

Distinguished President,

Let me first of all thank you, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and its Secretariat, also on behalf of the Italian Delegation as a whole, for the kind words of sympathy and solidarity addressed to Italy and to our Delegation in this serious health emergency that has struck the world and for which my country, in particular, has paid and is paying a high price in terms of human lives and sacrifices.

Indeed, I hope that that the world we know and the political fora in which we participate, in Europe and beyond, will come out of this crisis - which is affecting all of us without distinction - more cohesive and more strongly committed to practising solidarity and partaking of a common destiny. Hence, it is all the more necessary to identify, in a timely and effective manner, the most appropriate instruments to address the future challenges we will be confronted with in terms of public health and economic conditions, once the emergency is over.

Against this backdrop and in the hope that you will share my views, I am sending you, herewith attached, an information paper on the measures adopted by Italy's Chamber of Deputies and Senate, alongside other national parliaments, in order to ensure that Parliament can keep functioning in the face of the Covid19 emergency, which, as you rightly pointed out for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, must be considered an absolute necessity.

I take this opportunity to send you my best regards.

Paolo Grimoldi

George Tsereteli President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Copenhagen