

PA in Istanbul marks OSCE's 50th anniversary with call to revitalize multilateralism



President Pere Joan Pons addresses the Inaugural Session in Istanbul, 17 Nov. 2025

The OSCE PA's 23rd Autumn Meeting took place this week in Istanbul under the theme "The OSCE at 50: Revitalizing Multilateralism through Dialogue and Co-operation," with around 200 lawmakers from 55 OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners. Speakers called for a just peace in Ukraine involving Kyiv in negotiations and a two-state solution in the Middle East. They welcomed Armenia-Azerbaijan reconciliation progress and emphasized political dialogue as the primary conflict-resolution tool.

President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) lamented the erosion of optimism in recent years but advocated courage, leadership, and renewed dialogue to overcome challenges. He committed to promoting peace in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as greater engagement in the economic-environmental security dimension. Pons also announced the PA's joining of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, as recommended by Special Envoy Carina Ödebrink (Sweden).

Turkish hosts, including Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Numan Kurtulmuş and Türkiye's Head of Delegation to the OSCE PA Selami Altınok, highlighted Istanbul's cultural crossroads role and the 50th OSCE anniversary as a moment to reinvigorate multilateralism, criticizing actions in Gaza and the West Bank and urging global voices to reinforce humanitarian morals internationally. OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu stressed the organization's legitimacy for fostering co-operation amid crises.

Sessions of the Parliamentary Conference addressed dialogue, trade, and human dignity. The first, chaired by Pia Kauma (Finland), focused on mediation, with speakers highlighting Türkiye's initiatives such as the Black Sea grain deal and regional efforts, stressing the importance of safe diplomatic spaces in multipolarity. The second, led by Gudrun Kugler (Austria), examined rule-based trade, opposing export weaponization and promoting infrastructure-energy corridors. Speakers identified climate change, conflicts, and resource competition as threats to multilateralism, urging strategic connectivity for sustainable security.

The third, chaired by Luis Graça (Portugal), prioritized human dignity in crises, aiding children and vulnerable groups. Keynotes advocated collective action under humanitarian law. Participants also demanded release of detained OSCE officials Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov.

OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum debates situation in the Middle East



The Mediterranean Forum meets in Istanbul on 19 Nov. 2025

The OSCE PA's 23rd Autumn Meeting closed today with a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum focused on the situation in the Middle East. Chaired by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain), the forum featured remarks by OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs Pascal Allizard, Prof. Esra Albayrakoglu of Bahçeşehir University, and addresses by the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from Algeria

and Morocco, as well as an intervention by the Delegation of the Palestinian National Council. The open debate focused on the situation in Gaza, with a look toward future, and included the participation of 23 parliamentarians from 14 countries.

Welcoming the recently declared ceasefire and release of hostages, Special Representative Allizard highlighted the need to continue mobilizing diplomatic efforts to achieve a long-term political solution. In the debate, parliamentarians urged accountability and full Gaza reconstruction, as well as a genuine two-state solution based on equality and sovereignty. They stressed that there can be no lasting peace without justice, condemned militant violence, and called for leadership focused on peace, while prioritizing sustainable development across the Mediterranean. Diplomacy must be active and assertive to achieve long-term solutions, it was stressed.

Side events spotlight migration, counter-terrorism, Ukraine, and journalist safety

Several key side events took place during the OSCE PA's Autumn Meeting. The seminar "Forging Ukraine's Post-Conflict Future," co-organized with ODIHR, highlighted Ukraine's determination to prepare for post-martial law elections as a cornerstone of lasting peace. OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons and ODIHR reaffirmed support to Ukraine in planning for and organizing free and fair elections whenever conditions allow, including with international observation.

Another side event, co-organized with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, included a session on parliamentarians' role in protecting journalists from harassment and violence. A meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration examined Istanbul's experience in managing large refugee and migrant populations and promoting social cohesion, and discussed upcoming activities including a visit



Side event "Forging Ukraine's Post-Conflict Future: Assessing Electoral Capacity and Readiness," 16 Nov. 2025

to Brussels. A session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism reviewed Türkiye's strategies and launching a "School Dialogues" project to prevent youth radicalization through civic education and media literacy.

President Pons and Special Representatives also held bilateral talks with various delegations and OSCE leaders on Ukraine, Gaza, and broader co-operation.