



## The Secretary General

Copenhagen, 21 July 2021

Dear Members of the Parliamentary Assembly,  
Dear Friends,

As we approach a well-deserved summer break after an intense year, which was profoundly marked by the COVID-19 pandemic impacting both our professional and private lives, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to you for your continued engagement in the OSCE PA, for your belief in multilateralism and parliamentarism, and for your unwavering support to the International Secretariat. It is, as always, a privilege and honour to work to support you.

I also wish to thank you for your participation – which was the highest participation in a statutory meeting - in the 2021 Remote Session. The term “remote” does not necessarily do justice to the hard work that went into putting together the session, particularly as it regards the many challenges stemming from hosting an event in hybrid format with both in-person and online presence, as well as holding elections through a newly implemented electronic voting system. In this regard, I am glad that the Remote Session was a success and that we could deliver on what was of utmost priority: holding a statutory meeting, creating space for political debate, and facilitating the election of Assembly Officers. The hybrid format was a *first* for the OSCE PA and whilst there is room for improvement, I am incredibly proud of my team for their outstanding job on the Remote Session.

On this note, I would like to pay special words of gratitude to Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, who oversaw the entire process of the Remote Session, together with Odile Lelarge and Dana Bjerregaard, as well as to Stephen Paul and Anzhelika Ivanischcheva, the main ITC drivers of the OSCE PA digital transition, together with Alessia De Rosa. I also extend my heartfelt thank you to all – and I stress all – colleagues in the Secretariat for having each contributed in putting together the many pieces of a new and challenging puzzle.

Last week, I welcomed newly elected OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt to our Headquarters in Copenhagen - we discussed a wide range of issues, including upcoming activities. We both look forward to a gradual return to normality allowing us to meet in person free of restrictions. Unfortunately, this will not be possible for our Autumn Meeting, which was originally planned to be held in Dublin; we are however working on alternatives, which I will inform you of in due time.

Now time has come for all of us to take a break, and return to work in September, as I always say, “fired up”, with passion, commitment, dedication and team-spirit, which are trademarks of the Secretariat. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roberto Montella'.

Roberto Montella  
Secretary General