



## The President

To: Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

5 September 2023

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all Members and Delegations who have reached out to me since our Annual Session. I greatly appreciate your commitment to dedicate time and energy on behalf of the OSCE and our Parliamentary Assembly.

Immediately after our meeting in Vancouver, you will recall that I had announced my intention to streamline the work of our Special Representatives. Following consultations held over the course of the summer, I would like to inform you that I have made the following appointments:

- Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance: Mr. Ben Cardin (United States)
- Special Representative on the Arctic and the High North: Mr. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom)
- Special Representative on Central Asia: Ms. Farah Karimi (Netherlands)
- Special Representative on Climate Change: Mr. Pere Joan Pons (Spain)
- Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime: Mr. Eugenio Zoffili (Italy)
- Special Representative on Eastern Europe: Mr. Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria)
- Special Representative on Fighting Corruption: Ms. Irene Charalambides (Cyprus)
- Special Representative on Gender Issues: Ms. Hedy Fry (Canada)
- Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues: Mr. Chris Smith (United States)
- Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs: Mr. Pascal Allizard (France)
- Special Representative on Political Prisoners: Mr. Steve Cohen (United States)
- Special Representative on the South Caucasus: Ms. Kari Henriksen (Norway)
- Special Representative on South East Europe: Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyanni (Cyprus)
- Special Representative on Youth Engagement: Ms. Monika Zajkova (North Macedonia)

Reading through this list, you will notice that, overall, the number of Special Representatives has been reduced, with portfolios focusing on priority topics, both thematic and regional. I have asked our Vice-Presidents to focus on one of these areas. Several portfolios in existence prior to the Vancouver Annual Session have not been reestablished; their work will be embedded in our general committees and our new Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine. Within the constraints of the composition of our Assembly's membership and elected leadership, I have taken gender, political, and geographical balance into account when making these appointments.

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Reflecting on the limited time available, please note that in the future the agenda of our statutory meetings will generally not include an item for Special Representatives. Instead, all Special Representatives have been invited to actively participate in our debates to reflect on the issues included in their portfolio.

Let me also use this opportunity to update you on the leadership of our various ad hoc committees. I will formally chair the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine, which was established during the Vancouver Annual Session, with Mr. Joe Wilson (United States) and Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine) serving as Co-Chairs. In addition, please note that Ms. Daniela De Ridder (Germany) will take over as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) will continue to lead the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, while Mr. Pascal Allizard (France) carries on as Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

Ad hoc committee members will be appointed in the coming weeks in line with the established procedure and in coordination with the committee chairs, to ensure that the actual needs of the committees, as well as gender, political, and geographical balances, are taken into account.

As I stated upon my election in Vancouver, my door is always open. I look forward to continuing to exchange with each of you on the best way to make full use of your political energy and your expertise within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Yours sincerely,



Pia Kauma