



Copenhagen, 21 July 2020

**Memorandum on the OSCE PA Observation of the
30 August 2020 Parliamentary Elections in MONTENEGRO**

OSCE PA Special Limited Election Observation Mission

Parliamentary elections are planned to take place in Montenegro on 30 August 2020, and following an invitation to observe these elections, the OSCE PA President, following appropriate communication with the OSCE PA Standing Committee, has decided to deploy a Special Limited Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with the expected teams of 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. 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 the feasibility of the mission will be kept under review.

Nomination and Appointment of Parliamentary Observers

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

Tordenskjoldsgade 1, 1055 Copenhagen K., Denmark

Phone: +45 33 37 80 40 - Fax: +45 33 37 80 30 - osce@oscepa.dk - www.oscepa.org

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.

Accommodation

Parliamentary briefings will be held in Podgorica on 28-29 August 2020. The Temporary OSCE PA Headquarters will be located in Podgorica as well. The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will distribute the details on the recommended hotel for accommodation in Podgorica as soon as possible.

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 27 August 2020

All day Arrival of observers

Friday, 28 August 2020

09:00- 09:30 (TBC)

Briefing on the Mission for new OSCE PA observers

All Day

Parliamentary briefings

Saturday, 29 August 2020

All Day

Parliamentary briefings (*cont.*)

Meeting with Drivers and Interpreters

Sunday, 30 August 2020

All Day

Observation at Polling Stations

Monday, 31 August 2020

08:00

De-Briefing for PA observers

Afternoon

Press-Conference in Podgorica

Suggested departures of observers

Briefing on Mission for new OSCE PA observers

We kindly invite new members to attend the Briefing on the Mission aimed at providing useful information on the general framework of PA observation missions. The briefing is open to all OSCE PA observers, but participation is expected for new observers.

Election Day

The mission will be limited in scope and will not deploy outside of the capital region of Podgorica. The International Secretariat will circulate a draft deployment plan taking into consideration wishes by the observers, but also the requirements for a meaningful observation mission. Subject to adjustments required by the health situation, on Election Day, Members will generally work in teams of two.

Further information on arrangements for Election Day including related to costs for any cars/drivers and interpreters for Election Day will be communicated in due time.

Travel Regime

A number of travel restrictions are in place, and Members are requested to consult with the appropriate authorities, including by contacting the relevant consulate, regarding travel procedures, visas and access to the country.

Travel and Health Insurance

We would like to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their own Member's expenses, including any hotel cancellations, as well as fees for driver, interpreter and fuel. Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic 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.**