



The President

To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations
Members of the OSCE PA Bureau

11 December 2020

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends

As you know, Georgia held parliamentary elections on 31 October 2020. The ensuing political crisis has led opposition parties to refuse to enter parliament. Unfortunately, as a member of this political alliance, I must follow this agreement and, as a consequence, I will cease to be Member of Parliament from today.

It has been an honour to carry your voice as your President for the past three years, and as a Vice-President for the five years prior. I want to thank you all for your friendship, for our rewarding discussions and debates, the important decisions we have taken over the years, and for your sincere commitment to the work and values of the OSCE. I also thank you for your trust, your personal support, and your encouragements, which I have been privileged to enjoy. Throughout these years, I have also been grateful for the excellent support and advice I have received from staff at the OSCE PA International Secretariat.

I have conferred with Secretary General Roberto Montella in recent weeks to ensure that a smooth presidential transition takes place. I would like to use this occasion to wish my successor, Peter Lord Bowness, every success in guiding our Assembly until the Bucharest Annual Session next July.

I am proud that over the past three years, we have continued to build honest and strong collaboration with the other parts of our Organization. In Vienna, we continue to enjoy excellent working relations with the Chairmanship and Delegations, the Secretariat and Field Operations, as again demonstrated throughout this year by regular participation in virtual events. Despite the current situation, we have forged stronger partnerships with the Representative on Media Freedom, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. I am convinced that under their new leadership, the OSCE PA will further consolidate these strategic partnerships to benefit all OSCE citizens.

As President of this Parliamentary Assembly, it has been one of my goals to upgrade the visibility of the Assembly, not only within the OSCE but also on the international scene.

The President

Today, we can rely on valuable working relationships with strong and credible actors in the international arena, including the United Nations, European institutions, and our interparliamentary partners. Our Assembly remains engaged throughout the OSCE region, including through strong transatlantic ties and our excellent partnership with the U.S. Helsinki Commission. Beyond the OSCE's borders, we remain eager to extend our hands to Partners in Asia and the Mediterranean.

In these times of pandemic, we have found innovative ways to remain active and functional. Within the PA, we have opened new areas of work and expertise: our committees continue their excellent work, while we can also count on Special Representatives dealing with civil society, anti-corruption, or disinformation. I have aimed to promote greater gender equality in our Assembly, including through these appointments, leadership for election observation missions, or the filling of vacancies in the Bureau.

Together with the International Secretariat and the Assembly's leadership, we have also strived to update our Rules of Procedure and modernize the work of the Assembly in an inclusive way. I hope this work will be completed soon with your support.

Overall, I believe that our Parliamentary Assembly is much better placed today to contribute to the overarching goals of the OSCE, and that your time is used in a much more impactful way. This has reinforced the standing of the OSCE PA as a unique forum for principle-based dialogue and co-operation between our countries.

My presidency ends as our Assembly continues to deal with numerous challenges and urgently needs to address global crises, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts, growing threats to democracy and human rights, climate change, radicalization and terrorism, and large-scale human migration. I encourage you to continue your hard work to pursue our unfinished agenda and safeguard the fundamental values and principles of the OSCE.

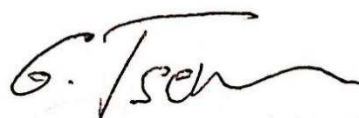
Even outside of parliament, you can rest assured of my full and unwavering support for the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and the mission of the OSCE. Considering the unprecedented leadership crisis that has affected our Organization during the second half of 2020, it remains urgent that we generate high-political interest in favour of the OSCE in all participating States. To that effect, I encourage you all to support our "OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose," which we presented on the margins of last week's OSCE Ministerial Council.

The President

I look forward to carrying on with our meetings and conversations in a different capacity, and to assist you and my successors to achieve the goals for which we have fought together as a team.

I wish you happiness and good health this Christmas and holiday season, and all the best in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



George Tsereteli