



The President

To: Members of the Standing Committee
Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

6 October 2023

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

Yesterday our Bureau met to discuss recent developments in Armenia and in Azerbaijan, particularly in view of our upcoming Autumn Meeting.

I first want to confirm that **the 2023 Autumn Meeting will take place as planned on 18-20 November in Yerevan**. I received these assurances from the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Alen Simonyan. This was confirmed to the Bureau by the Head of the Delegation of Armenia, Mr. Sargis Khandanyan. The OSCE PA International Secretariat will soon circulate the draft programme and the general information for the 2023 Autumn Meeting.

I am sure you will agree with me that meeting in Yerevan at this critical juncture will be a strong political signal. In the numerous discussions I have held on this topic in recent weeks, it has been clear to me that the OSCE must remain invested in the South Caucasus and that our Parliamentary Assembly and national parliaments have an active role to play. First and foremost, we should all encourage our governments to provide humanitarian aid and assistance. We must also do all that we can to prevent further military escalation. Finally, we must stand ready to contribute to a comprehensive peace agreement.

I plan on following up on all these issues through a presidential visit to Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia around the time of our Autumn Meeting. I thank in advance those three Delegations for kindly hosting me.

Let me also use this opportunity to follow-up on some issues I have mentioned in previous communications:

- As previewed in my letter to all Members circulated on 5 September, I have made appointments to the **Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine**. The list of Members is available on the OSCE PA website. I expect this group to first meet online in the coming weeks.

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- As noted in my letter to the Standing Committee circulated on 14 September, I met together with our Treasurer Johan Büser with the auditors from Deloitte who will be performing the **integrated financial-business/performance audit**, as decided by the Standing Committee in Vancouver. The process has begun, and the audit is expected to be completed well in advance of our Winter Meeting next February. The audit will then be presented by the Treasurer to the Standing Committee.

Finally, given that for the first time in our Assembly's history our Vancouver Declaration included a chapter on **the institutional crises facing the OSCE**, I would like to update you on some steps that I have taken on your behalf, especially considering the uncertainty surrounding next year's Chairpersonship of the OSCE. First, I have raised your serious concerns directly with the current Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, the Foreign Minister of North Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Bujar Osmani, whom I have ensured of our full support to try and overcome this extremely complex challenge. Since my election as President, I have echoed this message in numerous consultations with Permanent Representatives to the OSCE and with Ambassadors stationed in Helsinki. I am confident that my active participation in the Task Force for Finland's Chairpersonship of the OSCE in 2025 will further contribute to these efforts, in line with our longstanding objective to strengthen mutually beneficial co-operation between the governmental and the parliamentary branches of the OSCE.

I thank you all for your active engagement in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I look forward to carrying on with our valuable discussions to support comprehensive security in our region.

Yours sincerely,



Pia Kauma