



The Secretary General

To:
OSCE PA President
Members of the OSCE PA Bureau
Members of the OSCE PA Standing Committee

Copenhagen, 12 March 2020

Dear President,
Dear Members of the Bureau,
Dear Members of the Standing Committee,

This is to inform you that, following a sharp increase of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak in both Denmark and Austria and in accordance with recommendations and restrictions issued by the respective State authorities, I have ordered the temporary closure of the OSCE PA International Secretariat Headquarters in Copenhagen and of the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office, both effective as of today until 30 March, and instructed all Staff to work from home using modern technologies that allow telecommuting.

These decisions have been taken in coordination with the OSCE executive structures, the OSCE COVID-19 Taskforce as well as the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and NATO.

At the moment, all our Staff members in Copenhagen and Vienna are well and nobody is personally affected by the COVID-19. Please rest assured that the OSCE PA Staff is fully equipped for an effective telecommuting and that this formula will grant the needed business continuity to the work of our Assembly. Despite the closure of the two offices, the International Secretariat will indeed continue to be operative and our traditional *modus operandi* makes us flexible and efficient in times like these.

Moreover, please note that all OSCE PA activities scheduled in March, as well as some of those scheduled in April, are to be either postponed, cancelled or conducted via video-link/other ICT. We will continue to constantly monitor the evolution of the virus outbreak as to assess the feasibility of the rest of the planned activities in April and beyond. I will take due care of updating you regularly.

Wishing you all to stay safe and in good health, I thank you for your support and I look forward to maintaining our regular contacts and to seeing you soon when this critical time will be over.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Roberto Montella', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Roberto Montella, Secretary General