

1 February 2023

**Mr. Karl Nehammer**  
**Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria**

**Mr. Alexander Schallenberg**  
**Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria**

**Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka**  
**President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria**

**Mr. Günter Kovacs**  
**President of the Federal Council of the Republic of Austria**

**Ms. Margareta Cederfelt**  
**President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

*Your Excellencies,*

In connection with the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna, scheduled for 23-24 February 2023, we, the undersigned, do expect that in the case of members of the Russian delegation, members of the Russian Parliament under international personal sanctions, decisions will be taken to prohibit their participation, as was the case before the 29th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Birmingham (2-6 July 2022) and before the Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Warsaw on 24-26 November 2022.

The participation of the Russian delegation in the Session, which will take place exactly one year after the start of the illegal, unprovoked, and criminal armed invasion in Ukraine, would not only not send a positive signal to the international community but could even be perceived as a provocation. We have no doubt that the Russian delegation would use OSCE's PA as a forum to sow disinformation, fake news, and hate speech. Thus, OSCE's PA would be relegated to the role of a transmitter of Russian propaganda.

Moreover, we see no signs of genuine interest on the Russian side in seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict with Ukraine.

It is important to remember that Russian parliamentarians are an integral part of the power system and complicit in the crimes Russia commits every day in Ukraine. They have no place in an institution tasked with promoting sincere dialogue and opposition to the war. The Russian Parliament has actively participated in measures to exclude Russia from sharing European values, including approving the annexation of four occupied regions of Ukraine (03.10.2022), adopting a bill excluding responsibility for crimes committed in Ukraine (13.12.2023), and passing a wealth of legislation restricting citizenship rights in Russia over the past few years. Hence, the Russian Duma (lower house of the Parliament) deputies found themselves on EU sanction lists. Statements of numerous representatives of the Russian Parliament are apparent examples of manipulation and hate speech.

23 and 24 February 2023 are important dates on which international undertakings are planned, in cooperation with Ukraine, including at the UN and in Ukraine itself. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can and should chip in, remaining in close coordination with Kyiv on this issue.

We believe that the OSCE PA should first address the issue of how to hold Russia legally and internationally accountable for war crimes committed in Ukraine. This issue is an integral part of the effort to end the war. An example would be to address in the debate the rules of the special tribunal proposed by Ukraine for crimes committed by Russia. That would be a real contribution of OSCE's PA to the process of bringing a just, lasting peace closer, and, at the same time, would be part of the defence of the OSCE's fundamental values and principles.

We want to emphasise that giving credibility to the Russian side through the participation of its representatives in the Winter Meeting of the OSCE's PA would be an inexplicable act for the public and would send a false signal about the symmetry of the two sides in the ongoing conflict. The participation of Russian parliamentarians in the Vienna session would not contribute to bringing the end of the aggression any closer; moreover, it would be read in Russia as its indirect legitimization and part of a return to "business as usual." Russia would find that it could achieve its war aims without risking ostracism, isolation, and international sanctions.

We believe the OSCE is a forum for dialogue but not an unconditional one. Russia's open violation of its OSCE commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act creates a qualitatively new situation. Russia has placed itself outside the bracket of nations committed to the

principles of international law. Dialogue with Russia is on-going within the OSCE Permanent Council, but expanding it would, regardless of intentions, constitute support for Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bartuś, Head of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Agnieszka Pomaska, Deputy Head of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Radosław Fogiel, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Joanna Lichocka, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Rafał Adamczyk, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Dariusz Rosati, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Grzegorz Bierecki, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Kazimierz Kleina, Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Piotr Polak, Alternate Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Jacek Włosowicz, Alternate Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Cezary Tomczyk, Alternate Member of the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene, Head of the Lithuanian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE PA

Mr Laurynas Kasciunas, Member of the Lithuanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Giedrius Surplys, Alternate Member of the Lithuanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Mark Demesmaeker, Deputy Head of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Orry Van de Wauwer, Alternate Member of the Belgian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Hedy Fry, Head of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA

David Wells, Member of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Rosemary Moodie, Member of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Kristina Michaud, Member of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA

John Aldag, Member of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Jan Bauer, Head of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA

Lucie Potuckova, Member of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA

Jan Richter, Member of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA

Hayato Okamura, Member of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA

Jana Pastuchova, Alternate Member of the Czech Delegation to the OSCE PA

Peter Juel-Jensen, Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Henrik Frandsen, Member of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA

Sven Sester, Head of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Heljo Pikhof, Member of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Marko Šorin, Member of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Anti Poolamets, Alternate Member of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Margit Sutrop, Alternate Member of the Estonian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Didier Paris, Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Pascal Allizard, Deputy Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Jean-Yves Leconte, Deputy Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Stephane Demilly, Deputy Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Valérie Boyer, Member of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Ludovic Haye, Member of the French Delegation to the OSCE PA

Maka Botchorishvili, Member of the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Kerstin Vieregge, Member of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Jürgen Hardt, Alternate Member of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA

Helga Vala Helgadóttir, Member of the Icelandic Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Birgir Thorarinsson, Member of the Icelandic Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Lilja Rannveig Sigurgeirsdóttir, Member of the Icelandic Delegation to the OSCE PA

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Jeroen van Wijngaarden, Member of the Dutch Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Sjoerd Sjoerdsma, Member of the Dutch Delegation to the OSCE PA  
Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Member of the Dutch Delegation to the OSCE PA

Aleksander Stokkebo, Member of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Ilie Dan Barna, Head of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Costel Neculai Dunava, Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Ciprian Titi Stoica, Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Christine Thellemann, Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Gábor Hajdu, Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

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Milos Svrcek, Member of the Slovak Delegation to the OSCE PA

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Anna Lichman, Alternate Member of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Viktoriia Podgorna Alternate Member of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Sir John Whittingdale, Head of the UK Delegation to the OSCE PA

Nigel Mills, Member of the UK Delegation to the OSCE PA

Mark Pritchard, Member of the UK Delegation to the OSCE PA