

## High-level OSCE parliamentary delegation pushes for dialogue in Georgia



OSCE PA delegation meets with the press in Tbilisi, 9 March 2026



The delegation meets with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze and Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili on 10 March.

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) led a high-level delegation on a visit to Georgia from 8-10 March, focused on fostering political dialogue, bolstering democratic institutions, and encouraging broad engagement across Georgia's divided political landscape amid ongoing challenges.

The delegation – including Special Representative on the South Caucasus Luís Graça (Portugal), Jevrosima Pejović (Montenegro), Baroness Christine Blower (United Kingdom), and Secretary General Roberto Montella – held extensive meetings with key figures. These included the Speaker of Parliament, Prime Minister, President, the Ministers for Foreign and of Internal Affairs, Public Defender, numerous opposition parties (both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary), and civil society representatives.

A central theme of the discussions was that Georgia's impressive political talent and active international outreach contrasted sharply with a troubling lack of communication among domestic actors. The delegation welcomed the broad consensus on Georgia's European integration aspirations as well as their consensus that upcoming elections must align with OSCE commitments, but deep political polarization remains a major barrier to progress. They expressed hope that constructive approaches would be found, calling for constructive engagement through appropriate institutions and expressing hope to see responsible steps to de-escalate the political scene and get back to political dialogue.

Delegates urged de-escalation and raised concerns over reported efforts by ruling party members to pursue bans on certain opposition parties, which could deepen divisions and lead to greater isolation. Furthermore, violence must not be used as a political tool, it was stressed, and anybody threatening or using violence should be held accountable to the law. At the same time,

restricting regular political or civil activity is not the way forward, delegates said.

In the current geopolitical climate, stability and unity are essential for Georgia, it was emphasized, with OSCE/ODIHR concerns regarding recently adopted legislation highlighted and authorities called on to address identified shortcomings. The group encouraged the use of OSCE tools for confidence-building and constructive opposition participation.

The delegation requested access to individuals described by opposition figures as political prisoners but regretted that this was not available on this occasion.

On Sunday, members traveled to the Administrative Boundary Line near Khurvaleti, meeting with affected communities and internally displaced persons. They heard firsthand accounts of restrictions on freedom of movement and other hardships stemming from the continued occupation of parts of Georgia's territory.

President Pons reiterated the OSCE PA's unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Special Representative Graça underscored the need for sustained international support, including practical confidence-building measures and connectivity for divided communities.

Underscoring the OSCE PA's solidarity with Georgians facing conflict's legacy while pressing for domestic unity to advance democratic and Euro-Atlantic goals, the visit closely aligned with recommendations in the OSCE PA's Porto Declaration, adopted in July 2025, which called on the Russian Federation to reverse its recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states, fully implement the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement, end militarization, and cease efforts to detach these regions from Georgia.

### Hungary EOM deadline reminder

Delegations are kindly reminded that the deadline to register for the 12 April OSCE PA Election Observation Mission to Hungary is Thursday, 12 March. Registration documents should be completed and submitted to the International Secretariat at [eom@oscepa.dk](mailto:eom@oscepa.dk) as soon as possible.

## President and Special Representative celebrate International Women's Day

Marking International Women's Day, the OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) and Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) issued statements celebrating progress made in advancing gender equality while urging renewed attention on closing the global gender gap and advancing progress in gender parity.

Special Representative Fry underscored the importance of moving forward the Beijing+30 Action Agenda and seizing the moment to dismantle the structural barriers to equal justice that

still exist. President Pons stressed the importance of standing up for feminism and reaffirming policies that promote equality between the genders.

The leaders affirmed that the Assembly must commit to advancing gender equality and inclusion in all OSCE participating States. Achieving full gender equality is not only essential for women's dignity, it was stressed, but is also equally crucial for ensuring global prosperity, political stability, economic growth, and security for all.

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