



To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations

CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

17 February 2021

Dear Heads of Delegations,

Parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in the Republic of Albania on 25 April 2021, and following an invitation to observe these elections, the PA President has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to this important election to work closely with expected teams from the OSCE/ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and specifically to gathering limitations in Albania, briefings will be held online in the week prior to the election, with observers expected to travel to Albania only after the briefings and immediately prior to election day.

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 (eom@oscepa.dk) as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, 26 March 2021** 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,
6. A passport photo of each observer.

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. 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. **All participants are expected to obtain a PCR test for COVID-19 within 72 hours of planned arrival in Albania.** In case of a positive test result observers are expected to not travel for the observation mission. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities in Albania to ensure compliance with local health regulations and guidelines, and observers can expect some 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 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

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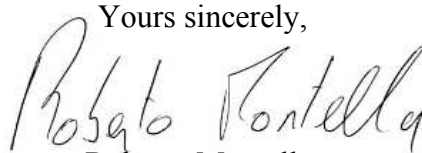
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there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of the Republic of Albania or by the mission.

Further information, including a detailed programme, will be distributed to participants in due course. Briefings for the mission are expected to be online for several days during the week before election day, with Members travelling to Albania only on the 23rd or 24th of April. 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 online 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roberto Montella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Roberto Montella,
Secretary General