



The Secretary General

To:
OSCE PA Standing Committee

Copenhagen, 9 December 2020

Dear Members of the Standing Committee,

I am writing to inform you about the operational measures the Bureau has decided upon at the online meeting on 2 December in response to COVID-19 related challenges.

Firstly, concerning the upcoming OSCE PA Winter Meeting scheduled from 24-26 February 2021, the Bureau has unanimously decided that the meeting will be held in a full online format. This decision was taken after careful consideration of current travel limitations and health concerns, and particular in view of the impossibility to assess how severely the pandemic will continue to affect our activities in the near future. The online 2021 Winter Meeting will encompass all regular meetings of the Standing Committee, three General Committees and a Joint Session.

Secondly, the Bureau has endorsed a set of provisional emergency rules (please see attached) that, if approved by the Standing Committee, would apply in the unfortunate event of the 2021 OSCE PA Annual Session in Bucharest not taking place in a conventional format, but rather as a remote/virtual session should COVID-19 restrictions continue to prevent physical meetings.

The adoption of the emergency provisions is indispensable for the continuation of our work in the current crisis, specifically as it relates to the election of officers of the Assembly. In this regard, please rest assured that the International Secretariat is assessing the most secure remote conferencing options to ensure the conduct of a safe and effective voting method should the 2021 Annual Session end up being held in virtual modality.

Furthermore, I would also like to inform you about the recently launched OSCE PA initiative entitled "[OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose](#)", aiming to stimulate the work of the OSCE and increase high-level political attention to the organization by participating States, particularly in light of the unprecedented leadership crisis the OSCE faced. The PA's Call for Action, endorsed by 52 OSCE Chairpersons-in-Office, Presidents of the OSCE PA, Secretaries General and other Heads of Institutions of the OSCE, was presented at a [side event](#) organized by the Assembly on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council on 3 December, which featured participation of more than 100 parliamentarians and diplomats.

On a concluding note, I would like to thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support regarding the alternative working methods the International Secretariat has progressively implemented throughout the year given the challenges we are currently facing. Needless to say, I am looking forward to the day we can fully resume our activities and meet in-person. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a happy holiday season and most importantly good health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberto Montella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Secretary General