



ΒΟΥΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ
HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

Dear colleague,

Dear fellow Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

I hereby wish to share with you my intention to apply as a candidate for the Presidency of our Parliamentary Assembly in the upcoming elections, which will take place in Oslo, Norway, in July 2010.

I was encouraged in this decision by the support of many parliamentarians – colleagues from all political groups and all countries of OSCE, East and West of Vienna.

I present my candidacy with a high sense of responsibility paired with deep trust in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Since 2004, I have had the opportunity to serve consecutively as Vice-Chairman of the 2nd Committee of the OSCE PA; as Chairman of the 2nd Committee of the OSCE PA; and, currently, as Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly. Besides my term at OSCE, my international background as a Member of the European Parliament (1999-2000), my term as Minister of Education (2000-2004) as well as the experience gained as an elected Member of the Hellenic Parliament in three consecutive elections have encouraged me to further serve our Assembly.

I believe that as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE I can contribute to the safeguarding and strengthening of its political role. As you know, steps enhancing our role were already taken during the Greek Presidency of 2009, either through our participation in political initiatives such as the Corfu Process, or through the confirmation of the leading role of the Parliamentary Assembly in the collaboration with ODIHR in election observation missions, as detailed in the Copenhagen Agreement.

The principal aims of my candidacy are further strengthening democratic institutions; fighting corruption internationally; striving for media freedom; abolishing trafficking; as well as taking on active measures for security on all levels. During my term I also wish to fight for gender equality - not only within the constraints of our Assembly, but also throughout the member nations and all of OSCE.

Loyalty to the spirit of Helsinki is one of the most important goals of OSCE. This is why I wish to balance the activity of the Organization between the “East and West of Vienna”, while ensuring full respect for the principles of OSCE, in a manner including all parliamentarians: 56 member countries, from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

In the course of my term at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I have had the privilege to enjoy your collaboration, trust and friendship. Today, as I present my candidacy for our Organization's presidency, I wish to ask for your support in order to turn our commitment to OSCE's principles into a solid action plan that will strengthen the political role of our Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Petros Efthymiou

Vice-President of the OSCE PA