HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

DORA BAKOYANNIS
MP - Independent

Athens 24 of June 2010

Dear Colleague,

As a long-standing member of the Greek Parliament, and also as someone who has until recently served as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and, therefore, fully understands the crucial role and enormous potential of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly both within the Organization and beyond it, I would like to herewith express my full support for the candidacy of my dear friend and colleague Mr. Petros Efthymiou, for the high office of President of the OSCE PA.

Petros Efthymiou is an excellent colleague, a seasoned Member of the Greek Parliament, who commands enormous respect among Greek parliamentarians, irrespective of party membership or political affiliation. He has been elected Member of Parliament three consecutive times since 2004, has held ministerial positions and has served as Member of the European Parliament. More crucially, he has been an active, dedicated member of the OSCE PA for six years, a period during which he has acquired a vast experience on the functioning of this key institution of the OSCE and has brought his modern political outlook, charisma and know-how into the rich activities and deliberations of the Parliamentary Assembly. Petros Efthymiou is held in very high esteem among the members of the OSCE PA, which he has dutifully served both as Head of the 2nd Committee and as Vice-President of the OSCE-PA Bureau.

During the Greek OSCE Chairmanship of 2009, I had the good fortune to consult with Petros Efthymiou and receive his valuable advice on a number of sensitive issues. As Chairperson-in-Office, I had the honour to appoint him as the Special Coordinator of the OSCE Election Observers in the two crucial presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova, were he was unanimously acclaimed for his masterly handling of a difficult political situation. Petros Efthymiou fully appreciates the OSCE's key role in international elections observation, both in general terms and as regarding the OSCE-PA distinct role.