

The Secretary General

H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nur-Sultan

Copenhagen, 26 March 2020

Your Excellency President Tokayev, my dear friend Kassym,
I hope that you and your family are in good health in these difficult times and that the whole of our beloved Kazakhstan is coping well with the COVID-19 pandemics.

I am writing to inform you that yesterday your former colleagues and friends of the OSCE PA Bureau met via videoconference to discuss not only how the pandemic is affecting the Assembly, but also how we can respond to it, leveraging on our key assets. During the meeting, we heard an intervention by Attilio Fontana, Governor of Lombardia, Europe's most affected region by the coronavirus. Besides presenting a dramatic overview of the situation - thousands of deaths and hospitals collapsing - he launched a clear appeal to the OSCE PA family to serve as an international channel for requests of help.

As far as Lombardia is concerned, they are in desperate need of doctors and medical equipment. Being one of the richest regions in Europe, budget is not a problem, but unfortunately many countries are forbidding exports of medical equipment to increase their stocks for national use only. While we all understand the legitimate concerns of national leaders, we should never compromise, not least in emergency situations, on international cooperation and solidarity.

Kazakhstan is a country that has always shined for its role in multilateral cooperation, and in this regard, I am writing to you asking for some help. Some of our Members have a contact with the Kazakh *Dolce Farm* pharmaceutical company (<https://dolcepharm.kz/>), which could help greatly. I would be really grateful if you could make use of your considerable influence to ask them to help our sisters and brothers in Lombardia. This is a matter of saving lives and I am confident of the aid your country can give.

Availing myself of the opportunity, please accept, Excellency, my dear Kassym, the assurances of my highest consideration. I look forward to visiting you in Nur-Sultan once this crisis is over.

In friendship, yours sincerely



Roberto Montella, Secretary General