

The Secretary General

H.E. Edi RAMA
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
Prime Minister
Republic of Albania
Tirana

Copenhagen, 30 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister Rama, Caro Edi,

Desidero iniziare questa lettera scrivendoti in italiano e parlando da semplice cittadino italiano per esprimerti un commosso ringraziamento e un gesto di profondo rispetto al popolo Albanese e a te personalmente non solo per l'invio degli aiuti medici all'Italia ma anche per le parole con cui li hai accompagnati. Hai dato una lezione di alta moralità e una dimostrazione di leadership che sono sicuro farà riflettere tanti in Europa. La vostra "*piccola armata bianca*" ha mostrato al mondo la grandezza della parola solidarietà, e spero possa essere di esempio per altri Paesi. Grazie di cuore! Faleminderit shumë!

I wish to take this opportunity also to write you in your capacity of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to convey you the strongest support of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in these difficult times and to invite you to make full use of the OSCE platform to address the challenging fight against the COVID-19 pandemic we all are facing. In a time when international cooperation is needed more than ever, we are seriously risking to see it shrinking, and we have a joint duty not to allow it. Global problems require global responses and we need strong multilateral institutions to this end. The OSCE can serve as an excellent forum to exchange best practices, to channel requests for help between States, and to foster coordination.

The OSCE PA Bureau has met via video-conference last week and stands ready to give its contribution. In this regard, we are working on an *OSCE PA/COVID Compact* which will lay out some projects aimed at providing a distinct parliamentary added value to wider efforts against the pandemic. We will share it with you for the benefit of the whole OSCE region in the coming weeks.

Dear Prime Minister, as you might know, I started my OSCE career also helping out Albanian People in Kosovo (1999/2001) and in South Serbia, Presevo Valley (2001/2003), in equally difficult times, and I know very well the strong spirit of humanity and solidarity which is present in the Albanian people. This is why I am glad that Albania is now chairing the OSCE and grateful to you and your people for what you have done for Italy and what you are doing for the OSCE.

Yours sincerely



Roberto Montella, Secretary General