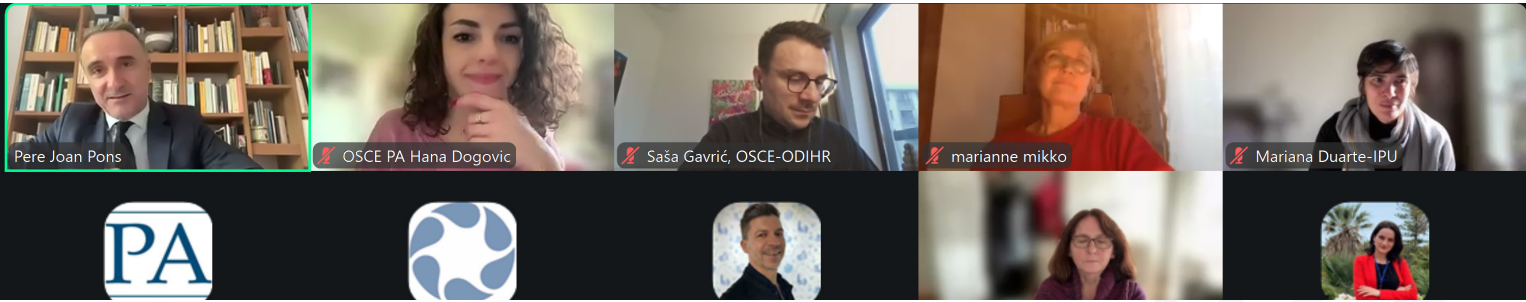


OSCE PA-ODIHR webinar advances gender parity and representation in politics



On 18 December, the OSCE PA and ODIHR hosted an online seminar titled “Gender Parity: Why Is It Important and How to Make It Happen?” The event brought together parliamentarians, experts, and stakeholders to explore pathways to achieving 50/50 gender representation in political decision-making. Moderated by OSCE PA Programme Officer Hana Dogović, the seminar opened with remarks from OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain), who highlighted the need for greater political will. Panelists including CEDAW Committee Vice-Chair Marianne Mikko, the IPU’s Mariana Duarte Mutzenberg, and ODIHR’s Saša Gavrić shared global trends and detailed practical measures to achieve parity.

A dynamic segment featured short contributions from parliamentarians and stakeholders, sharing successful reforms — such as pivotal legal changes, mechanisms for party accountability, and data-driven monitoring — that accelerated progress in their contexts. Participants emphasized how the

persistent under-representation of women undermines institutional legitimacy, policy diversity, and public trust. Drawing on CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40, speakers highlighted international obligations and practical measures to dismantle structural barriers in electoral systems, political parties, and parliamentary practices. ODIHR’s seven-step Gender Parity Roadmap was highlighted as a flexible framework, guiding stakeholders from assessments and legal reforms to accountability and gender-sensitive procedures.

Closing remarks from OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) provided targeted feedback on the discussion, underlining the need to translate political commitments into concrete parliamentary action.

The event inspired participants to develop impact-oriented national parity action plans and underscored the ongoing support OSCE PA and ODIHR can offer parliaments across the region.

Dates announced for 2026 statutory meetings

Delegations are kindly advised that the following dates have been announced for the OSCE PA’s statutory meetings in 2026:

- Winter Meeting in Vienna, 19-20 February
- Annual Session in The Hague, 4-8 July
- Autumn Meeting in Andorra la Vella, 7-9 October

Season’s Greetings from OSCE PA Secretary General Montella

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on a year of challenges that have shaken our region and demanded our Members to engage with urgency and a sense of collective responsibility and commitment.

Supporting Ukraine has remained our priority. From visits to Kyiv to our active participation in the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, our Assembly firmly stood by its Declarations. Our Members have also delivered principled public messaging, making a significant contribution to amplifying the voice of our Assembly on matters ranging from humanitarian concerns to policy. As we mark the end of the year, let us also keep in our thoughts our colleagues who unfortunately continue to remain detained, Dmytro Shabanov, Maksym Petrov and Vadym Golda, so that they are not forgotten even amid the holiday season.

Our impactful election observation missions, together with essential work on anti-corruption, climate resilience, migration, hybrid threats, artificial intelligence, and efforts to advance peace in the Middle East, have all been made possible by your dedication, expertise and commitment.

Thank you, sincerely, for your contributions. With optimism and renewed purpose, let us carry this momentum into



2026 as we continue building a stronger, more secure, and more resilient OSCE region together.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a fruitful new year.
- Secretary General Roberto Montella

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