

President Pons addresses OSCE Permanent Council, holds bilateral talks



Pere Joan Pons addresses the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 22 January 2026 (Photo: Micky Kröll)

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 22 February, declaring that Europe stands at a critical turning point where security is under severe strain from ongoing aggression, threats to sovereignty, and challenges to the rules-based international order.

In his remarks, Pons congratulated Switzerland on assuming the 2026 OSCE Chairpersonship and reaffirmed the Assembly's commitment to close co-operation to strengthen trust and dialogue, and to defend shared principles and commitments.

He highlighted the PA's strong condemnation of aggression against Ukraine and its participation in the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, and reiterated calls for the release of detained OSCE officials. He also recalled the plight of civilians in Gaza and highlighted the pressure being exerted on Denmark for the acquisition of Greenland as unacceptable.

The President explicitly noted that any government engaging in threats or retaliation through political or economic means acts contrary to the Helsinki Final Act and the UN Charter. "These principles are not optional," he underlined. "They are the foundations of our security in the whole OSCE region."

Pons reiterated his commitment to defend multilateralism,



Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the OSCE Nurzhan Shaildabekova and President Pere Joan Pons in Vienna, 22 Jan. 2026

the Helsinki principles, and international law. Pons addressed specific regional concerns, announcing plans to visit Georgia in the coming weeks to engage stakeholders constructively, reduce tensions, and bolster democratic resilience in line with OSCE commitments.

While in Vienna, President Pons held productive bilateral meetings with Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives from Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Dr. Kari Johnstone. Topics of discussion with the Central Asian delegations included OSCE PA participation in regional events as well as this summer's OSCE PA Annual Session in The Hague.

With Switzerland, talks covered OSCE priorities like conflict prevention and explored possibilities for co-ordinating activities of the Chairpersonship and the Parliamentary Assembly. A working lunch with ambassadors reinforced calls for adequate OSCE funding, with a focus on election observation and multilateral dialogue on global crises. Pons advocated for balanced reforms, increased election observation resources, and greater parliamentary involvement to promote democracy and regional stability.

Special Representative Onori advances co-operation on AI governance in visit to Vienna

OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Federica Onori (Italy) visited Vienna this week to engage with OSCE institutions, the Swiss Chairpersonship, and Austrian AI experts, focusing on how parliamentary engagement can add value to ongoing work on AI governance across the OSCE region.

The visit centred on identifying synergies between the OSCE's parliamentary and executive structures and highlighting the cross-cutting nature of artificial intelligence, which affects security, economic and environmental issues, and human dimension commitments. Discussions underscored the need for closer cross-dimensional co-operation and sustained dialogue to address both the opportunities and challenges posed by AI.

In addition to meetings with OSCE institutions and departments, Onori held roundtable discussions with representatives



Federica Onori meets with Bakyt Dzhusupov, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, in Vienna, 27 Jan. 2026

of the Austrian academic community and private sector active in the field of AI. Exchanges focused on practical ways to bring together researchers, policymakers, and private-sector actors to support evidence-based parliamentary oversight and decision-making on AI.

The visit reaffirmed the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's role in supporting parliamentary dialogue and helping to translate institutional expertise into parliamentary awareness and action on artificial intelligence.

Special Representative Tacer hosts Youth Perspectives workshop in Ljubljana

On Monday, Lucija Tacer, OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement and Chair of the Network of Young Parliamentarians, hosted the first Youth Perspectives workshop with young people in the Slovenian Parliament in Ljubljana on Affordable Housing.

The Youth Perspectives initiative brought young voices closer to OSCE PA policy-making through direct dialogue with parliamentarians. Participants discussed housing affordability



Lucija Tacer (centre) with workshop participants, 26 Jan. 2026

as a key challenge for social cohesion, democratic resilience and comprehensive security across the OSCE region.