression, which had hugely increased the pressure exerted by the *de facto* regime and the KGB on civil society and human rights organisations. As a result, the law against "foreign agents" would apply henceforth to all non-governmental organisations, which would be tantamount to a total ban. The Russian troops deployed in the region of Transnistria were mainly guarding old munition depots from the Soviet era, which were still a source of considerable environmental risks.

At a meeting with **Andreas Tölke, chairman of the refugee aid organisation** *Be an Angel*, I was informed about project work in the Republic of Moldau (see <u>https://be-an-angel.org/en/projects/be-an-angel-moldova/</u>). Foremost among the projects were assistance services for refugee groups with special needs, for which state services were often unable to make adequate provision, such as the conversion and day-to-day operation of a refugee accommodation centre for up to 60 people with disabilities, including medical care, hospital beds and wheelchairs as well as accessible sanitary facilities. This voluntary and self-financed commitment on the part of civil society must be hailed as an important and extraordinary example of practical solidarity with people in great distress.

I spoke with **Dr Sebastian Rubatscher, Chair of the Executive Board of the nonprofit organisation** *enpact* and **Project Manager Elisabeth Uhlig** about development support for businesses run by women in Moldova, which are suffering in the wake of the war in Ukraine from a shortage of well-trained specialists, chiefly as a result of flight and emigration. I have supported their wish for access to project support funding from implementing agencies of governmental development cooperation.

Recommendations to the members of the Parliamentary Assembly

Ukraine:

- address the greater significance of the issue of food security by establishing a dedicated Ad Hoc Committee or appropriate working structures within the Second General Committee;
- within the Second General Committee, further develop specific security concepts and protective mechanisms for nuclear facilities and critical infrastructure in the event of conflict, and support the proposals of the IAEA to create a safety and security protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant;
- support the investigations of the International Criminal Court aiming to pursue and document all violations of international humanitarian law and all incidences of presumed crimes against humanity and war crimes, and lobby in the OSCE participating states for the possible use of independent national criminal proceedings in accordance with the principle of universal jurisdiction, and for support for the regular application of the Moscow Mechanism for the purpose of documenting human rights violations;
- define the systematic abduction of children and civilians from the illegally occupied areas of Ukraine as a priority matter for the Parliamentary Assembly within the human dimension of the OSCE and likewise address this in other relevant international bodies (UN Human Rights Council, Council of Europe, etc.);
- lobby in the OSCE participating states for comprehensive support for economic reconstruction in Ukraine;
- monitor the further development of Ukraine's move closer to the EU as a candidate for accession, taking a critical yet constructive approach, and politically support the democratic reforms in Ukraine.

Belarus:

- consistently monitor and document the systematic human rights violations and suppression of Belarusian civil society by the Lukashenko regime with a view to bringing those responsible to justice at a later date;
- Iobby in the OSCE participating states for the possible use of independent national criminal proceedings in accordance with the principle of universal jurisdiction, in order to legally penalise presumed aiding and abetting of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine on the part of the Republic of Belarus, along with violations in the human dimension of the OSCE following extensive support for the Russian war of aggression, and for support for regular application of the Moscow Mechanism for the purpose of documenting human rights violations;
- consider the necessity of the issuing of humanitarian visas as a priority topic in the Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration in the continued development of policy guidelines for better migration control, and lobby in the OSCE participating states for the significant simplification and expansion in the

issuing of humanitarian visas with a consolidated, temporary residency status, in order to offer safe refuge to persecuted members of the Belarusian opposition and conscientious objectors fleeing from Russia, as well as put an immediate stop to these conscientious objectors being sent back to Russia from neighbouring states;

assume roles as political sponsors for persecuted parliamentarians, human rights defenders, academics and members of the opposition, and propose relevant sponsor programmes in the parliaments of the OSCE participating states.

Moldova:

- support the field work and better equipping of the OSCE mission in the Republic of Moldova as well as lobbying in the OSCE participating states for the promotion of further confidence-building measures between the conflict parties in the ongoing direct negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and the region of Transnistria (1+1 format), such as greater financial contributions from the OSCE participating states for cross-contact line mission projects for the environmentally-friendly disposal of contaminated ammunition stockpiles and toxic chemical residues;
- Iobby in the OSCE participating states for greater financial support for the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) at the OSCE Secretariat and of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the Republic of Moldova in the field of Good Governance and the judicial sector;
- in close cooperation with the members of the Moldovan delegation and of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, develop further suitable measures providing support to refugees in the Republic of Moldova that respects human rights and meets their needs;
- monitor the further development of Moldova's move closer to the EU as a candidate for accession, taking a critical yet constructive approach, and politically support the democratic reforms in the Republic of Moldova.

Berlin, 25 June 2023

Ar, Daniela De Ridder