Warsaw/Copenhagen, 21 October 2013

To all Secretaries of Delegations of OSCE PA Delegations
OSCE participating States and experts

Dear Madam or Sir,

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) are pleased to share with you a new study entitled *A Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region*, as attached. The publication is also available on the ODIHR website at: http://www.osce.org/odihr/105940.

This study provides an overview of the different parliamentary structures for women MPs that have been established as a means to enhance women's substantive representation and to promote gender equality in parliaments. As such, it forms part of the parliamentary support programming offered by the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA. Our Offices remain at your disposal should you require any additional information on this new publication. The OSCE/ODIHR would be pleased to send a hard copy upon request.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to those of you who responded to our questionnaire by contributing valuable good practices, success stories and lessons learned. The experiences you shared as parliamentarians and experts form the true heart of this publication.

At the same time, we wish to highlight another recent publication within the OSCE's parliamentary support portfolio. The *Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians*, published in early 2013, provides an overview of the practical measures parliaments can take to promote ethical standards among politicians. It can be found on the OSCE/ODIHR website at http://www.osce.org/odihr/98924.

We look forward to our future co-operation and thank you again for your contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Janez Lenarčič
Director of the OSCE
Office for Democratic Institutions and
Human Rights

Dr. Hedy Fry
Special Representative
of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
on Gender Issues