

## President Kauma and Special Representative Cardin address anti-Semitism conference in Malta

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) was in Malta this week for a conference on addressing anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, organized by the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship with the support of ODIHR. Addressing the opening session and holding a series of meetings on the margins of the conference, Kauma emphasized that anti-Semitism is an affront to fundamental principles of equality, dignity, and human rights, and must be unequivocally condemned.

Also addressing the Malta conference was OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance Ben Cardin (United States). Joining remotely, Senator Cardin reflected on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the landmark 2004 Berlin Declaration, which recognized anti-Semitism as a threat to democracy, human rights, and the security of the OSCE region and beyond.



President Pia Kauma and members of Malta's OSCE PA Delegation, Valletta, 8 April 2024

While attending the conference, President Kauma met with families of Israeli abductees being held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The President also met with the Delegation of Malta to the OSCE PA to discuss ways to reinvigorate the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE.

## Karimi and Pons hold talks in Central Asia on environment, regional co-operation and climate change



Special Representatives Farah Karimi and Pere Joan Pons with Central Asian MPs in Astana on 8 April

OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia Farah Karimi (Netherlands) has been in Central Asia the past several days, visiting Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, and continuing her three-country tour in Uzbekistan on Thursday and Friday. Meeting with a range of governmental and parliamentary leaders, as well as representatives of think tanks and academia, Karimi has focused on enhancing regional co-operation, addressing environmental challenges, and promoting women's empowerment. Discussions have centered around key areas identified for

collaboration, including climate change mitigation, joint water management, and promoting clean energy.

Joined by OSCE PA Special Representative on Climate Change Pere Joan Pons (Spain), Karimi has emphasized the importance of engaging Central Asian delegations in the activities of the OSCE PA to better understand regional concerns and security challenges. Ainur Argynbekova (Kazakhstan), Mirgul Temirbaeva (Kyrgyz Republic) and Dilorom Fayzieva (Uzbekistan) also joined the delegation with the objective to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning throughout the visit.

In discussions, Special Representative Karimi has emphasized the OSCE's expertise in these areas, including the work being done by OSCE field operations in the region. She also underscored the need to enhance democratic participation and involve all segments of society in addressing the challenges facing the region. In Uzbekistan, the delegation will be joined by Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria).

## OSCE PA Special Representative on the Arctic and High North Pritchard visits Norway

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on the Arctic and High North Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) visited Norway last week where he discussed Arctic issues and analyzed Norwegian Arctic policy priorities.

In a series of meetings, Special Representative Pritchard discussed Arctic legislative developments in Norway, the effects of climate change, and security in the Arctic region. In focus were emerging trends in Arctic security dynamics and their implications for regional co-operation.

He was also briefed on current legal debates and challenges related to Arctic activities such as shipping, resource extraction, and climate change adaptation. The Special Representative



Mark Pritchard, Siv Mossleth and Lars Haltbrekken in Oslo, 3 April

visited Kongsberg Satellite Services, which tracks greenhouse gas emissions, to learn how KSAT's satellite monitoring services are utilized for Arctic research and environmental monitoring.

## President and Treasurer discuss OSCE PA's FY 2024-25 budget at International Secretariat

Having listened carefully to OSCE PA delegates' priorities in recent months, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Treasurer Johan Büser (Sweden) visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 5 April to finalize work on a proposed budget for the coming year. Meeting with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Head of ICT Service & Support Section, Finance Officer Stephen Paul, Kauma and Büser discussed preparations for the upcoming Bureau meeting and Assembly priorities for the year ahead.



Johan Büser, Pia Kauma, Stephen Paul and Roberto Montella in Copenhagen, 5 April