



To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations

CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

7 July 2021

Dear Heads of Delegations,

State Duma elections are planned to take place in the Russian Federation in September 2021. Following a decision of the CEC and in accordance with the legal provisions applicable, the voting has been extended to three days and will take place on 17, 18 and 19 September. In anticipation of an invitation to observe these elections, the OSCE PA President has decided to deploy an 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.

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 20 August 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 signed Accreditation Form for each nominated observer (*will be distributed separately*),
6. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport,
7. A photograph.

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. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities in the Russian Federation to ensure compliance with local health regulations. 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 there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of the Russian Federation or by the mission.

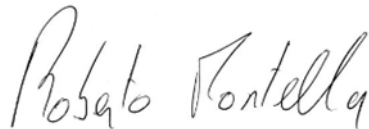
All participants are expected to obtain a PCR test for COVID-19 not earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival in the Russian Federation. If the test indicates positive for COVID, observers are

expected to not travel for the observation mission. Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in the Russian Federation.

Further information, including a detailed programme, will be distributed to participants in due course. Briefings for the mission are expected to be held in Moscow in-person on Thursday, 16 and Friday, 17 September to enable observation on Saturday, 18 and Sunday, 19 September. Members are encouraged to consider regional deployment that would ensure geographic balance of observation efforts. The International Secretariat will distribute the list of suggested deployment destinations in due time. 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,

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