

THE SENATE OF CANADA

The Hon. Consiglio Di Nino



LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A4

February 3, 2010

Dear Colleague,

After serious reflection over the Christmas period and the encouragement from several of our colleagues, whom I greatly respect, I have decided to seek the Presidency of the OSCE PA. The purpose of this letter is to briefly inform you about myself and to seek your support and that of our colleagues.

My family and I immigrated to Canada from Italy in 1951 when I was 13 years old. Our experiences were similar to other immigrant families, overcoming barriers and rejection and facing the difficulties associated with the transition to a new and strange environment. My career, prior to entering politics, was in the financial service sector. I successfully founded Cabot Trust Company and presided over it for 13 years until its sale to a large multinational company.

I have been a Senator in the Parliament of Canada for 19 years and have held several senior positions, including Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and I am the Government Whip in the Senate. I have been an active member and head of the delegation to the OSCE PA for several years. Currently I am Chair the First Committee on Political Affairs and Security of the OSCE PA. My experiences as an election observer include heading Short Term Observation Missions in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. These experiences have given me a clearer understanding of the need to have a better balance between participating states east and west of Vienna.

I am prepared to commit to serve as President of our organization in order to continue to strengthen the PA's role and importance in the OSCE and build stronger relationships with other OSCE institutions. I believe we, as parliamentarians, should play a stronger role in strengthening the OSCE in its mandate to further peace and security in the wider European and central Asian areas.

If I am honored with the trust of my colleagues and become President, I will continue to work with our Secretariat to build on our achievements to date. But I will also reach out to our members for your guidance and ideas. I believe my extensive experiences in both the private and public sectors will be of value in meeting the challenges our organization faces.

I look forward to meeting you at our winter meeting in Vienna, where I will be happy to discuss my candidacy with you. In the meantime I can be reached by email dininc@sen.parl.gc.ca or by phone, office 613-943-1454, cell 416-774-8423. I hope my past service to the OSCE PA has earned your trust and respect and that you will consider supporting my candidacy.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Consiglio Di Nino', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Consiglio Di Nino