To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations
CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

21 July 2020

Dear Heads of Delegations,

Parliamentary elections are planned to take place in Montenegro on 30 August 2020. Following an invitation to observe these elections, and as noted during the 7 July Standing Committee meeting, the President has decided to deploy a Special Limited Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with expected teams from the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be a special limited mission of no more than 20 Members, and will deploy exclusively in the capital region of Podgorica. I note that the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it, including to Members' abilities to travel, could present a challenge to the deployment of a mission, and we will keep the feasibility of the mission under review.

In accordance with the attached OSCE PA Election Observation Guidelines, national Delegations wishing to nominate their members to participate in this mission are kindly asked to complete and return to the International Secretariat at (eom@oscepa.dk) as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, 7 August 2020** the following:

1. The Delegation Nomination Form,
2. An Individual Observer Nomination Form for each nominated observer,
3. A signed Statement of Nominated Election Observer for each nominated observer,
4. A signed Code of Conduct for each nominated observer,
5. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport.

Please note that in accordance with the Guidelines nominated observers are not part of an observation mission before they have been appointed by the OSCE PA President. In appointing Members to this Special Limited Election Observation Mission, the President can take appropriate steps to balance the composition and to preserve a political and geographical balance of Members within the mission. The International Secretariat will communicate the list of observers to delegations that have forwarded nominations following appointment by the OSCE PA President. Due to registration procedures, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

As a result of the COVID-19 response, a number of travel restrictions are in place in many countries, and Members are requested to consult with the appropriate authorities regarding travel procedures and access to the country. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities of Montenegro to ensure compliance with local health regulations and guidelines, and observers can expect some significant adjustments to mission procedures. The mission will work to put in place disease mitigation measures including social distancing where possible, however participants should understand that observation is a physical practice requiring close interaction with a wide range of people. Observers are expected to comply with all national laws and regulations of the host country, including health regulations; please note that there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of
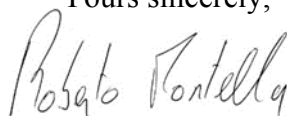
Montenegro or by the mission. Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in Montenegro.

Further information, including a detailed programme, will be distributed to participants in due course. Briefings for the mission are expected to be held in Podgorica during the two days before election day, and Members are reminded that in accordance with the OSCE PA's Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Guidelines, participants are expected to attend the full briefing programme as well as the debriefing on the day following the election.

I wish to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their Members' expenses and that only interpretation into English will be provided in meetings and briefings.

Yours sincerely,

Roberto Montella,
Secretary General