

News from Copenhagen

Kulkuloglu represents Assembly at Human Dimension Implementation Meeting



Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (right) delivers his address to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw.

OSCE PA Third Committee Vice-Chair Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey) represented the Assembly in Warsaw this week at the OSCE/ODIHR's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

In his address to the opening session on Monday, the Vice-Chair recounted key pledges and recommendations made by parliamentarians from across the OSCE area at the PA's Annual Session this summer. He urged government officials in attendance to heed parliamentarians' calls to prioritize the protection of migrants' rights; candidly address the issue of political prisoners in the OSCE area; and boost efforts to

combat human trafficking and other forms of torture.

Kulkuloglu also underscored the Parliamentary Assembly's repeated recommendations that the OSCE reinvest in its field operations and organize frequent, public meetings on human rights and implementation of commitments.

The humanitarian impact of the crisis in Ukraine was another topic Kulkuloglu discussed, noting the Assembly's support for the OSCE's role in resolving the conflict, but emphasizing the need for increased action to ensure immediate impact on the ground. The humanitarian crisis needs to be urgently addressed, he said, especially with the winter months approaching.

During the event's session on freedom of expression on 23 September, Kulkuloglu called for the immediate release of imprisoned journalists in the OSCE area.

Kulkuloglu was supported in his visit to Warsaw by OSCE PA Deputy Director of Administration Marc Carillet and Secretary of the Turkish Delegation Cenk Ileri.

OSCE PA to meet in Geneva for debates on new security challenges



More than 200 parliamentarians from 53 countries will gather in Geneva, Switzerland from 3 to 5 October, for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 13th Autumn Meeting.

Including a Parliamentary Conference, a Mediterranean Forum and a meeting of the Standing Committee, the Autumn Meeting will be addressed on the opening day by PA President Ilkka Kanerva (Finland), Speaker of the Council of States of Switzerland Hannes Germann, and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter.

The Parliamentary Conference, under the theme of "New Security Challenges: The Role of Parliaments," will be held in three sessions.

Among the speakers at session one will be OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors, while session two will be addressed by Ambassador Theodor Winkler, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. In session three, delegates will hear a keynote address by Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier will address the Assembly's Standing Committee.

The PA's Mediterranean Forum, meeting under the theme "Facing Current Challenges to Security in the Mediterranean Region: the OSCE Model," will be opened on the morning of 3 October with addresses by OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri (France), President Kanerva, Swiss PA Head of Delegation Andreas Aebi, and the Heads of the Parliamentary Delegations from the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Parliamentarians to observe elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, United States

Registration deadlines are approaching for upcoming election observation missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and the United States.

Observers to the Bosnia and Herzegovina general elections on 12 October, being led by Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission and Marietta Tidei (Italy) as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation, should **register for the mission no later than 26 September**.

The mission to the 26 October parliamentary elections

in Ukraine is being led by OSCE PA Vice-President Kent Harstedt (Sweden) as Special Co-ordinator of the short-term OSCE observer mission and Vice-President Doris Barnett (Germany) as Head of the OSCE PA Delegation. **The registration deadline is 10 October.**

The Limited Election Observation Mission to the United States for the 4 November congressional midterm elections is being led by Isabel Santos (Portugal). The **registration deadline is 3 October** and the **deadline for hotel reservations is Tuesday, 30 September.**