



The Secretary General

To:
Members of the OSCE PA Standing Committee

Copenhagen, 27 March 2020

Dear Members of the Standing Committee,

It is my pleasure to inform you that our Bureau held an informal videoconference meeting last Wednesday to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the Assembly and its planned activities, especially Statutory Meetings, and how we can meaningfully respond to it and its challenges by leveraging on our key assets. In this regard, the International Secretariat has drafted a Non-Paper (attached to this letter) with potential ideas, which we are planning to consolidate in the coming weeks in an *OSCE PA/COVID Compact*. Please feel free to provide us with your comments or any additional suggestions.

Given that Wednesday's informal meeting proved as an efficient tool to share ideas and stimulate debate within an non-official setting, and that we consider it crucial to keep channels of communication open during this challenging period, we anticipate to hold another informal leadership meeting in two weeks' time, on Wednesday 8 April.

My colleagues in the International Secretariat and I will continue to duly inform you on any updates regarding the feasibility of our planned activities against the backdrop of the continuously evolving situation, which we are closely monitoring in coordination with the OSCE executive structures and other partner international organizations.

Moreover, please note that in the light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with recommendations issued and measures implemented by our host countries, I have further extended the temporary closure of the OSCE PA International Secretariat Headquarters in Copenhagen and the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office until 13 April 2020 included. All staff will continue to regularly telecommute from home and ensure the needed business continuity to our work.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your steady support and flexibility throughout this difficult time, which is allowing us to carry out our work to the best of our abilities, despite the obstacles we are currently facing. I wish you and your families to stay safe and in good health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roberto Montella'.

Roberto Montella
Secretary General