

Cederfelt, Montella and De Ridder discuss priorities for SR on Eastern Europe



President Margareta Cederfelt, SG Roberto Montella and SR De Ridder discuss priorities in Eastern Europe, 23 August 2022.

In a video conference call with OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella, the Assembly's recently appointed Special Representative on Eastern Europe, German Parliamentarian Daniela De Ridder, highlighted the new security context since the last time she served in this role between December 2020 and October 2021. In particular, De Ridder wanted to discuss expectations for her work as SR to determine the added value of her portfolio for the OSCE PA and the OSCE as a whole.

President Cederfelt noted the need for co-operation and com-

plementarity with other Special Representatives working on regional issues, in particular Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) as Special Representative on Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine and John Whittingdale (United Kingdom) as Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine. Cederfelt highlighted the situation in Belarus as another priority for the Special Representative on Eastern Europe. She also underlined the need to support Moldova in its reform process and ensure the country's stability.

Special Representative De Ridder should work closely with the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, it was agreed, particularly on the issue of refugees from Ukraine in neighboring countries. SG Montella noted the complexity of the Special Representative on Eastern Europe's portfolio and urged SR De Ridder to consider her full toolbox as a member of parliament, noting that the International Secretariat will provide advice on activities. There was also some preliminary discussion on possible regional visits.

De Ridder suggested following up with a conversation with other relevant OSCE parliamentarians to determine how to best work together and noted the growing relevance of food security given the situation in Ukraine. The sides discussed the food security issue as a possible area of co-operation and dialogue for parliamentarians from the region.

For more on the work of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Eastern Europe, including her full mandate, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3dTn0Av>

The role of the OSCE in addressing the war in Ukraine and its consequences

The OSCE PA International Secretariat is pleased to announce the next meeting of its Call for Action-Helsinki +50 initiative. All OSCE PA Members are invited to participate in a webinar on "The role of the OSCE in addressing the war in Ukraine and its consequences," which will take place 7 September from 14:30 to 17:00 CEST, via Zoom. Questions can be directed to the contact point for this event, Emomali Mirzoev (emomali.mirzoev@oscepa.dk).

Appointments made for Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees

Following her re-election at the OSCE PA Annual Session in Birmingham last month, President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) made the following appointments of Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees:

- Ben Cardin (United States) as Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance;
- Bryndis Haraldsdottir (Iceland) as Special Representative on Arctic Issues;
- Pia Kauma (Finland) as Special Representative on Central Asia;
- Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) as Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement;
- Radu-Mihai Mihail (Romania) as Special Representative on Digital Agenda;
- Daniela De Ridder (Germany) as Special Representative on Eastern Europe;
- Paola Taverna (Italy) as Special Representative on Elderly Issues;
- Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) as Special Representative on Fighting Corruption;
- Hedy Fry (Canada) as Special Representative on Gender Issues;
- Christopher Smith (United States) as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues;
- Pascal Allizard (France) as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs;
- Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) as Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine;
- Steve Cohen (United States) as Special Representative on Political Prisoners;
- Pere Joan Pons (Spain) as Special Representative on South Caucasus;
- Michael Georg Link (Germany) as Special Representative on South East Europe;
- Askar Shakirov (Kazakhstan) as Special Representative on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Farah Karimi (Netherlands) as Special Representative on Youth Engagement;
- Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism;
- Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration;
- Pascal Allizard (France) as the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices.

CORRECTION: Last week's *News from Copenhagen* stated inaccurately that the dates for the 2022 OSCE Ministerial Council have not been set. In MC Decision No. 4/21 adopted last year in Stockholm, it was agreed that the 2022 OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Łódź on 1 and 2 December.