

## OSCE parliamentarians to debate indivisibility of security in Europe at Winter Meeting



OSCE headquarters in Vienna

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is holding its 21st Winter Meeting in a blended format on 24-25 February 2022.

High-level OSCE officials, including Secretary General Helga Schmid, Chairman-in-Office and Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), as well as President of the Austrian Parliament Wolfgang Sobotka, will address the meeting. The theme of the open debate, to be held in the plenary session on 24 February, is *Security Guarantees and the Indivisibility of Security in Europe: Role of the OSCE*. The crisis in and around Ukraine is expected to feature prominently in discussions.

Secretary General Schmid will speak to the OSCE PA Heads of Delegations, Bureau members, Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees at the Standing Committee Meeting on 24 February, followed by a Q&A session. Also addressing the Standing Committee will be OSCE PA President Cederfelt, Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen (Denmark), and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

The Joint Session of the three General Committees will take place on the afternoon the 24th, and will feature an address by CiO Rau. Also on the 24th, the First Committee will hold a debate on the theme *Heightened Tensions in the OSCE Area and the Need for Interparliamentary Dialogue*.

On 25 February, the OSCE PA's Second and Third Committees will meet and hold debates on human trafficking and the role of journalism in promoting the rule of law. The general committee meetings will also provide opportunities for the committee rapporteurs to present their preliminary ideas for reports and draft resolutions being prepared for this year's Annual Session in Birmingham, United Kingdom, and to hear feedback from OSCE parliamentarians.

Being held in a hybrid format due to the epidemiological situation, the in-person participation in Vienna will be restricted to members of the Standing Committee, Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees. Other OSCE PA Members will join online.

### Upcoming Parliamentary Web Dialogue on youth and democracy

The OSCE PA is holding a Parliamentary Web Dialogue on "Youth contribution to strengthening the rule of law, democracy and human rights in the OSCE area" this Friday, 18 February, from 12:00 to 14:00 CET. Intended to provide a platform for parliamentarians and experts to discuss the importance of youth contributions to decision-making processes on human rights and rule of law, the event will be chaired by OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi (The Netherlands). It will stream live at [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org).

### Second Committee Rapporteur Kugler moderates OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum



Gudrun Kugler moderates the EEF session on 14 Feb. Photo: OSCE/Micky Kroell

Moderating Monday's meeting in Vienna of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, OSCE PA Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) underlined the importance of good governance and anti-corruption legislation as key for economic recovery and development.

Held in a hybrid format, the panel that Kugler moderated

included Albanian Deputy Minister of Justice Adea Pirdeni; Laura Oana Stefan, Executive Director of the Expert Forum (Romania); Gretta Fenner, Managing Director at the Basel Institute on Governance (Switzerland); and Chandana Ravindranath, Director for Anticorruption at the National Security Council (United States).

Including the participation of senior officials from participating States and international organizations, experts, business leaders, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of OSCE field operations, the discussion focused on the role of transparency in promoting a business-friendly environment. Kugler highlighted the critical work the PA has carried out, in partnerships with the OSCE governmental structures and OSCE PA Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Vice-President Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), in strengthening good governance in promoting openness and good governance in the OSCE area.