



**ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR OF THE OSCE PA AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM,**

Reinhold Lopatka

at the

OSCE PA Bureau Meeting
Online Meeting, 27 April 2020, 16:00 CET

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Thank you very much for your interesting contributions.

I am very pleased to see that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is quickly adapting to the unconventional circumstances we are currently faced with.

I would also like to congratulate you all for an excellent first-ever Webinar you organized last week. Even though personally I was not able to attend it due to other commitments, I received very positive feedback.

Dear colleagues, the **economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic** are manifold, and yet to be fully comprehended. Therefore, organizing the discussion on topic was not only relevant, but also timely.

In this regard, I would like to remind you that despite the current health crisis, **traditional threats such as terrorism and violent extremism have not disappeared**. On the contrary, such conditions tend to create opportunities for terrorist groups to prosper and achieve their goals, as the attention of the world has shifted to fighting the pandemic. Hence, following this topic in the time of crises is more important than ever.

As you are aware, the pandemic also disrupted the activities planned in the framework of CCT. For instance, the **Coordination meeting of parliamentary assemblies** under UN aegis in New York, initially planned for March was postponed. The same is valid for the yearly **OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Tirana**, which was envisaged for early May.

Looking ahead, our Committee is currently pondering the possibility to hold a web-based meeting in early June to assess the impact of the on-going crisis on terrorism and plan future possible activities. Of course, our workplan will be decided upon and adjusted in line with the Coronavirus-related developments.

To conclude, I would like to **thank again both to our President and Secretary General**, for being proactive despite the difficult and unexpected situation. This should serve us all as a motivation to further advance the contribution of our Assembly for the benefit of our communities and citizens.

Thank you!