

## At COP29, Special Rep Pons urges acceleration of political change to address climate crisis



Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Bakyt Dzhusupov speaks with Pere Joan Pons in Baku, 13 Nov. 2024

OSCE PA Special Representative on Climate Change and Vice-President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) was in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday, joining thousands of delegates at the COP29 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Special Representative Pons's presence in Baku marked the first time that the PA has officially participated in the UNFCCC process. He spoke at the OSCE official side event entitled "Advancing a Climate-Resilient, Green, and Just Energy Transition," emphasizing that there can be no global security without tackling global warming.

He highlighted in particular the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that governments meet their commitments on climate goals, as well as prioritizing affordable, secure, clean, and resilient energy. National parliaments must step up to promote stability through green economic initiatives, connectivity, and

sustainable development, he emphasized.

"The energy transition is an opportunity for enterprises, and if done properly will contribute to economic growth and the creation of quality jobs," Pons said. "Rather than 'climate populism,' what we need are strong public and private partnerships that involve all stakeholders."

While in Baku, Pons met with Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Energy Elnur Soltanov, who is serving as the chief executive officer of COP29, as well as Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan Sahiba Gafarova, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jeyhun Bayramov. In discussions, Pons noted that Azerbaijan's focus on sustainability, energy transition, and climate resilience aligns closely with the priorities of the OSCE PA. Through the work of the Second Committee, Pons said, the PA seeks to contribute to numerous initiatives to facilitate knowledge sharing and promote concerted actions among policymakers in this field.

The Special Representative also highlighted the PA's recent Autumn Meeting in Dublin which featured a session focused on addressing the climate crisis and the role of MPs in fulfilling global commitments ahead of COP29. He noted that he presented a Parliamentary Call for Global Action in Response to Climate Change, which advocates for a fair and equitable transition to a zero-emissions economy, enhanced resilience for vulnerable communities, and effective management of climate-induced migration.

## Special Rep on Youth Engagement Stogmuller participates in Doha UNOCT seminar



David Stogmuller (centre) with other participants of the seminar on the terrorism and organized crime nexus, Doha, 16 Nov. 2024

The OSCE PA's Special Representative on Youth Engagement and Chair of the Network of Young Parliamentarians David Stogmuller (Austria) represented the PA at the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's seminar on the terrorism and organized crime nexus on 16 November. The university seminar is part of the Doha Youth Parliamentary Forum, which aims to promote youth perspectives in addressing terrorism and violent extremism.

Stressing the importance of working together across borders and across organizations, Stogmuller welcomed the opportunity to emphasize the critical role of youth in addressing terrorism, underlining that more must be done to build networks of co-operation on all international challenges.

"Only by uniting in our common goal for a safer global community, and by sharing knowledge and resources openly, can the problem of terrorism be comprehensively addressed," Stogmuller said. In this regard, he highlighted the work the OSCE PA has done on the issue, pointing in particular the policy dialogues the PA has chaired on preventing violent extremism in co-operation with 17 parliamentary assemblies worldwide.

Also, the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT), he said, seeks to identify and employ new trends and techniques in the fight against violent extremism, developing innovative policy guidance for lawmakers in the OSCE area and beyond.

During the event, Stogmuller stressed the importance of involving young people in this endeavour. Noting that the causes of terrorism have roots in complex social relations, the OSCE PA works to actively engage and empower youth in public life to deter radicalization before it happens. This is necessary, he said, to break the cycle of violence which radicalizes young people and feeds terrorist actors.

The Final Session of the Youth Parliamentary Forum will take place on 27-28 November, with the active participation of CCT member Jevrosima Pejović (Montenegro).

## Finnish Task Force Head visits Copenhagen ahead of 2025 OSCE Chairpersonship

On Monday, Ambassador Jouni Laaksonen, Head of the Finnish OSCE 2025 Chairpersonship Task Force, and Finnish Ambassador to Denmark Harri Kämäräinen visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. In a meeting with Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy SG Gustavo Pallares, Chief of Staff Andreas Baker and Presidential Advisor Loic Poulain, who were joined remotely by Special Representative Amb. Miodrag Pančeski and Chief Political Advisor Francesco Pagani from the Vienna Office, Amb. Laaksonen described the



Finnish OSCE Task Force Head in Copenhagen, 18 Nov. 2024

Chairpersonship's priorities for the coming year. The sides also exchanged views on challenges facing the OSCE and how the PA and Chairpersonship can best support each other.