

The Swedish Delegation of the OSCE PA

Stockholm 6 August 2013

SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 

To the President of the OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly,
Mr Ranko Krivokapić

cc:

The Secretary General of the OSCE
PA, Mr Spencer Oliver

Dear President Krivokapić,

First of all, the Swedish Delegation of the OSCE PA would like to wish you all the best for this year as President of the OSCE PA. We are sure that you will be very successful in your work.

Considering your long experience of this organization, we are convinced that you will take a number of wise decisions during the coming year, in close cooperation with the Bureau. Recently, however, the Swedish Delegation has noticed your decision **not** to send a delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe the presidential election in Azerbaijan on 16 October. The reason is reported to be that this election will coincide with the Autumn Meetings in Montenegro.

Of course we can understand that for you, Mr Krivokapić, it is very important that as many members of the Assembly as possible will have the opportunity to take part in the Autumn Meetings, since they will be held in Montenegro, and you will be the hosting them.

We can also understand that it would be hard and time-consuming work for the Secretariat. However, we are convinced that the Secretariat already had planned for and was prepared for one EOM to Azerbaijan and one EOM to Georgia, both in October. And we are also convinced that the Secretariat has the capability to carry out them both, as it has done before.

A **small delegation** to Azerbaijan would not present a problem for the number of participants to the Autumn Meetings, since a smaller number of members take part in these meetings than in the annual Summer Sessions. We also think that the Secretariat could manage a small EOM. It would not be the first time that some of the members participate in election observations instead of meetings in the Assembly.

We urge you, Mr President, to reconsider this decision. Please discuss this matter with the nine Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. As we understand it, one of the members had already been promised to lead a delegation to Azerbaijan by the former President.

We would also like to point out that we believe that it is of the utmost importance that our Assembly will continue to work towards improving human rights and democracy and to fight against corruption in all the 57 member states of our Assembly. This includes the state Azerbaijan. Since election observation is a task of high priority to our Assembly, we would not let a meeting occurring at the same time be the reason for not sending a small delegation.

This would also be a very bad signal to Azerbaijan – and to any other member state – which we also could read in the OSCE Sitroom Daily Morning Brief on 24 July, where the Vice Chair of the First Committee, Mr Azay Guliyev, Azerbaijan, said regarding the OSCE PA's opportunity to send even a small delegation (to Azerbaijan), that "the leadership of the Assembly probably has little concern about the elections in Azerbaijan and therefore, there is no need for such a decision". We find this very serious, since Mr Guliyev is now a member of the Bureau. We would also like to point out that the next Summer Session will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan,

Trusting that you will understand the importance of changing your decision, the Swedish Delegation is ready to send four members to the Autumn Meetings in Montenegro and one – or as many members as permitted - to Azerbaijan for the important work of observing the presidential election on 16 of October.

Yours sincerely,



Walburga Habsburg Douglas

Head of the Swedish Delegation
Vice-President of the OSCE PA