



**REPORT OF SECRETARY GENERAL  
ROBERTO MONTELLA**

**TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

**3 November 2021**

As we are striving for a gradual return to normality, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact on our societies and on the activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, **forcing us once again to hold a statutory meeting online, instead of gathering in person in Dublin as we would have all hoped for**. Nevertheless, as I noted at the very outbreak of the pandemic, flexibility and adaption are some of the OSCE PA's greatest assets. I am proud that **the Assembly is fully operative in all its key mandated activities**, carving its functionality to respond to challenges and remaining engaged and on target on the most pressing issues of the international security agenda. This report covers four months of activities (July – October 2021) and follows up to the more comprehensive report I presented in July<sup>1</sup>. On that occasion, besides going through the main activities, I dwelled upon some of our priorities and drivers of our work, including **the cooperation with OSCE executive structures, the strengths of parliamentary diplomacy, and our internal efforts towards a digital and green transition and gender equality**. These aspects continue to characterize our work as a leitmotiv, and I will not repeat them in this document.

## **I – Activities**

### *Remote Session*

Our 2021 Remote Session – which replaced the traditional Annual Session - has been a **difficult yet successful endeavor**. As I wrote in a letter to all Assembly Members, the term “remote” does not do justice to the hard work that went into putting together the event, particularly as it regards resources and the many challenges stemming from hosting a session in hybrid format with both in-person and online presence, as well as holding elections and other voting through a newly implemented electronic system. Overall, we could deliver on what was of utmost priority: holding a statutory meeting and facilitating the election of Assembly and General Committee Officers. The process showed once again that improvements are needed in the **implementation of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure**. In this regard, the Secretariat is fully engaged with the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedures and Working Practices not only for the already announced comprehensive review and reform process, but also to address specific and long-standing rules' interpretation issues.

### *Support to the new leadership*

The OSCE PA is today engaged in a record high number of portfolios and has a record high number - 15 - of Special Representatives, who complement the work of the Assembly's Officers, of the General Committees and the ad hoc Committees. On the one hand, this shows the success of our Assembly in the last years: increasing our relevance on the international stage leads to more requests, more responsibilities and in turn to more commitments, which is clearly **a positive virtuous circle**. On the other hand, however, we need to grant **mid- and long-term sustainability** to our efforts, and as Secretary General this is something that falls under my direct responsibility, not least against the backdrop of limited resources and staff – which have indeed been growing, but not as exponentially as our activities. This is why I am promoting new **strategic planning coordination efforts aimed**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/international-secretariat/secretary-general-s-report/4275-report-of-secretary-general-roberto-montella-to-the-standing-committee-remote-session-5-july-2021-eng/file>

**at a) prioritizing; b) balancing; c) ensuring a prevalence of quality over quantity, as well as a preference to initiatives where a distinct parliamentary added value can be offered, especially if it complements ongoing efforts of OSCE executive structures.** In fact, we should never forget that, as the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, our final aim is to contribute, based on our assets, to the “product” of the organization as a whole, for the benefit of the citizens we represent. For these reasons, I am grateful to the Bureau and to the Special Representatives for an attentive and coordinated planning of activities in the next months, including by exploring the possibility of joint and multi-angle initiatives. Moreover, in place of new activities, more work can be done in the follow-up to previous ones, reinforcing the consistency of our efforts. Finally, it is crucial to stress the *platform for dialogue* essence of the OSCE. While it is imperative to pursue the implementation of commitments, including at parliamentary level, and to speak out against any violation, it is also key to preserve the function of facilitating dialogue between 57 countries based on mutual respect, working to find as many points of convergence as possible, while upholding all common values and commitments.

### Highlights of activities

Given the number of activities and initiatives implemented in the recent months, I will not go through them one by one – you can find a detailed list in Annex I. I wish however to point out some highlights:

- ✓ **Election Observation** remains our flagship activity, with increasing participation in our missions and widely recognized high standards in their organization. During the reporting period, we deployed three EOMs (Moldova, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan). We were instead forced to cancel the observation mission to the Russian Federation. One more EOM is planned for this year, in Kyrgyzstan.
- ✓ **The Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Process:** the initiative continues to be at the top of our agenda. Under the leadership of the Bureau and coordination of Amb. Zannier, the cycle of targeted thematic meetings on the most crucial issues on the functioning of the OSCE featured meetings on *women, peace and security* and on the human dimension – hand-in-hand with the OSCE Swedish Chairpersonship efforts and particularly relevant in light of the concerning lack of consensus on holding the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. We continue our efforts aimed at mobilizing parliamentary delegations in their national Parliaments and vis-à-vis their governments, to bring back the much-needed political thrust to the OSCE.
- ✓ An increased **cross-dimensional focus on the crisis in Afghanistan**. The takeover of power by the Taliban has multifaceted repercussions on the whole OSCE region, first and foremost on bordering Central Asian participating States. While the PA leadership and the regional Special Representative held meetings with relevant OSCE Missions on the ground, the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration organized a briefing with a number of stakeholders to discuss refugee flows and migration challenges. It has been agreed to include the security, geopolitical and human rights implications of the Afghan crisis in the work of the OSCE PA this year.
- ✓ The organization of **targeted initiatives aimed at providing a clear parliamentary contribution**, such as the first *Regional Policy Dialogue with Legislators from South-Eastern Europe on the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*, that the PA and its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism co-organized with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department

- ✓ While we maintain our focus on traditionally important areas of engagement – such as conflicts, political crisis, and human rights – offering our platform for dialogue and political reach out capacity, we are also enhancing our commitment on emerging critical priorities such as the **environmental protection agenda**, thanks particularly to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee. In this context, I have myself participated in the parliamentary pre-COP26 meeting in Rome, aimed at discussing ways to support ongoing climate negotiations.
- ✓ We have also been adding some new areas of engagement, including **Youth empowerment** as well as focus on the **aging population**, and the support to the UN **Sustainable Development Agenda**, with dedicated Special Representatives. Our interest in the SDG agenda includes what is for now an exploratory work on the public health – security link, which could inform some future work in a domain that the current COVID-19 pandemic has proved crucial.

## **II – Administration**

### *Staff*

Effective from 1 October, the **new International Secretariat office structure** (Annex II) has entered into force. In this regard, I welcome Ambassador Miodrag Pančeski, previously Chief Diplomatic Advisor, as the new Special Representative in Vienna and Ms. Daria Boyarskaya as the new Head of the Vienna Office. The latter has in fact been renamed from the previous VLO, as it is not merely conducting liaison functions but also constitutes a second office from which many of our normal activities are conducted. We will continue to benefit of former Special Representative Ambassador Nothelle's expertise as a legal consultant. I am also glad that we can count on six new Junior Programme Officers, two male and four female, thereby **further improving gender equality** among staff. Both offices in Copenhagen and Vienna are open but telecommuting remains an option for colleagues until the state of alert for the COVID-19 pandemic will be over.

### *Budget*

I wish to thank our delegations for sending **budgetary contributions** with a timely fashion, having enabled us to start the new financial year on 1 October at our full capacity. I thank our Treasurer for his leadership on this. Together with him, I took due note of all comments and observations made by delegations during the last meeting of the Standing Committee, and it will be our responsibility to work on them and integrate them – to the extent possible - in the next budget proposal. As usual, I also wish to thank **Danish and Austrian authorities** for respectively hosting and co-hosting our premises as well as **Germany and Italy** for seconding staff.

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With the above-mentioned *prioritization principles* to guide us, the Secretariat will continue to work hard to support our leadership and all members with the usual commitment, passion and dedication. The agenda for the next months is already full, with the main highlights being the participation to the 2021 OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm and – of course – the PA Winter Meeting in Vienna in February – where we hope to convene **all 323, all healthy, and all in person**.

Thank you for support.

**Annex I – OSCE PA Activities in the reporting period (July – October 2021)**

*This table refers to OSCE PA events (highlighted in blue) and external outreach activities conducted by the International Secretariat autonomously or in direct support to PA Members. It does not include routine coordination meetings, daily and office-based work on a number of further projects and activities, public statements, nor the OSCE meetings regularly attended on a day-to-day basis by the Vienna Office Staff.*

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| PA Annual Session - 3rd Committee                                                                             | 30 June     |
| PA Annual Session - 2nd Committee                                                                             | 1 July      |
| PA Annual Session - 1st Committee                                                                             | 2 July      |
| PA Annual Session - Standing Committee                                                                        | 5 July      |
| PA Annual Session - Plenary                                                                                   | 6 July      |
| Meeting of the Call for Action/H+50 with the Austrian Delegation                                              | 7 July      |
| Participation in OSCE Central Asia Regional Heads of Field Operations Meeting                                 | 8 - 10 July |
| EOM to Moldova                                                                                                | 11 July     |
| EOM to Bulgaria                                                                                               | 11 July     |
| Joint Visit of the Migration Committee Vice Chair and the OSCE SR/CTHB to Bosnia and Herzegovina              | 11-14 July  |
| Participation of the CCT Chair to OSCE Security Committee                                                     | 20 July     |
| President participation in the Uzbek/UN World Conference on Youth Rights                                      | 12 August   |
| Visit of Norwegian Minister of Culture to the International Secretariat                                       | 17 August   |
| President Meeting with delegations of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on the impact of the situation in Afghanistan | 25 August   |
| President, SG and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Meeting                                                          | 1 Sep.      |
| Vienna Office Retreat with SG and DSG                                                                         | 2-3 Sep.    |
| President and SG participation in IPU World Conference of Speakers of Parliament                              | 6-8 Sep.    |
| 4th Meeting of the Call for Action / Helsinki +50 on women, peace and security                                | 8 Sep.      |
| CCT Chair Meeting with UNOCT Undersecretary General                                                           | 9 Sep.      |
| Informal Bureau Meeting                                                                                       | 10 Sep.     |
| President Address to OSCE Permanent Council                                                                   | 16 Sep.     |
| Special Rep. on South Caucasus and SG Visit to Georgia                                                        | 17-18 Sep.  |
| Special Rep. on fighting Corruption meeting with OSCE counterparts                                            | 17 Sep.     |
| IS Assessment Visit to Birmingham for AS2022                                                                  | 20-22 Sep.  |
| Special Rep. on Youth introductory meetings with OSCE counterparts                                            | 22 Sep.     |
| Migration Committee Meeting (focus on Afghanistan)                                                            | 24 Sep.     |
| Visit of 3rd Committee Rapporteur to the International Secretariat                                            | 27 Sep.     |
| Participation in the launching of the Global Health Network                                                   | 28 Sep.     |
| Call for Action / H+50 follow-up meeting on youth engagement                                                  | 28 Sep.     |
| Special Rep. on Arctic - Presentation of the final report and handover meeting                                | 30 Sep.     |
| Meeting of the Bureau of the 2nd Committee                                                                    | 1 Oct.      |
| Participation of the President in CiO visit to BiH                                                            | 4 Oct.      |
| Special Rep. on South Caucasus Meeting with Azerbaijan Delegation                                             | 8 Oct.      |
| Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting organized by the IPU                                                          | 8-9 Oct.    |
| SG Participation in OSCE-EU High Level Dialogue                                                               | 11 Oct.     |
| SG Participation in OSCE Heads of Institution Meeting                                                         | 11 Oct.     |
| Special Rep. on Youth participation in RFOM South East Europe Media Conf.                                     | 11-12 Oct.  |

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| Migration Committee Vice Chair visit to Albania                                                                                                   | 13 Oct.      |
| Special Rep. on the Mediterranean Participation in OSCE Mediterranean Conference                                                                  | 12-13 Oct.   |
| Special Rep. on Central Asia participation in the Eurasian Women’s Forum                                                                          | 13-15 Oct.   |
| Meetings of President with Polish authorities                                                                                                     | 13-14 Oct.   |
| PA/OSCE TNTD Regional Policy Dialogue with Legislators from South-Eastern Europe on the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of FTFs     | 14 -15 Oct.  |
| President, Special Rep. on Civil Society and Special Rep. on fighting Corruption participation in the CIO-ODIHR event on the OSCE human dimension | 14-15 Oct.   |
| Special Rep. on Arctic Issues participation in Arctic Circle Conference                                                                           | 14-17 Oct.   |
| Special Rep. on fighting Corruption participation in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM)                 | 18-19 Oct.   |
| President and SG Participation in PACE Conference of Speakers of Parliament                                                                       | 21 - 22 Oct. |
| SG Participation in PACE Meeting for Parliament Secretaries General                                                                               | 22 Oct.      |
| 5th Call for Action / Helsinki +50 Meeting on the human dimension                                                                                 | 20 Oct.      |
| EOM to Uzbekistan                                                                                                                                 | 24 Oct.      |
| Special Rep. on South East Europe participation in the OSCE SEE Regional Heads of Field Operations Meeting                                        | 25-26 Oct.   |
| High-Level Visit to Uzbekistan                                                                                                                    | 25-26 Oct.   |
| High-Level Visit to Tajikistan                                                                                                                    | 27-29 Oct.   |
| Meeting of the Bureau of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Committee                                                                                            | 26 Oct.      |

## **Annex II – Updated International Secretariat Office Structure**

### **Leadership**

- Roberto MONTELLA, Secretary General
- Gustavo PALLARES, Deputy Secretary General - Chief of Administration and Finance

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### **Senior Management**

- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Head of the OSCE PA Vienna Office
  - Freyja KOCI, Advisor to Secretary General
  - Francesco PAGANI, Chief Political Advisor
  - Miodrag PANČESKI, Ambassador, Special Representative
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### **Staff**

- Sherif ABDILI, Programme and Administrative Officer (starting 2022)
- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Advisor to Secretary General
- Andreas BAKER, Head of Elections (and Director of Human Security)
- Marco BONABELLO, Senior Advisor (and Director of Economic and Environmental Security)
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Head of Document Services
- Farimah DAFTARY, Senior Advisor
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Communications and Press Officer
- Hana DOGOVIC, Programme Officer
- Anzhelika IVANISHCHEVA, Media Support Officer
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer, Deputy Head of the Vienna Office
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Election Advisor

- Odile LELARGE, Head of Conference Services
- Nat PARRY, Head of Communications and Press
- Stephen PAUL, Head of ICT Service & Support Section, Finance Officer
- Loic POULAIN, Presidential Advisor
- Iryna SABASHUK, Election Administration Officer
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Programme Officer
- Marieta SAMAC, Head of Finance, Human Resource Officer
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Head of Operations

### **JPOs**

- Roberto FERRARI, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Anastasiya GRIADASOVA, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Sophie JACKSON, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Aidyn KAIYRBKOVA, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Anja STANISAVLJEVIC, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Ilias TROCHIDIS, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

### **Consultants**

- Lamberto ZANNIER, High Level Consultant
- Andreas NOTHELLE, External Legal and Procedural Advisor



### **Office of the OSCE PA President**

- Francesco PAGANI, Head and Policy Advice
- Loic POULAIN, General Coordination
- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Alternate/Back-Up
- Regional and country coordinators & experts to provide political guidance and advise

### **Office of the OSCE PA Secretary General**

- Francesco PAGANI, Head and Policy Advice
- Freyja KOZI, Coordination and Advice
- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Coordination and Advice
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Administration, SG's support

### **Election Observation Department**

- Andreas BAKER, Head and General Coordination
- Iryna SABASHUK, Deputy, Administration and Logistics
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Deputy
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Administration and Logistics
- Regional and country coordinators & experts provide political guidance and advise
- On a rotating basis all staff are involved in election observation missions

### **Press and Communications**

- Nat PARRY, Head and General Coordination
- Anna DI DOMENICO, Deputy (OSCE PA APP)
- Anzhelika IVANISHCHEVA, Media Support Officer (Website)

### **Administration, Finance and Human Resources**

- Gustavo PALLARES, Head and General Coordination
- Marieta SAMAC, Head of Finance, Human Resource Officer
- Stephen PAUL, Head of ICT Service & Support Section, Finance Officer
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Head of Operations
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Head of Document Services
- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Head of Vienna OSCE PA Office
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer
- Freyja KOCI, Support on Human Resources
- Odile LELARGE, Head of Conference Services

### **Conference Services**

- Odile LELARGE, Head and General Coordination
- Dimitrije TODORIC, Head of Operations
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer
- Stephen PAUL, Head of ICT Service & Support Section

### **Document Services**

- Dana BJERREGAARD, Head and General Coordination
- Farimah DAFTARY, Support
- Tim KNOBLAU, Support
- Iryna SABASHUK, Support
- Committee Directors for Annual Session purposes

### **Information Technology**

- Stephen PAUL, Head and General Coordination
- Anzhelika IVANISHCHEVA, Support
- Aidyn KAIYRBEKOVA, Support Vienna Office

### **Research Assistants Programme**

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Programme Coordinator (Vienna)
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Support
- Tim KNOBLAU, Support (Vienna)

### **Vienna Office**

- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Head of the OSCE PA Vienna Office, Deputy Special Representative
- Sherif ABDILI, Programme and Administrative Officer
- Marco BONABELLO, Senior Advisor (and Director of Economic and Environmental Security)
- Hana DOGOVIC, Programme Officer
- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme and Administrative Officer, Deputy Head of Office
- Miodrag PANČESKI, Ambassador, Special Representative
- Francesco PAGANI, Chief Political Advisor, Deputy Special Representative

### **Consultants**

- Lamberto ZANNIER, Ambassador, High Level Expert
- Andreas NOTHELLE, Legal and Procedural Advisor

## **JPOs**

- Roberto FERRARI, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Anastasiya GRIADASOVA, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Sophie JACKSON, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Aidyn KAIYRBEKOVA, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Anja STANISAVLJEVIC, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)
- Ilias TROCHIDIS, Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

## **STATUTORY ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES**

### **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**

- Gustavo PALLARES, Director
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Support
- Miodrag PANČESKI, Member of the Vienna PC based FSC and 1<sup>ST</sup> Committee
- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Deputy (Vienna based)
- Sophie JACKSON, Support (Vienna based)

### **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**

- Marco BONABELLO, Director and Member of the PC based 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee
- Anja STANISAVLJEVIC, Support
- Iryna SABASHUK, Support
- Additional support + 1 Vienna based (TBD)

## **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**

- Andreas BAKER, Director
- Farimah DAFTARY, support
- Hana DOGOVIC, Member of the Vienna PC based 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee
- Additional support + 1 (TBD)

## **Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices**

- Andreas BAKER, Director
- Gustavo PALLARES, Advisor
- Andreas NOTHELLE, External Advisor
- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Support
- Dana BJERREGAARD, Support

## **Counter-terrorism**

- Marco BONABELLO, Programme Coordinator
- Hana DOGOVIC, Support
- Additional support + 1 Vienna based (TBD)

## **Migration**

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Support
- Additional support + 1 (TBD)

### **Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova)**

- Francesco PAGANI, Programme Coordinator
- Loic POULAIN, Programme Coordinator (Moldova)
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Programme Coordinator (Belarus)
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Programme Coordinator (Ukraine)

### **Gender Issues**

- Hana DOGOVIC, Programme Coordinator
- Gustavo PALLARES, Supervisor

### **South East Europe**

- Francesco PAGANI, Program Coordinator
- Sherif ABDILI, Programme and Administrative Officer (from January 2022)
- Roberto FERRARI, Support

### **Mediterranean**

- Gustavo PALLARES, Programme Coordinator
- Loic POULAIN, Support
- Freyja KOCI, Support
- Stephanie KOLTCHANOV, Support

### **Central Asia**

- Farimah DAFTARY, Programme Coordinator
- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Support

### **Helsinki +50/ CFA**

- Lamberto ZANNIER, Director
- Aidyn KAIYRBKOVA, Support
- Additional support + 1 Vienna based (TBD)

### **South Caucasus**

- Tim KNOBLAU, Programme Coordinator
- Freyja KOCI, Support

### **Fighting Corruption**

- Marco BONABELLO, Programme Coordinator

### **Arctic Issues**

- Guido ALMERIGOGNA, Programme Coordinator

### **Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance**

- Freyja KOCI, Programme Coordinator

### **Civil Society Engagement**

- Andreas BAKER, Programme Coordinator

### **Disinformation and Propaganda**

- Anna Di DOMENICO, Programme Coordinator

### **SDGs**

- Daria BOYARSKAYA, Programme Coordinator

### **Youth**

- Manuchekhr SALOKHUDINOV, Programme Coordinator

### **Elderly**

- Roberto FERRARI, Programme Coordinator

### **Human Trafficking Issues**

- Freyja KOCI, Programme Coordinator