



The President

To: Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States

30 March 2021

Dear Ministers,

As its mandate is set to expire tomorrow, 31 March 2021, I would like to share my deep concern should the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine be forced to curtail its operations.

As we have made clear through public statements and our annual declarations, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is deeply appreciative of the work conducted by the SMM, often in critical conditions, and which have been made even more difficult by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our Members are grateful for our regular interactions with the SMM's Chief Monitor, which have informed our debates and provided a clear picture of the situation in and around Ukraine.

Through multiple visits to Kyiv and in the field in eastern Ukraine, our Members have witnessed first-hand the SMM's added value in reducing tensions, facilitating dialogue, and alleviating the suffering of civilians trapped in the conflict zone. Its mission is indispensable to bring about peace and stability in Ukraine through the full and sustainable implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

In 2014, despite deep political divisions, our 57 participating States agreed by consensus to establish this Special Monitoring Mission, and on six occasions they have agreed by consensus to extend its mandate. Given the precarious situation on the ground, now is not the time to politicize this issue. I would therefore urge all OSCE participating States to renew our collective pledge once again and allow the SMM to carry on with its crucial work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lord Bowness', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Lord Bowness