



## The President

To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations  
Members of the OSCE PA Bureau

CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

4 May 2009

Dear colleagues,

As we all prepare for the upcoming OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session in Vilnius, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention a study that I have prepared (attached). Supported by the Portuguese parliament, I have made a short analysis comparing the budgets of major inter-parliamentary assemblies, which my colleagues in the Bureau have recommended that I share with you all.

Having worked closely with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and his staff, I have personally experienced their professionalism and enthusiasm; I am pleased that the attached document also clearly details that the International Secretariat is very cost-effective. While recognising that the various assemblies all have their specific objectives, I think it is important to recognise that the many activities of the OSCE PA are conducted with a very small budget and staff; I believe that the attached study is an indication to our home parliaments of what can be achieved, even during difficult economic times. I should also note that on 20 April, the Bureau recommended that the Standing Committee support the draft budget presented by Treasurer Hans Raidel, which takes into account the current economic situation and freezes expenditure at the current level.

I hope that we can all move forward together in the coming months and make good use of our important Economic Conference in Dublin, as well as the Annual Session in Vilnius. We bring added value to the OSCE, and I strongly believe that our continued engagement is vital.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'João Soares'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

João Soares  
President