

## President signs Memorandum of Understanding with Romanian Parliament for 31st Annual Session



Vice-President of the Senate Sorin-Mihai Cîmpeanu, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies Dan Barna, Bucharest, 18 April 2024

On 18 April, OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland), accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Palares, visited Bucharest for a preparatory visit ahead of the 31st Annual Session, taking place from 29 June to 3 July 2024 at the Parliament of Romania.

President Kauma signed a Memorandum of Understanding for hosting the Annual Session with Dan Barna, Vice-President of

the Chamber of Deputies and Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and Sorin-Mihai Cîmpeanu, Vice-President of the Senate.

Kauma thanked the Parliament of Romania for their generous offer to host the 2024 Annual Session and commended them for their commitment to advancing dialogue and co-operation within the OSCE framework.

The President also held meetings with the Delegation of Romania to the OSCE PA and State Secretary for Strategic Affairs Ana Tinca, where she conveyed OSCE PA's appreciation for Romania's steadfast support for the OSCE and the active involvement of its delegation in OSCE PA activities.

The sides discussed the general programme for the Annual Session, with a focus on the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and the need for strengthening the OSCE's role in maintaining peace and security across the region.

## OSCE Parliamentarians discuss security challenges at 2024 Leinsweiler Seminar

Around 50 participants, including 24 parliamentarians, convened in Berlin last weekend for the annual Leinsweiler Seminar. The seminar provided an opportunity to assess the current state of politics and security in the OSCE region and discuss a way forward for the organization, ahead of the Assembly's Annual Session in Bucharest in July.

OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) and Robin Wagener, Head of the German OSCE PA Delegation, opened the seminar on Saturday noting the need for forums to address critical issues in the complex security landscape. OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid, Ambassador Michael Reiffenstuel from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Michael Cluett, representing the Maltese Chairpersonship of the OSCE, also addressed the opening session, with discussion focusing on the need to utilize the OSCE's unique toolbox to promote stability and predictability in the region.

The three sessions covered various themes, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, security challenges and



Family photo, Leinsweiler Seminar, 20 April 2024

regional co-operation in the Baltic region, and the OSCE's role in supporting peace and stability in the South Caucasus. Participants emphasized the importance of continued support for Ukraine and the need for lasting peace agreements in conflict areas.

The Leinsweiler Seminars – named after the location of the original event in 2015 – are organized annually by the OSCE PA and the German Delegation to the OSCE PA, funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## VP and Special Representative Charalambides addresses event on UK Parliamentary Integrity System

On 22 April, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held an online event titled "The UK Parliamentary Integrity System: Understanding Functionality and Lessons Learned."

During the event, Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption, emphasized the crucial role of parliamentary scrutiny in maintaining democracy and highlighted the need for robust integrity mechanisms within parliaments and Parliamen-

tary Assemblies. Tea Jaliashvili, Deputy Director of ODIHR, commended the UK's House of Commons for its effective integrity mechanisms and stressed the importance of strengthening public integrity frameworks in national parliaments.

Commissioner Daniel Greenberg CB and Dr. Robin James discussed the UK Parliamentary Integrity System's regulation of parliamentarians' conduct and transparency measures.

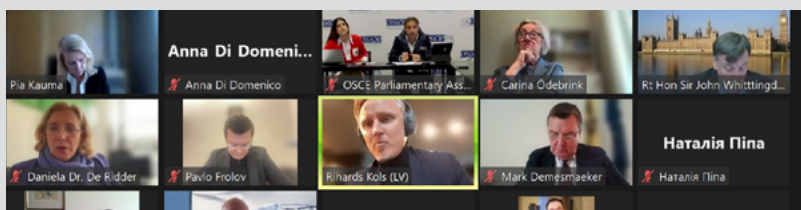
The event was attended by over 90 participants, including representatives from OSCE institutions and field operations, as well as more than 20 parliamentarians.

## The Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine meets to discuss upcoming activities

The OSCE Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine convened online on 24 April to discuss the Committee's upcoming activities in view of the 2024 Annual Session in Bucharest.

Co-Chair Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine) delivered a presentation on the latest developments in Ukraine, including the destruction of the Trypilia power plant, and shelling in Cherniviv, Kharkiv, and Dnipro.

Furthermore, the PSTU also heard from its Rapporteurs Rihards Kols (Latvia), Mark Demesmaeker (Belgium), and



Carina Ödebrink (Sweden), who outlined their priorities for the future work of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.