

## In London, Special Representative Onori calls for co-ordinated oversight of AI



Federica Onori addresses AI conference in London, 15 December

At a Parliamentary Conference on Artificial Intelligence held on 15-16 December at the UK House of Commons in London, OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Federica Onori (Italy) called for a comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach to AI governance.

Co-organized by PACE and the UK Parliament, the two-day event gathered parliamentarians, policymakers, experts, AI professionals, and NGO representatives to discuss AI's transformative potential and risks. The focus was on developing policies that protect democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law.

Onori stressed that AI's borderless nature requires co-ordi-

nated efforts across institutions to maintain stability and public trust. Rather than rushing to legislate, she advocated prioritizing monitoring to better understand AI's real-world impacts, enabling parliaments to make informed, responsible decisions. She also highlighted critical thinking and AI literacy as essential tools for citizens, noting that open discussion, debate, and oversight are vital for transparent, public-interest-driven outcomes.

Drawing on the OSCE's comprehensive security framework, Onori described AI as a multifaceted challenge affecting elections, media freedom, economic resilience, and more. The OSCE PA's role, she explained, is to support parliaments in understanding and overseeing AI, foster multi-stakeholder dialogue, and promote frameworks that safeguard human rights, security, and democracy.

The conference featured speeches from key figures including UK House of Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, PACE President Theodoros Rousopoulos, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Bjorn Berge, and Human Rights Commissioner Michael O'Flaherty. It concluded with a call for parliaments to lead in promoting responsible AI development and governance.

## OSCE PA-ODIHR gender parity webinar takes place Thursday

OSCE PA Members are kindly reminded to register for the PA-ODIHR webinar on "Gender Parity: Why it is important and how to make it happen?", which will take place on Thursday, 18 December 2025 at 14:00-15:30 (CET). All interested participants should register here: <https://bit.ly/48TuiNh>

## PA releases 2025 election observation report, reaffirms Declaration of Principles

The OSCE PA has just published its annual report on election observation activities for 2025, detailing the deployment of missions to monitor key elections in Romania, Albania, Moldova, and Kyrgyzstan. A total of 292 observers, including 211 members of parliament from across the OSCE region, participated in these efforts to promote democratic standards, identifying a number of trends that require attention.

The PA has highlighted in particular concerns such as foreign interference, online inauthentic behavior, restrictive campaign environments, insufficient transparency, disparities in campaign financing, limitations on the rights to freedom of assembly and association, challenges of out-of-country voting, illicit financing, cyber-attacks, and disinformation.

The new report shows that the nearly 300 participants in 2025 mark a continuation of strong parliamentary engagement in election observation, which is comparable to recent years. It also outlines the national composition of election observation missions and the gender breakdown of the delegations, notably demonstrating that women accounted for three-quarters of the



Farah Karimi and Björn Söder in Tirana, 11 May 2025

leadership roles in 2025.

Last week, experts from the OSCE PA International Secretariat's election department participated in the 20th Anniversary Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which took place in Geneva. From 10-12 December, international partners met to review and reflect on 20 years of experience of the Declaration of Principles, with discussions centering on urgent and evolving challenges. The PA joined partners in reaffirming commitments to independent and objective election observation as a vital means of support for countries in holding genuinely democratic elections.

## SG Montella addresses conference on Italy, OSCE and civil society

On Tuesday, Secretary General Roberto Montella participated in the event "Rebuilding Trust, Rebuilding Countries: Italy, the OSCE and Civil Society for Peace," held at the Italian Chamber of Deputies and organized by the association I Sud del Mondo. Members of the Italian PA delegation, Enzo Amendola and Emanuele Loperfido, also took part.

Opening his remarks by highlighting the remarkable resilience of the Ukrainian people, Montella outlined the OSCE PA's realistic and action-oriented contribution to supporting Ukraine. He referred to the work of the PSTU, the Assembly's recent decision to join the international coalition for the return



Roberto Montella addresses Italy conference from the Secretariat in Copenhagen, 16 December

of Ukrainian children, and efforts to strengthen dialogue with civil society and NGOs. He also addressed the serious challenges of holding elections in wartime and post-conflict conditions, underscoring the importance of safeguarding democratic processes even in times of crisis.