

PA President Pons urges principled dialogue at OSCE Ministerial Council



Pere Joan Pons addresses the Ministerial Council in Vienna, 4 December 2025

In his address at the opening of the OSCE 32nd Ministerial Council on 4 December, OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) described the OSCE region as facing a historic turning point, urging participating States to renew their commitment to dialogue, responsibility, and principled leadership.

He highlighted the unprecedented threats to European security posed by the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine alongside violence in Gaza and the Mediterranean, signaling a broader shift in the global security order. "Accountability must be universal, without double standards," Pons insisted.

In this 50th anniversary year of the Helsinki Final Act, Pons stressed that the OSCE's founding principles remain essential in a fractured world where trust is eroding and force often supplants diplomacy. He called for restoring the OSCE's operational capacity, protecting the rules-based European security architecture, and finally agreeing on a Unified Budget, warning that continued

delays undermine missions and mediation efforts region-wide.

Reaffirming unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, self-defence, and right to determine its own peace terms, Pons condemned Kremlin threats and demanded the immediate release of three unjustly detained OSCE officials: Dmytro Shabanov, Maksym Petrov, and Vadym Golda.

Pons advocated consistent engagement across the region, from defending democratic rights in Georgia and fostering Armenia-Azerbaijan reconciliation to strengthening co-operation with Central Asia for long-term stability. Warning of rising disinformation, democratic backsliding, and digital manipulation, he underscored the PA's commitment to robust election observation, declaring that "democracy without security is fragile — and security without democracy is an illusion."

He elevated climate change and inclusive energy transition to core security priorities and highlighted gender equality as a driver of resilience, noting that nearly 60 per cent of his recent appointments are women.

Concluding, Pons affirmed that dialogue remains the OSCE's greatest strength, capable of turning fear into stability and confrontation into coexistence, and urged participating States to fulfill the responsibility their citizens expect. While in Vienna, President Pons participated in a number of side events and held a series of bilateral meetings with foreign ministers and other high-level representatives.

OSCE PA Special Representatives address key issues at various events

OSCE PA Special Representatives have been active over the past week, participating in conferences, webinars and side events at the 32nd OSCE Ministerial Council.

On 2 December, OSCE PA Special Representative on Climate Change Ainur Argynbekova (Kazakhstan) participated in a conference organized by Kazakhstan's Law Enforcement Academy in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana. Speaking at the opening session, Argynbekova highlighted the critical link between climate change and security, noting its impact on stability and resources.

Speaking at a side event on 5 December at the OSCE's 32nd Ministerial Council in Vienna, OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) underscored that politicians and parliamentarians carry a unique responsibility in the fight against corruption, noting that through robust legislation and rigorous oversight of governments and agencies, real progress can be made.

On 5 December in Vienna, OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili (Italy) addressed the Ministerial Council side event "Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime: Implementing the Tirana Declaration."

Vice-President Zoffili stressed that transnational organized crime remains a profound threat to citizens' safety, democratic institutions, and regional security.

Also in Vienna, the OSCE PA's Special Envoy on Russian Abductions and Deportations of Ukrainian Children Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) participated in a side event hosted by Ukraine. Ödebrink emphasized that time is of the essence in ensuring the return of Ukrainian children. Today, the PA's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine, chaired by Sharon Hodgson (United Kingdom) met online to discuss priorities.

On 8 December, OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Federica Onori (Italy) addressed an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) webinar on "Navigating health misinformation in the age of AI," focusing on how artificial intelligence is reshaping access to health information and the responsibilities of parliaments in ensuring its ethical and rights-based governance.

This week, Special Representative on South East Europe Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) has been on a visit to Athens, meeting with parliamentarians, including Members of the Greek Delegation to the PA, as well as government officials to discuss regional challenges and build co-operation.

Secretary General Montella represents PA at NATO forum in Washington, DC

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella is in Washington this week for NATO PA's 25th Annual Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum, which is bringing together more than 130 elected representatives from NATO's 32 allied countries for discussions on shared transatlantic security priorities. On the margins of the forum, Montella has met with a number of current and former members of OSCE PA, as well as former foreign ministers. In an in-depth meeting with Head of the US Delegation to the OSCE PA Roger Wicker, discussions focused on the current status

of OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly, with the Secretary General sharing relevant news from last week's Ministerial Council in Vienna. Montella and Wicker discussed the situation in Ukraine, including the current status of the negotiations to reach just peace settlement. Topics also included challenges with the OSCE budget, the PA's recent Autumn Meeting in Istanbul, and the work of the OSCE PA in South East Europe and in particular Bosnia and Herzegovina. Montella also informed Wicker of recent discussions in the OSCE PA Bureau regarding engagement with Georgia.