

Special Representative Charalambides participates in OECD Global Forum in Paris



Special Representative Irene Charalambides and the World Bank's Roby Senderowitsch, Paris, 27 March 2024

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) participated in the Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum on 26-27 March at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's headquarters in Paris.

Organized by the OECD, the Global Forum 2024 OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum gathered leaders

and experts from around the world to share new insights and explore how anti-corruption policies and integrity frameworks can enhance the response to the challenges that democracies face. It included sessions on the launch of the OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Outlook, combatting illicit financial flows and tax crimes through effective strategies, and harnessing innovations in AI and Analytics to enhance accountability in lobbying, as well as enhancing and adapting the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention for global integrity.

On the margins of the Global Forum, Charalambides held meetings with Transparency International CEO Daniel Eriksson, the World Bank's Roby Senderowitsch, Jeroen Blomsma of the European Commission and Viktor Pavlushchuk, Head of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine. Discussions focused on current threats to democracy, the rule of law and security stemming from corruption, with Charalambides highlighting the OSCE PA's efforts to promote transparency and accountability, and the role of national parliaments in this regard.

Vice-President Lopatka visits Turkmenistan for talks on security and co-operation



Turkmenistan's OSCE PA Delegation meets with Reinhold Lopatka in Ashgabat, 2 April 2024

OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, this week, meeting with Chairperson of the Mejlis Dunyagozel Gulmanova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Ahmed Gurbanov, EU Ambassador to Turkmenistan Beata Peksa, and Amb. John MacGregor, head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. He also held discussions with the staff of the OSCE Centre to hear about the programmes they are working on in the country.

Gulmanova told Vice-President Lopatka about Turkmenistan's



Amb. John MacGregor and VP Reinhold Lopatka plant a tree at the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, 2 April 2024

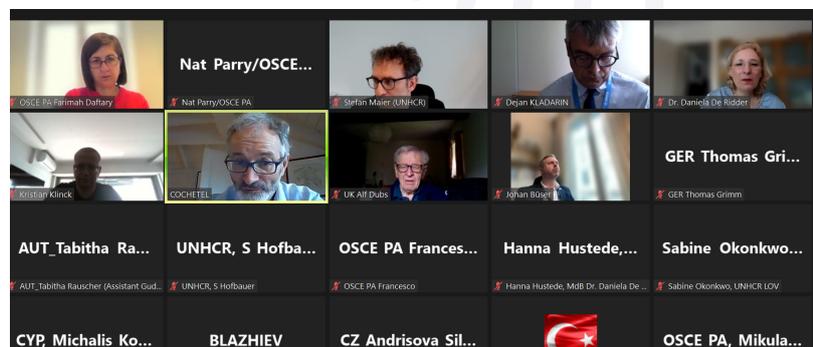
priorities in developing co-operation with international organizations, including the OSCE, noting that it is an important aspect of foreign policy and Turkmenistan's global security strategy. In this regard, it was stressed, diplomatic tools should be utilized to promote regional security and foster a culture of dialogue.

Lopatka also highlighted Turkmenistan's essential role in fighting terrorism, emphasizing that its geographical proximity to Afghanistan and projects such as health care centers provides Turkmenistan with an intimate knowledge of the situation there.

OSCE PA Migration Committee members meet with UNHCR representatives

In an online meeting chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Daniela De Ridder (Germany), members of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration heard today from representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees about the mixed migration movements across the Central Mediterranean, and the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, provided an overview of the recent dynamics along the Central Mediterranean route. He noted that there has been a decrease so far this year in departures from North Africa, underlining that this is mainly due to current weather conditions and that it is necessary to remain vigilant to build capacity for effective migration management. He also stressed that the vast majority of migration movements in Africa remain within the continent. Stefan Maier, Head of Policy and Legal Support Unit, UNHCR Representation for EU Affairs, briefed the PA members on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and highlighted that focus should now be on its implementation and efforts to harmonize procedures. Discussions also focused on combating trafficking in human beings and human



smuggling, and human rights concerns in particular regarding vulnerable persons. Women and children, the UNHCR emphasized, should never be placed in detention.

The meeting was intended as a follow-up on last month's visit to Rome and Lampedusa, in which committee members learned about Italy's efforts in coping with large numbers of migrant arrivals and discussed lessons learned from agreements with third countries such as Libya, Tunisia and Albania.