

Bureau meets in Copenhagen to discuss current challenges and upcoming activities



The Assembly's Bureau meeting in the Danish Folketing, Copenhagen, 29 April 2024



President Pia Kauma and Secretary General Roberto Montella, Copenhagen, 29 April 2024

Chaired by President Pia Kauma (Finland) and welcomed by Head of the Danish Delegation Peter Juel Jensen, the OSCE PA Bureau convened on 29 April at the Danish Parliament to discuss reports from rapporteurs preparing resolutions for the upcoming Annual Session in Bucharest, Romania. Bureau members also discussed current international developments and internal OSCE PA matters.

Tobias Winkler (Germany), in his draft report for the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, emphasized the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and full accountability for atrocities committed. The report also addressed the escalating situation in the Middle East and provided insights into developments in Moldova and the South Caucasus, stressing the importance of diplomatic solutions and international support.

Gudrun Kugler (Austria) focused her report for the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment on Artificial Intelligence (AI). She highlighted AI as a promising innovation with the potential to unlock societal opportunities but stressed the need for strong political guidance. Additionally, she underscored the importance of parliaments working towards a stronger recognition of environmental war crimes in national legal frameworks. Her report also covered Ukraine's reconstruction, water management, migration issues, efforts to counteract deindustrialization, and reduce economic dependency.

Malik Ben Achour (Belgium), Rapporteur of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions, emphasized the dire humanitarian consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and stressed the continuous need for international support and effective accountability mechanisms. He underlined the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the urgent necessity for a ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian aid access. Additionally, his report addressed migration issues, fundamental freedoms, and the protection of human rights.

During the meeting, Bureau members provided input on the initial reports and draft resolutions, suggesting improvements to the language and raising additional issues. They unanimously endorsed Roberto Montella for a renewal of his mandate as Secretary General and urged Heads of OSCE PA delegations to support him at the 29 June meeting in Bucharest. Additionally, the Bureau endorsed the 2024-2025 budget proposal presented by Treasurer Johan Buser (Sweden).

The Bureau also discussed forthcoming activities, including election observation missions, official visits, conferences, and upcoming statutory meetings, including the 31st Annual Session from 29 June to 3 July in Bucharest and the 22nd Autumn Meeting from 2 to 4 October 2024 in Dublin.

On Sunday, 28 April, Bureau members engaged in informal discussions regarding the future of the OSCE PA, covering priorities, structures, functioning, scope of work, and co-operation with the OSCE.

Deadline reminder for Lisbon Conference on “Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”



The 2nd Lisbon Conference of the OSCE PA on “Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” is set to take place on May 20, 2024, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Each delegation is kindly asked to complete the registration form and return it no later than **2 May** to the Secretariat of the Portuguese delegation to the OSCE PA. For more information, please contact: ana.isidoro@ar.parlamento.pt

OSCE parliamentarians to observe parliamentary elections in North Macedonia

More than 80 observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are deploying to North Macedonia for the 8 May parliamentary elections.

Nikoloz Samkhradze (Georgia) has been appointed by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to serve as Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission, and Carina Ödebrink (Sweden) has been appointed Head of the OSCE PA Delegation.

The OSCE PA team will work closely with observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE),

the European Parliament and the mission deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Observers will be briefed from 6 to 7 May by representatives of the election administration and civil society, candidates, party representatives and experts on the situation ahead of elections, before deploying to several regions of North Macedonia for election day observation.

The preliminary findings and conclusions for the elections will be presented at a press conference in Skopje on 9 May.

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