

## PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration discusses upcoming activities in online meeting

In her remarks, Belani described the situation facing the 136,000 refugees in Armenia, underlining the challenges posed to the country's infrastructure and services, as well as the efforts of UNHCR to provide support. Committee Chair and OSCE PA Vice-President Dr. Daniela De Ridder (Germany) stressed that the situation of refugees must be high on the PA's agenda and spoke about the need to ensure good migration governance. OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) underlined the complex international environment that exists today and the impacts this has on migration. In the discussion, members highlighted best practices in the area of labour market integration and the need for combating the causes of flight.

Members also discussed upcoming activities, including possible field visits, and the in-person meeting that will take place on the sidelines of the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting in Yerevan later this month.

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on 3 November for discussions on priorities and upcoming activities with a focus on the exchange of best practices and enhancing migration management. The committee was also briefed about the refugee situation in Armenia by Kavita Belani, the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees Representative in Armenia.

## Special Representative on the Arctic and High North Pritchard visits Iceland

el meetings focused on security and environmental concerns in the Arctic region. At a meeting with Speaker of Althingi Birgir Ármannsson, Special Representative Pritchard discussed parliamentary efforts and co-operation on Arctic matters. He also had a discussion on the impact of climate change and the security situation in the region with the Director of the Institute of International Affairs. Pritchard discussed the activities and challenges of the Arctic Council with the Ambassador and Senior Arctic Official of Iceland Pétur Ásgeirsson. At a meeting with Icelandic parliamentarians, he exchanged views on environmental concerns facing people living in the Arctic.



Mark Pritchard meets with Birgir Ármannsson in Reykjavík, 6 Nov.

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on the Arctic and High North Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) has been in Iceland this week for a series of high-level

## VP Charalambides hosts debate in Cyprus's Parliament on women in peace and security

On Monday, OSCE PA Vice-President Irene Charalambides hosted a special debate in the House of Representatives of Cyprus entitled "Women's participation in international peace and security," bringing together more than 70 women for discussions on improving gender balance in public life. In her opening remarks, Charalambides recalled the importance of ensuring that women are well-represented in parliaments, governments and international organizations, and in this regard highlighted the change to the OSCE PA's Rules of Procedure that she proposed at the Vancouver Annual Session last July, which requires gender balance to be taken into account when



Group photo of participants at House of Representatives event, 6 Nov.

making political appointments. Also addressing the event was President Pia Kauma (Finland), who underlined the exemplary efforts of the Finnish Parliament to ensure gender balance.

## Pascal Allizard visits International Secretariat ahead of Yerevan Autumn Meeting

Pascal Allizard (France), OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure, has been in Copenhagen this week for meetings at the International Secretariat. The primary focus of the visit was to prepare for the upcoming Autumn Meeting in Yerevan and discuss a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure. Allizard will chair the meeting of the Mediterranean Forum in Yerevan, where the subject of debate will be the situation in the Middle East.



Gustavo Pallares, Jean-Luc Blouet, Pascal Allizard and Roberto Montella in Copenhagen, 6 Nov.

## President Emeritus Cederfelt addresses the 75th Session of the Nordic Council

OSCE PA President Emeritus Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) attended the 75th Session of the Nordic Council. In her address, Cederfelt highlighted the OSCE PA's and the Nordic Council's common values and collective strength regarding issues such as climate change and youth engagement. She also stressed the need for inter-parliamentary co-operation in today's global landscape with security threats such as the Rus-

sian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The 75th Nordic Council Session took place in Oslo, Norway, from 30 October to 2 November. The main theme of this year's session was "A secure, green and young Nordic region" and it brought together 87 parliamentarians as well as Nordic prime ministers, foreign ministers, defence ministers and ministers for Nordic co-operation.