



FRENCH DELEGATION TO OSCE PA

The 30th Anniversary of the Charter of Paris: A Parliamentary Perspective

Friday 20 November 2020, 14:30-16:30 CET, online

CONCEPT

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the French Delegation to the OSCE PA are co-hosting a high-level commemorative event to mark the 30th anniversary of the [Charter of Paris for a New Europe](#). The Charter was adopted during the second Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Conference for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (CSCE), held in Paris on 19 – 21 November 1990, underscoring the end of the Cold War and setting the basis – also at an institutional level - for what is today the OSCE. In the preamble, leaders emphasized that “*we assembled in a time of profound change and historic expectations. The era of confrontation and division of Europe has ended. We declare that henceforth our relations will be founded on respect and co-operation*”. They also committed to continue to pursue the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act as guiding values.

In these 30 years, the OSCE has provided to its participating States, now 57, a significant added value as a platform for dialogue to discuss common security issues, and the progressive development and implementation of important commitments in all three dimensions of its comprehensive concept of security. It also continues to offer an indispensable and unique toolbox to address all phases of the conflict cycle. However, today in 2020 the OSCE is suffering, together with other international organizations, from a widespread crisis of multilateralism, and cooperation in the Helsinki and Paris spirit seems to proceed with increasing fatigue. Is the OSCE still relevant 30 years after the Paris Charter? Were the expectations of the signatories met? What does the organization need to maintain its relevance and continue to provide the indispensable added value it was created for also in today’s complex international security framework?

The Charter of Paris is also crucial for Parliamentarians, as it first called for the establishment of the then CSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In this context, this event will place a special focus to the parliamentary perspective on the OSCE, and it aims at debating the distinct role of the Assembly in supporting the work of the Organization, both through parliamentary diplomacy and through the activity of legislators in their national Parliaments. The OSCE PA stands ready to provide its contribution with a set of initiatives - especially by leveraging on its significant capacity of generating political thrust and raising public awareness – to stimulate the work of the OSCE in these challenging times and bring back high level political attention to it.

MODALITIES

The event, addressed mainly to parliamentary delegations and open to the general public, will be held online, due to limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

It will be opened and chaired by the Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA, Sereine Mauborgne, and moderated by OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella. Keynote addresses by high-level guest speakers will be followed by interventions of national parliamentary delegations. OSCE PA Vice-President Pascal Allizard will deliver concluding remarks.

A detailed agenda will be shared in the coming weeks, together with additional information on the event and registration modalities.