

OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration members visit Brussels



Members of the Migration Committee outside the European Commission building, Brussels, 29 January 2026

A seven-member delegation of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, led by Chair Farah Karimi (Netherlands) and joined by Secretary General Roberto Montella, were in Brussels last week to learn more about recent developments in European migration policy reform, focusing on implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and its expected impacts.

During the briefings, the interlocutors at the Commission outlined the key achievements in preparing for Pact implementation, including the designation of the EU Member States that are under migratory pressure and agreement on the 'Solidarity Pool'

for 2026 consisting of support measures for these countries. Recurring topics included safeguards within the Pact to ensure compliance with human rights standards and the need to step up the fight against migrant smugglers and traffickers. The new Return Regulation and rules for determining which 'Safe Third Countries' to which asylum seekers may be sent back were also high on the agenda.

The Committee also had the opportunity to hear more about the new Pact for the Mediterranean launched last November which seeks to promote migration management as part of comprehensive efforts to create a connected, prosperous, resilient and secure common Mediterranean space from North Africa to the Middle East. The importance of strengthening partnerships with countries of origin and transit beyond the EU, as part of a 'whole-of-route' approach, was also emphasized.

The Committee will report on its visit to the OSCE PA Standing Committee in Vienna later this month. Alongside Chair Karimi and Secretary General Montella, the delegation included Vice-Chairs Kemal Çelik (Türkiye) and Alessandro Alfieri (Italy); and members Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus); Artemi Vicent Rallo (Spain); Özgül Saki (Türkiye); and Angelos Syrigos (Greece).

Italian Delegation and OSCE Special Representative discuss human trafficking in Rome



Special Representative Kari Johnstone (third from left) with the PA's Italian Delegation in Rome, 30 January 2026

Visiting Rome on 30 January, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Human Trafficking Kari Johnstone met with the OSCE PA's Italian Delegation, led by Vice-President and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime Eugenio Zoffili, to provide an update on the strategic guidelines related

to the many commitments she is addressing in Italy. Following her meeting with the Italian parliamentarians, Special Representative Johnstone highlighted the importance of continuing the international collaboration in combating human trafficking, including by strengthening victim identification to implementing joint training programmes, stressing that together real progress is being made to protect vulnerable people across borders.

Vice-President Zoffili said that as the Assembly's Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime, he will continue to highlight the link human trafficking and other crimes such as drug trafficking. Together, he said, these crimes represent one of the main sources of funding for criminal organizations, which must be fought vigorously by promoting and strengthening synergies at all transnational institutional levels.

Norwegian Delegation visits OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen

The Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA, led by Marius Arion Nilsen, visited Copenhagen on 30 January for briefings by Secretary General Roberto Montella, Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and other staff members on the Assembly's structures and activities, as well as discussions on the OSCE's history and the challenges facing the Organization. Secretariat staff and the Norwegian parliamentarians had a lively exchange on the OSCE's evolving role over the years since the Helsinki Final Act was signed in 1975 and how to ensure that it remains viable and politically relevant in the years



Norwegian Delegation in Copenhagen, 30 January 2026

ahead. The Norwegian Delegation expressed a strong interest in taking part in the Assembly's activities, including its election observation missions.

In memoriam: Rita Süssmuth

The OSCE PA mourns the passing of Rita Süssmuth, former Vice-President, Chair of the Second Committee, and Head of the OSCE PA's German Delegation. A driving force behind election observation, parliamentary diplomacy and combating antisemitism, she decisively shaped the work of the PA, including by helping to establish its Vienna Office and to create the role of the OSCE PA's Special Representative at the OSCE Permanent Council. The Secretariat offers condolences to her family and friends.



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