

SENATE SÉNAT
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA
K1A 0A4

Tel. (613) 943-1454, Fax: (613) 943-1883
The Honourable Senator Consiglio Di Nino
L'honorable Sénateur Consiglio Di Nino
Government Whip in the Senate
Whip du gouvernement au Sénat



June 21, 2010

Dear colleague,

As you undoubtedly know, I am seeking the Presidency of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) at the Annual Session in Oslo. Having been encouraged by many of you, on February 4, 2010, I officially entered the race by way of the enclosed announcement. Since then, many of you have engaged me in dialogue about our organization and sought my views on various subjects. I thank you for this. It has helped me better focus my vision for the OSCE PA for the next decade.

Some participating States are questioning the **relevancy of the OSCE in the 21st century**. First, and most importantly, I believe that the PA must continue to play a prominent role in helping shape the debate on the OSCE, as well as the vision for the Organization today, and in the future.

We, the Parliamentary arm of the organization, have a duty to engage in the debate and analysis on **the future of our organization**. Indeed, we are uniquely positioned to contribute to this, the most important exercise since its founding and which the OSCE's Corfu Process has helped to advance. The 2005 OSCE PA Colloquium on the Future of the OSCE is a sound foundation for this analysis. To complement these efforts, I will introduce a supplementary item on the future of the OSCE PA at our Annual Session in Oslo, and encourage all colleagues to participate in the debate. I have no doubt that the PA's contributions will be useful in preparing for a possible OSCE Summit later this year.

Aided by our strong and effective secretariat, if elected President, I will strike a committee to prepare a ten year, long-term plan for the PA with achievable goals and objectives and which the Assembly will debate at our Annual Session in 2011. In the more immediate term, I will engage all colleagues on some of the key challenges facing the OSCE region including: protracted conflicts, the resurgence of intolerance, the role of the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, the need to strive for gender balance, and the growing importance of Central Asia as we strive to ensure the stability and development of Afghanistan and its neighborhood.

Some of you have also raised the question of a Canadian as President, I must admit mostly supportive. Let me share my response. As a native of Italy and frequent visitor to Europe and Asia, I have a sound understanding of the complex and overlapping issues facing all OSCE participating states. Moreover, Canadians have distinguished themselves as combatants and peacekeepers in the wars and conflicts fought in the European zone. Indeed, it was a Canadian, the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, whose vision led to the creation by the UN of peacekeeping forces, for which he was awarded the Noble Peace Prize. Canada and North America more generally are closely linked to Europe socially, culturally and economically. The recent global economic crisis is a perfect example of these linkages and, as we jointly emerge from its devastating effects, Canada is among the countries leading the way towards a recovery.

A few colleagues have asked me to explain how Senators in Canada differ from members of the House of Commons. Modelled after the UK Westminster system, our system of government is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The Parliament of Canada has distinct components, each with its own constitutional authority. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Queen of Canada and our Head of State. She is represented in Canada by the Governor General, who appoints members to the Upper House, the Senate. These appointments are made on the recommendation of the Prime Minister who chooses from lists assembled by his/her advisors, not unlike the party list system used by many OSCE PA participating states. The powers of the Senate are very similar to those of the House of Commons, whose members are elected based on representation by population according to the first Past the Post system. I hope this explanation is helpful.

In conclusion, because of my success as a businessman, my extensive political career which includes chairing and managing many campaigns (locally, regionally and nationally), and my wide-ranging volunteer activities in support of dozens of charitable, not-for-profit organizations, I offer a varied and rounded lifetime of experience to be of service to the OSCE PA as its next President.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon in Oslo, where I will once again ask for your support. Please feel free to contact me at (+1-613) 943-1454, Cell (+1-416) 774-8423 and email dninc@sen.parl.gc.ca.

Warmest regards,

Consiglio Di Nino