



The President

To: Members of the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Re: Decision: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Proposed Budget for 2020/2021 – 29th Financial Year

15 May 2020

Dear Members of the Standing Committee,

In compliance with Rule 41, paragraph 2 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, it is my pleasure to circulate to the Standing Committee the proposed budget for our next financial year that will start on 1 October 2020 and conclude on 30 September 2021. This proposed budget was presented by Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen to the Bureau at its last meeting held on 27 April where it received unanimous support.

The Treasurer's Report outlining the financial situation and the financial needs of the OSCE PA substantiating the proposed budget is hereby attached.

This budget proposal has been thoroughly prepared in these exceptional circumstances by the Treasurer together with the Secretary General to reflect the minimum basic needs of the Assembly. Due to the lockdown provoked by the measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, all the programmed activities of the Parliamentary Assembly – including statutory meetings, election observation missions, presidential and other activities – have been either cancelled or postponed since the second week of March 2020 and without concrete information at the moment regarding when they will be resumed. Therefore, the budgeted amounts for such activities in our current budget as approved by the Standing Committee in Luxembourg last July will not be used.

It is therefore proposed to freeze the Assembly's budget and to accrue the saved amounts and transfer them to next year's budget as an extra contribution from the OSCE PA International Secretariat to the OSCE PA overall budget thus automatically reducing the amounts of all national delegations that constitute the latter's contributions to the budget. Following a careful assessment of the OSCE PA finance team we expect to save a total of € 350,000 (three hundred and fifty thousand euros).

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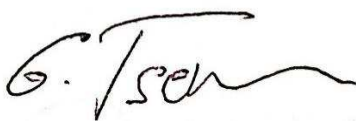
In the attached Report you will find the proposal regarding the national contributions based on this proposal which as you can see are considerably reduced. Together with the Bureau we believe this to be a fair, clear, and honest way to help our parliaments and our Assembly in the times of economic crisis which we will all be confronted with after the end of the current pandemic.

Given the impossibility for the Standing Committee to formally meet in the near future and with the unanimous agreement of the Bureau, I will apply a “Silence Procedure” to have the Standing Committee approve the budget for the 29th Financial Year, in accordance with our Rules. If by 15 June I have not received in written the negative vote of at least two voting Members of the Standing Committee (Rule 35,1) I will consider the proposed budget adopted (Rule 41,1)

In the meantime, and in full compliance with Rule 41, paragraph 2 of our Rules of Procedure, please address any questions, suggestions or comments on the proposed annual budget prior to the formal decision by 15 June to Treasurer Peter Juel-Jensen through Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallarés at the International Secretariat.

I thank you all in advance for your engagement and co-operation. This Parliamentary Assembly has always functioned – and continues to function – in an extremely cost-effective and efficient way, thanks to the continuous support, commitment, and solidarity of all national delegations.

Yours sincerely,



George Tsereteli