

**PRESENTATION
DOSSIER**

ROBERTO MONTELLA



**RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL**

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

STANDING COMMITTEE
BUCHAREST, 29 JUNE

2024

Table of Contents

1. Letter from OSCE PA President Kauma regarding the renewal process of the Secretary General's mandate	3
2. Letter from OSCE PA Secretary General Montella expressing willingness to seek second mandate renewal	5
3. Secretary General Montella's CV and experience in Election Observation Missions	8
4. Letter from President Kauma and Senator Allizard	11
5. Letters from Members of the OSCE PA Bureau regarding the renewal of Secretary General Montella's mandate	13
6. Letters from Members of the OSCE PA Standing Committee regarding the renewal of Secretary General Montella's mandate	34
7. Letters from other OSCE PA Members and other leaders of the Assembly regarding the renewal of Secretary General Montella's mandate	80
8. Letters from the Former President of Serbia, Mr. Boris Tadic	92
9. Letter from Former U.S. Ambassador to Serbia/Montenegro (2000-2004), Mr. William Montgomery	94

The President

Mr./Ms.
Head of the Delegation of XX to the
OSCE PA

11 March 2024

Dear Mr./Ms XX,

I would like to thank you for your fruitful and active co-operation on our last official meetings in Yerevan, Skopje and Vienna.

Serving as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is a big honor and a great responsibility and your support is very much appreciated.

I am writing to inform you that after careful consideration and consultations with the Assembly's leadership our Secretary General Roberto Montella has confirmed to me his availability and willingness to be considered for a second renewal of his mandate.

This is very good news indeed. Roberto has served this Assembly in very challenging times and has managed to keep the OSCE PA active, relevant, visible and effective.

I have been in this Assembly for more than ten years and I have observed Roberto's skills and experience in addressing events and situations, and in dealing with various delegations and members, and their expectations. Roberto places each and every individual parliamentarian at the center of the Assembly, and is an effective servant of the organization's goals and principles. I have myself strongly benefited from having him at my side as Secretary General.

Roberto is dynamic, energetic, capable of grasping the political momentum and offering creative solutions, he is a team player both within the Assembly and his own team at the Secretariat. He has always fostered a positive atmosphere within the Assembly and has remained politically impartial and always avoided double standards.

With his experience, he has been instrumental in building what is now a very solid partnership between the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE, which is instrumental to enable our Assembly to add value.



The President

For all these reasons I believe that we will be well served by Roberto's continued engagement and I hope I can count on your support for the renewal of his mandate as our Secretary General.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pia Kauma'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pia Kauma

The Secretary General

Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
HELSINKI

Copenhagen, 8 March 2024

Dear President Kauma, dear Pia,

I am writing to confirm my availability and willingness to seek a second renewal of my mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In the months following the 2023 Vancouver Annual Session, I have consulted many Heads of OSCE PA Delegations, members of the Bureau, Special Representatives as well as my colleagues in the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen and Vienna. All those members I have spoken to have encouraged me to seek a second renewal of my mandate as Secretary General thus providing stability to our Assembly in a moment when the OSCE is undergoing very challenging times as well as consolidating the achievements we have obtained so far.

As you know, under my leadership of the International Secretariat we have started a vast and comprehensive program of reforms and work is still in progress:

- We have **strengthened the political weight of the Assembly** and established excellent synergies and cooperation mechanisms with the OSCE Executive Structures, other Parliamentary Assemblies including NATO PA, IPA CIS, PACE and the European Parliament as well as international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as numerous other international and regional organization and stakeholders.

The Secretary General

- We have provided the Assembly with a **renewed regulatory framework** that ensures a more professional International Secretariat (New staff rules and regulations, New Financial Rules and Regulations) as well as successfully implemented an additional form of accountability and transparency by integrating the traditional Financial Audit with a **new and yearly Integrated Financial-Professional-Business-Audit** which has yielded so far very positive outcomes.
- We have **responded to the COVID crisis** in a very swift and efficient fashion by readapting the Assembly's work and remaining very much active and engaged with a number of initiatives that saw our members being the most active amongst other similar parliamentary organizations.
- We maintain an **impeccable track record** when it comes to our reaction to the war of aggression against Ukraine by keeping our principled positions and establishing within the Assembly a new Ad Hoc Committee to channel our efforts **in support of Ukraine**. At the same time, we remain strong supporters of the OSCE as an inclusive platform for dialogue.
- We have carried out an unprecedented and **ever growing number of activities** in addition to the statutory meetings, which include (parliamentary seminars, forums and conferences, Presidential and Leaders official and fact finding visits election observation missions, extraordinary meetings of the Bureau and General Committees, field visits and targeted initiatives of our Ad Hoc Committees on Migration and Fight Against Terrorism, etc.)
- We have **secured venues** for our statutory meetings (Annual Sessions and Autumn Meetings) **for the incoming years** thus providing continuity and stability to the mandated activities of the Assembly.

This is just a short list of the achievements that under my leadership, the OSCE PA Team of the International Secretariat has managed to deliver. As you will have seen I have always worked in a team spirit together with my colleagues because I believe that only as a united and motivated team we can best deliver to the needs and demands of our political leadership.

What I am most proud of is that we have managed to remain engaged and active in a period of very big and unprecedented challenges (COVID, wars, the crisis of the multilateral system as well as the institutional and budgetary difficulties of the OSCE governmental branch)



The Secretary General

providing to our members a platform where they can express freely their opinions and exchange with each other thus making parliamentary diplomacy an effective tool to contribute to a more secure OSCE region. We also worked hard to bring the OSCE into national Parliaments, for instance with the Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative, as well as bring national instances to the attention of the OSCE, thanks to increased interaction with the executive structures.

Serving the OSCE PA Political Leadership is for me an honor as well as a big responsibility. I look forward to continuing serving the members of our Assembly and I hope I can enjoy your support to renew my mandate in full compliance with the rules of procedure of our Assembly

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Roberto Montella'.

Roberto Montella
OSCE PA Secretary General

Roberto Montella

Born on 31 October 1969, Neuchatel (Switzerland)

Italian

Secretary General

Jan 2016 – present

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Director of Presidential Administration

Jul 2012 – Dec 2015

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Program Officer

Jun 2009 – Jan 2011

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Coordinator of Election Long Term Observers

Mar 2009 – May 2009

The Carter Center, Atlanta USA
Beirut, Lebanon

Chef de Cabinet to OSCE Head of Mission

Jan 2003 – Mar 2009

OSCE Mission to Serbia

Head of the OSCE South Serbia Regional Office

Nov 2001 – Jan 2003

OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia

Head of the European Center for Minority Issues

Aug 2001 – Nov 2001

ECMI Regional Office, Kosovo

Election Campaign Manager Italian Senator

Jan 2001 – May 2001

Italian Parliament – Sicily and Milan, Italy

Political Affairs Officer

Oct 1999 – Jan 2001

OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Pristina, Vucitrn,
Mitrovica

International Election Officer

Jan 1999 – Oct 1999

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Livno, Doboij, Sarajevo

Research Assistant

Feb 1998 – Jan 1999

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Political Advisor

Sep 1995 – Feb 1998

Italian Senator and Vice President of PACE

Export Manager and Customer Relations

Jan 1995 – Jan 1998

International P.B.I., Milano

Roberto Montella's experience in Election Observation (1998 – 2023)

1. Slovak Republic, Parliamentary, September 1998
2. Serbia, Parliamentary, December 2000
3. South Serbia, Municipal, July 2002
4. Serbia, Presidential, October 2002
5. Serbia, Presidential, December 2002
6. Serbia, Presidential, November 2003
7. Serbia, Parliamentary, December 2003
8. Serbia, Presidential, June 2004
9. Montenegro, Referendum, May 2006
10. Serbia, Parliamentary, January 2007
11. Serbia, Presidential, January 2008
12. Serbia, Parliamentary, May 2008
13. Lebanon, Parliamentary May-June 2009
14. Albania, Parliamentary, June 2009
15. Ukraine, Presidential, January 2010 (*first round*)
16. Ukraine, Presidential, February 2010 (*run off*)
17. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliamentary, October 2010
18. Belarus, Presidential, December 2010
19. Kazakhstan, Presidential, April 2011
20. Türkiye, Parliamentary, June 2011
21. Tunisia, Parliamentary, October 2011
22. Russian Federation, Parliamentary, December 2011
23. Russian Federation, Presidential, March 2012
24. Serbia, Parliamentary and Presidential (*first round*), May 2012
25. Serbia, Presidential, May 2012 (*run off*)
26. Georgia, Parliamentary, October 2012
27. United States of America, Presidential, November 2012
28. Armenia, Presidential, February 2013
29. Bulgaria, Parliamentary, May 2013

30. Albania, Parliamentary, June 2013
31. Azerbaijan, Presidential, October 2013
32. Georgia, Presidential, October 2013
33. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Parliamentary and Presidential, April 2014
34. Ukraine, Presidential, May 2014
35. Türkiye, Presidential, August 2014
36. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliamentary, October 2014
37. Ukraine, Parliamentary, October 2014
38. Türkiye, Parliamentary, June 2015
39. Russian Federation, Parliamentary, September 2016
40. Georgia, Parliamentary, October 2016 (*first round*)
41. Georgia, Parliamentary, October 2016 (*second round*)
42. United States of America, Presidential, November 2016
43. Albania, Parliamentary, June 2017
44. Italy, Parliamentary, March 2018
45. Russian Federation, Presidential, March 2018
46. Azerbaijan, Presidential, April 2018
47. Georgia, Presidential, October 2018 (*first round*)
48. United States of America, Mid-term, November 2018
49. Georgia, Presidential, November 2018 (*run off*)
50. Moldova, Parliamentary, February 2019
51. Ukraine, Presidential, 31 March 2019
52. Georgia, Parliamentary, October 2020
53. United States of America, Parliamentary and Presidential, November 2020
54. Albania, Parliamentary, April 2021
55. Armenia, Parliamentary, June 2021
56. Uzbekistan, Presidential, October 2021
57. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliamentary, October 2022
58. United States of America, Parliamentary, November 2022
59. Türkiye, Parliamentary and Presidential, May 2023
60. Serbia, Parliamentary, December 2023

To: Members of the OSCE PA Bureau

Copenhagen, 15 April 2024

Dear Members of the OSCE PA Bureau,

dear colleagues,

We would like to thank you all for the letters of support you have sent in relation to the renewal of Roberto Montella mandate as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General.

We would also like to give you an update on the process which was triggered by the President's public announcement on 11 March and followed by an external publicity allowing for expressions of interest in line with Art 40 of the OSCEPA Rules of Procedures. At the closing of the period of five weeks no other expression of interest has been presented apart from the registered availability of the incumbent Secretary General.

We are happy to announce that since the initial letter from the President we have received to this date (some are still sending their letters) **written expressions of support for the renewal of Roberto's mandate from all the Vice Presidents and all the Committee Officers thus accounting for the majority of Bureau members** and a significant additional number of letters of support from members of the Standing Committee (attached a compilation of the letters received as of Sunday 14 April from Bureau Members, Heads of Delegations, other Members and former leaders of the OSCE PA).

Considering that not all Bureau members will be able to attend in person the 29 April meeting in Copenhagen, in consultation with Senator Pascal Allizard, Chair of the Rules Committee, in order to show unity of our Bureau, and following past practices, we advice the Bureau to make a unanimous decision by silence procedure expiring on 21 April to forward Roberto's mandate renewal to the Standing Committee that will be held in Bucharest on 29 June for a final determination. In absence of a sufficient objection from Members of the Bureau by 21 April we will consider this suggestion as adopted and forwarded to the Standing Committee.

We would like to thank you all for your expressions of support for Roberto's work which, as he has underlined to us, is a demonstration of support not only for him individually but also a recognition of the good work that the International Secretariat team continues to provide to members of parliament.

We look forward to seeing you soon at our next meetings,

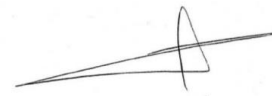
Sincerely,

Pia Kauma



President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Pascal Allizard



Chair of the Sub-Committee
on Rules of Procedure

***Letters received regarding the renewal of OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto
Montella's mandate***

Bureau Members

Ms. Pia Kauma	President of the OSCE PA	Finland
Mr. Reinhold Lopatka	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Austria
Ms. Irene Charalambides	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Cyprus
Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Cyprus
Ms. Daniela De Ridder	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Germany
Mr. Pere Joan Pons	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Spain
Mr. Mark Pritchard	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	United Kingdom
Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	Ukraine
Mr. Roger Wicker	Vice-President of the OSCE PA	U.S.A.
Mr. Richard Hudson	Chair of the First Committee	U.S.A.
Mr. Costel Neculai Dunava	Vice-Chair of the First Committee	Romania
Mr. Azay Guliyev	Chair of the Second Committee	Azerbaijan
Mr. Artur Gerasymov	Vice-Chair of the Second Committee	Ukraine
Ms. Gudrun Kugler	Rapporteur of the Second Committee	Austria
Ms. Lucie Potůčková	Chair of the Third Committee	Czech Republic
Mr. Sargis Khandanyan	Vice-Chair of the Third Committee	Armenia
Mr. Malik Ben Achour	Rapporteur of the Third Committee	Belgium



**Parliament
Austria**

**Member of the
National Council**

Reinhold Lopatka

To the President
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
Ms. Pia KAUMA

Vienna, 21 March 2024

Madam President,
Dear Pia,

Thank you for your letter announcing your support for the renewal of the mandate of our Secretary General Roberto Montella.

I fully share your view on his renewal and therefore it is my pleasure to provide a reference for his candidature for a third term as our Secretary General.

Having served in our Assembly for many years in different positions, as Special Representative, CCT Chair, Vice-President, Special Coordinator and Head of Delegation of numerous Election Observation Missions, I have witnessed the great professionalism, the integrity and management qualities of Roberto Montella.

Under his leadership our Assembly's International Secretariat is today a very dynamic office, with an improved gender and geographical balance, which provides significant and very appreciated assistance to the activities of us Members.

Furthermore, as Austrian Parliamentarian, I would like to stress the excellent cooperation our Assembly built up with the OSCE Permanent Council, the OSCE Secretariat and all other OSCE executive structures and institutions based in Vienna over the past years during Roberto's leadership.

Therefore, you can count on the full support of the Austrian Parliament for the renewal of his mandate as our Secretary General!

As I will not be able to attend our Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen in April, I kindly ask you to forward this letter to all colleagues in the decision making bodies of our Assembly.

Best regards,

Reinhold Lopatka
Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of the CCT



Nicosia, 11 April 2024

Dear Pia,

I was informed about the intention of Secretary General Montella to run for a second renewal of his term-in-office in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Since I entered the OSCE PA, I have strived to raise certain topics on its agenda – above all the fight against corruption in the OSCE region and the quest for stronger transparency and accountability in politics. The post of the Special Representative was not established at that time and Roberto had supported the idea of creating such a portfolio. I was the first OSCE Special Representative on fighting corruption, a mandate that was reconfirmed by all subsequent Presidents and that is now an important component of the Assembly's work.

Taking into consideration that the OSCE PA is today a respected stakeholder on the multilateral stage in these areas of work, establishing significant partnerships with, inter alia, GRECO, the World Bank, the United Nations and receiving invitations and speaking roles for numerous international conferences and events and providing a clear parliamentary added value, I have to express my gratitude to Roberto Montella. He and his team in the International Secretariat have been of critical importance.

Roberto has always been at the service of the political leadership of the organization, flexible and versatile. I recognize his intention for finding compromises and for promoting new initiatives. I therefore wish to recommend we renew Roberto's mandate for another term, confident he will continue to do an excellent job.

In any case, I think it is standard procedure that the Rule providing that "The Standing Committee will set his or her duties, remuneration and conditions of employment consistent with the annual budget" will be discussed at the coming Bureau meeting and subsequently at the Standing Committee as foreseen, especially in view of the budget restraints that the OSCE PA is currently facing.



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



At the same time, allow me to seize this opportunity to express my view that in the coming Bureau meeting we should discuss how our Assembly will be able to focus on the multitude of challenges that the OSCE region faces. It is generally accepted that during the past few Sessions, we dedicate a great deal of time to discussing the impact of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Although I too share the view that the war in Ukraine is an issue of blatant violation of the Helsinki principles and must be given due attention, I also believe that Mediterranean affairs need also to be more thoroughly discussed, especially in view of the ongoing war in the Middle East and the incessant migratory and refugee flows. In this regard, I wanted to bring to your attention that a sharp spike in flows migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries is being recorded the last weeks, which has significant security, economic as well as human rights aspects. I would also like to reiterate in this context, a proposition I have already made, to organize a high-level visit to OSCE PA Partners which are key countries in the region and especially Egypt. Furthermore, in the next few days, we intend to send a letter to all heads of delegations of Mediterranean countries, informing them of our aim to form an unofficial group within the OSCE PA, in order to promote our special regional interests and enhance the efforts of the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

Additionally, I believe that the coming Bureau meeting must discuss our current budget restraints, as well as, and perhaps more significantly, a broader plan on how any increases in our contributions would be utilized, since transparency is of utmost importance in this regard.

Looking forward to meeting you soon, dear Pia, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Charalambides

Vice-President of the OSCE PA

Head of the Cyprus delegation to the OSCE PA



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Nicosia, 03 April 2024

Mrs. Pia Kauma,
President of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the OSCE

Mrs. Kauma, Dear Colleague,

In relation to your letter dated 11 of March, I should like to express my wholehearted support for the renewal of Mr. Roberto Montella's mandate as a Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

Mr. Montella has served the Assembly in very challenging times and has managed to keep the OSCE PA active, relevant, and effective through his professionalism, integrity and significant skills. I am convinced that his experience and his passion for providing exceptional support make him a valuable asset for our Assembly.

Having been in the Parliamentary Assembly for more than 10 years and having served in many positions such as Rapporteur and Chair of the Third General Committee, Special Representative, and more recently as a Vice President, I have witnessed first – hand his dynamism, energy and ability to offer solutions at short notice and often without maximum resources, in order to make the Organization more visible.

Under his leadership, the political weight of the Assembly has been strengthened establishing excellent synergies and cooperation mechanisms with the OSCE executive structures, as well as with other parliamentary assemblies, international and regional organizations and stakeholders.

Roberto Montella remains political impartiality is worthy of comment as he manages to promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding between the participating States' delegations regardless of their different perspectives and interests.



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



CYPRUS 2008

I wish to seize this opportunity not only to express my support for the renewal of Mr. Montella's mandate but also to convey my deepest gratitude for his tireless efforts and exemplary leadership.

Looking forward to our next Assembly's meeting, please accept, dear Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Kyriakos Hadjiyianni,
Vice President of the OSCE PA.

Dr. Daniela De Ridder, Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

Pia Kauma
President
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Dr. Daniela De Ridder
Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestags
Vizepräsidentin der Parlamentarischen
Versammlung der OSZE

Telefon: +49 30 227 71587
E-Mail: daniela.deridder@bundestag.de
Homepage: www.daniela-de-ridder.de

Ort, Datum: Berlin, 22.03.2024

Dear President Kauma,
Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted about Roberto Montella's announcement to candidate as Secretary General of the OSCE PA for another term.

I am pleased to provide a recommendation and some words of support for Secretary General Roberto Montella, an excellent professional that has been successfully leading the OSCE PA International Secretariat for several years.

In fact, he has been of great support in the different roles I held in the OSCE PA – as Vice-President, as Special Representative for Eastern Europe, as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and as leader in several Election Observation Missions. I always appreciated his advice and the efforts he made to "make things possible". Whatever my position, I always felt his full support and his high motivation to push things forward. This desire also resulted in the gradual reforms in Copenhagen, which modernized OSCE PA.

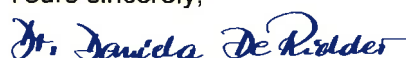
Roberto brings to his work passion and dedication. He has a thorough knowledge and specific competence, which is backed by a long experience in policy and management in the OSCE and OSCE PA. I am sure many of you have benefited just like me from his result-oriented engagement and his utmost strive to build a stronger and resilient OSCE PA.

He is a true believer in parliamentary diplomacy and has significantly contributed to building today's OSCE Parliamentary Assembly – a lively network that is on target on all the most pressing issues of the international security agenda. The resilience of Roberto in this very particular period has been extraordinary, and he showed a rare capacity to adapt to circumstances like the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. For this adaptation, the clear definition and division of responsibilities within the OSCE PA was of key importance.

Over many years, the developed networks and contacts both within the OSCE system and outside of it turned out to be very valuable in leading OSCE PA. Especially in the current difficult situation, these networks are of invaluable significance.

Choosing Roberto for a new term in office would keep the PA engine well running. That is why I advise the Standing Committee to elect him for another term as Secretary General.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Daniela De Ridder
Vice-President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



*Delegación española ante la
Asamblea Parlamentaria de la OSCE*

1 April 2024, Madrid

*Ms. Pía Kauma
President of the OSCE PA*

Dear Pía Kauma,

As Vice – President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I would like to convey my support to the process for the renewal of the different executive and institutional positions within our organization.

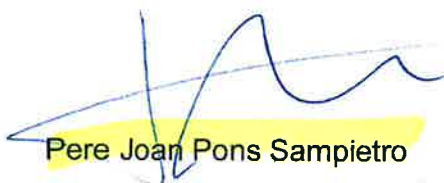
After the letter you have addressed to us regarding the renewal of the General Secretariat position, I would like to express my support to a fully transparent and open process.

The latter does not prevent me from expressing my appreciation for the work conducted by the current Secretary General and by extension all his team within the Secretariat, both in Copenhagen and in Vienna.

In my view, the General Secretariat has shown a strong leadership which, moreover, ensures a historical and evolutionary memory of the organization, apart from representing a certain geopolitical balance within the organization.

For that reason, dear Pía, I hope to be able to contribute to this process, acknowledging at the same time the work carried out all throughout these years by the current Secretary General.

Cordially yours,



Pere Joan Pons Sampietro



UK Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Delegation leader – the Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP
Interparliamentary Relations Office (Parliamentary Assemblies),
House of Commons, SW1A 0AA
020 7219 6595 oscepa.del@parliament.uk

27 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 11 March to express the UK Delegation's warm support for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Both myself and Deputy Leader and Vice President Mark Pritchard share the positive assessment you set out in your letter; Roberto has indeed served the Assembly with skill, expertise and creativity during a challenging period.

I recommend to the OSCE PA Standing Committee that they give due consideration to his reappointment.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP
Leader of the UK Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

**PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-
OPERATION IN EUROPE**

5, M. Hrushevskiyi Str., Kyiv, 01008, Ukraine www.rada.gov.ua

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March regarding Roberto Montella's second renewal as OSCE PA Secretary General.

On my turn, I would like to emphasize that I fully share your words, and hereby strongly recommend to my colleagues in the OSCE PA to re-elect Roberto, who has proven himself a true champion of the OSCE PA and of its principles and values, and has majorly contributed to the increase of relevance of the Assembly in the last years.

You already mentioned the main aspects that make Mr. Montella's extension the best solution for the OSCE PA. I wish to add some personal ones. I have appreciated Roberto for a long, but I will never forget his support and solidarity since 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation invaded my country. I will never forget what he said: "Enough with sugar-coating, the OSCE PA will call out what is happening with its name". Since then, while the governmental OSCE was stuck with Russia abusing the rule of consensus, Roberto has outstandingly supported the OSCE PA leadership in carving its response to the illegal and unprovoked aggression against my country, and to the horrifying and genocidal war crimes perpetrated by Russia against Ukrainians. I saw his efforts, I saw his commotion in Bucha during one of his many trips to Ukraine, and I saw his engagement to find avenues for the PA in every possible way to support my country. I saw, for instance, how he prioritized the establishment in the PA of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.

He is a man that stands by the OSCE, but also stands, first and foremost, for values, and for what is right. He has done this with consistency and coherency, and helped the OSCE PA to stand on the right side of history. This is true also for the International Secretariat, which he is leading with energy and competence.

I take the opportunity of this letter not only to support the renewal of his term in office, but also to express my deepest gratitude.

Sincerely yours,

Vice President of the OSCE PA,
Head of the Ukraine Delegation to the
OSCE PA



Mykyta POTURAIEV

H.E. Ms. Pia Kauma,
President of the OSCE PA,

Copenhagen



Delegation of the United States of America
to the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Pia Kauma
President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Madam President,

We write as bipartisan leaders of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE PA from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to welcome your recent letters communicating Mr. Roberto Montella's availability to renew his term as Secretary General. Roberto's willingness to continue leading the International Secretariat is great news for this Assembly. We heartily endorse him and urge our colleagues in the Standing Committee to confirm his extension at the Annual Session in Bucharest this summer.

At a time of intensifying global volatility, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to universal values and robust democratic institutions. In our view, Roberto is well suited to the demands of this perilous moment for the international order. Since becoming Secretary General in 2016, he has ably navigated profound upheavals while reinforcing the pillars of this Assembly—the Helsinki principles and parliamentary diplomacy. Roberto has grappled with Russian malign influence and open aggression, a global pandemic, and democratic backsliding, among other serious challenges to the OSCE PA. All the while, he has expanded the Assembly's activities, attracted greater member participation, and enshrined better business practices and institutional transparency.

Roberto has earned broad, bicameral, and bipartisan support in our delegation. We are united in urging our colleagues in the Standing Committee to approve the extension of his mandate this year to ensure the continued effectiveness and relevance of the OSCE PA.

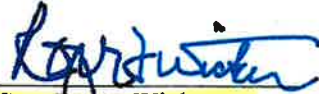
Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Wilson
Head of Delegation
Co-Chair, OSCE PA Parliamentary Support
Team for Ukraine

Sen. Ben Cardin
Deputy Head of Delegation
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance



Rep. Steve Cohen
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Political Prisoners



Sen. Roger Wicker
OSCE PA Vice President

Cc:

Members of the Bureau

Members of the Standing Committee

Mr. Roberto Montella, Secretary General, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



RICHARD HUDSON

Proudly Serving North Carolina's 9th District

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Pia Kauma
President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Madam President,

I welcome your announced support for the renewal of Mr. Roberto Montella's term as Secretary General of the OSCE PA and would like to add my complementary endorsement.

As a member of the United States delegation for nearly a decade, I have seen Roberto shepherd this Assembly and the International Secretariat through the tumultuous years following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and attempted annexation of Crimea in 2014. Throughout this period, he has navigated a daunting political landscape with poise, conviction, and character.

In my experience, Roberto has a deep appreciation for the principles of the PA, is a capable manager, and operates with integrity. Roberto's vision of the PA's purpose enables him to capitalize on its strengths, as well as offer sound counsel to its members, while faithfully executing the decisions of its political leadership. In leading the International Secretariat over the past eight years, he has built a compelling and consistent record of tangible success, both enhancing transparency and balancing multiple demands with often limited resources. I also know Roberto to nurture diverse relationships across the Assembly, working hard to foster open and inclusive debate and earn the trust of those around him.

Given multiplying global challenges and the acute threat that Russia poses to the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly, I believe it is imperative to renew Roberto's mandate at the Annual Session in Bucharest. Doing so would ensure the Assembly remains in steady, capable hands at a time of increasing volatility in the OSCE region and beyond.

I have utmost confidence in Roberto's ability to lead the International Secretariat as Secretary General and strongly urge my colleagues in the Standing Committee to renew his mandate this year.

Sincerely,

Rep. Richard Hudson

Member of Congress

Chair, OSCE PA General Committee on Political
Affairs and Security

Cc:

Mr. Roger F. Wicker, Vice President
Mr. Reinhold Lopatka, Vice President
Ms. Irene Charlabides, Vice President
Mr. Pere Joan Pons, Vice President
Mr. Mark Pritchard, Vice President
Ms. Daniela De Ridder, Vice President
Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev, Vice President
Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, Vice President
Mr. Johan Büser, Treasurer
Mr. Costel Neculai Dunava, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
Mr. Laurynas Kasciunas, Rapporteur, General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
Mr. Azay Guliyev, Chair, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment
Mr. Artur Gerasymov, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment
Ms. Gudrun Kugler, Rapporteur, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment
Ms. Lucie Potůčková, Chair, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions
Mr. Sargis Khandanyan, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions
Mr. Malik Ben Achour, Rapporteur, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions
Mr. Roberto Montella, Secretary General, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA
Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mrs. Pia KAUMA
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
COPENHAGEN

Bucharest, 21 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter expressing your confidence in the leadership of our Secretary General Roberto Montella and advocating for his continued service.

In response, I'd like to wholeheartedly endorse Roberto for re-election. I crossed paths with Roberto the moment I entered the world of multilateral parliamentary relations. Now, after two terms into my service as a Member of Parliament, our collaboration remains stronger than ever. As the 1st Committee's Vice-Chair and a delegation member, I continue to work closely with him. I've always appreciated Roberto's commitment to fairness and impartiality.

The expertise gained by Mr. Montella in his 30-years career dedicated almost entirely to the OSCE and OSCE PA, makes him ideally suited for the position of the Assembly's Secretary General, particularly given the current circumstances where the PA requires stability and the governmental OSCE faces significant geopolitical challenges.

Roberto's dedication to our Assembly's values and principles has been exemplary. Through his leadership, he has significantly expanded PA's activities and raised its profile and visibility over the past years.

Taking all of the above into account, I strongly recommend my colleagues from the Bureau and the Standing Committee to support the reappointment of Mr. Roberto Montella as Secretary General of the OSCE PA.

Looking forward to a successful outcome of our Annual Session in Bucharest, I remain respectfully yours,

Costel DUNAVA

Vice-Chairman of the 1st General Committee of the OSCE PA
on Political Affairs and Security

Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Chairperson of the Committee for Economic Policy, Reform and Privatization
of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies



Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA

Baku, 26 March 2024

Dear Madam President,
Dear Pia,

It is a privilege for me to provide a recommendation for Roberto Montella, as we are called to vote on the renewal of his mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. But before doing so, let me congratulate you Madam President and our Head of the Rules Committee Pascal Alizard for the timely decision to start this procedure which will provide our Assembly with the necessary stability in a period of big challenges for the OSCE as an organisation.

Roberto is to me a dear friend and a good colleague. Our productive cooperation and mutual respect dates back in time and I am proud to say that we have together worked hard to make the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly a stronger and more relevant organization.

I have been serving in the PA Bureau since 2013, also covering other positions such as Committee Vice-Chair, Vice-President, Committee Chair, Special Representative, EOM Special Coordinator and Head of Delegation. Being among the most experienced members of the PA also means I have witnessed the Assembly before his arrival and afterwards. I have witnessed the wave of reform and engagement he has brought to our indispensable organization, in support of and in cooperation with my esteemed colleagues, Presidents Kanerva, Muttonen, Tsereteli, Bowness, Cederfelt and Kauma, and all of the Bureau and leadership. That is, in fact, the main reason we elected him back in 2015: we were convinced – and I am proud we were right – that the OSCE PA could be modernized and carry out numerous activities in addition to the statutory meetings and election observations.

With the support of Roberto's advice, spirit of initiative and driving force, the OSCE PA has also strengthened its role in real parliamentary diplomacy. This was a great collective success we need to nurture and defend. I have engaged with Roberto and you many times also on events in my region: very often he has been instrumental to kick off efforts, meetings or initiatives to support and promote the lasting peace and reconciliation in South Caucasus. We have always worked in view of achieving something good. He has never imposed, but has always been active in proposing and implementing our decisions.

Finally, I wish to highlight also Roberto's managerial skills, and the set of reforms and reorganization of the International Secretariat he undertook since 2016, a very important component of his work.

In the light of his excellent performance, I encourage other delegations to agree on Roberto's renewal as Secretary General. Moreover, I underline that the stability he provides to the OSCE Assembly is not to be underestimated, especially at uncertain times where the governmental components of the OSCE in Vienna are suffering major challenges.

I remain Respectfully yours,

Azay GULIYEV

Head of the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE PA,
Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment of the OSCE PA



PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-
OPERATION IN EUROPE

5, M. Hrushevskiyi Str., Kyiv, 01008, Ukraine www.rada.gov.ua

Dear President Kauma,

I would like to address to you concerning Roberto Montella's second renewal as OSCE PA Secretary General.

I have appreciated Roberto for a long, since 2014, and his support and solidarity were always immense concerning the activity of the Ukrainian delegation. I would like to attract your attention to the fact that, while the governmental OSCE was stuck with Russia abusing the rule of consensus, Roberto has outstandingly supported the OSCE PA leadership in carving its response to the illegal and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, and the horrifying and genocidal war crimes perpetrated by Russia against Ukrainians.

Secretary General Montella has visited Ukraine many times since 2014 and he knows perfectly the situation in Ukraine, and I appreciate his support in the establishment in the PA of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.

I will strongly recommend to you and my colleagues in the OSCE PA to re-elect Roberto, who has proven himself as a professional leader of the team of the International secretariat, he leads with energy and competence.

Sincerely yours,

Vice-Chair of General Committee on
Economic Affairs, Science, Technology
and Environment,
Deputy Head of the Ukraine Delegation
to the OSCE PA

Artur GERASYMOV

H.E. Ms. Pia Kauma,
President of the OSCE PA,
Copenhagen

Abg.z.NR MMag. Dr. Gudrun Kugler
Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3
1017 Wien



Abgeordnete
zum Nationalrat der
Republik Österreich

To the President
of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
Ms. Pia KAUMA

Vienna, 8. April 2024

Madam President,
Dear Pia,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 11. March to express my full support for the renewal of the mandate of our Secretary General Roberto Montella.

I fully share and can only repeat the positive assessment you and so many colleagues have set out in the last weeks, amongst them from Austria our Vice- President Reinhold Lopatka and former PA Presidents Christine Muttonen and Wolfgang Grossruck, and would like to underline the great professionalism, the integrity and management qualities of Roberto Montella.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the staff of our Assembly's International Secretariat, who under Roberto's leadership have been supporting and assisting me so professionally, in Vienna and Copenhagen, in my various functions!

Looking forward to seeing you in Copenhagen I remain

With best regards,

Gudrun Kugler

Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Rapporteur of the 2nd Committee

Vice-Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee on Migration



CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

LUCIE POTŮČKOVÁ

Member of the Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OSCE PA
Chair of the OSCE PA's Third Committee

Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

Prague, 20 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I have received your letter of 11 March, alongside the letter from Secretary General Roberto Montella, and I wish to communicate my readiness to support the renewal of his mandate.

Secretary General Roberto Montella has provided a stability, relevance and effectiveness to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in these turbulent years, and I am convinced we can only benefit from having him as Secretary General for other five years.

Personally, especially when I became Chair of the 3rd Committee, I have strongly appreciated Roberto's and the International Secretariat's support. It has been a very professional and competent support, which provided instrumental for my work and for which I am very grateful.

Roberto's dedication and commitment to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are indeed commendable and, therefore, I strongly recommend the Standing Committee to vote on his re-election.

Yours sincerely,

Potuckoval



Digitální podpis:
22.03.2024 11:30

Lucie Potůčková

Sněmovní 176/4, 118 26 Prague 1 – Malá Strana, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 257 17 4257 - E-mail: potuckoval@psp.cz - www.psp.cz



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Ms. Pia KAUMA
President
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Yerevan, 25 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I am writing in response to your letter of 11 March, to express my full endorsement for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Montella has proven a capable leader of the International Secretariat. He has successfully conducted the day-to-day work that enabled our Assembly to be effective, and he has been proactive, supportive and dedicated.

Having had the privilege of hosting Mr. Montella on multiple occasions in Armenia, I have consistently observed his commitment to advancing the role of the OSCE PA and parliamentary diplomacy. I particularly commend his tireless endeavors in fostering dialogue and pursuing peaceful resolutions within the South Caucasus region.

As the host of the 21st Autumn Meeting in Yerevan, I am deeply appreciative of Mr. Montella's steadfast guidance and support throughout the entire organizational process of the parliamentary conference. Under his leadership, the professional assistance by the International Secretariat significantly facilitated the successful implementation of the Meeting by the Armenian parliament.

Furthermore, as a founding member of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, I wish to express gratitude for Mr. Montella's consistent support and valuable contributions to the network's initiatives.

Roberto Montella meets very well the requirements needed for his position, and it is my wish to recommend to the Bureau and to the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA to re-elect him as Secretary General.

Respectfully,

Sargis KHANDANYAN

Head of the Armenian Delegation to the OSCE PA
Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and
Humanitarian Questions
Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Armenia

*Afvaardiging bij de Parlementaire Assemblée van de OVSE
Délégation à l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE*

Ms Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

Brussels, **27 MARS 2024**

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter regarding the upcoming decision on Roberto Montella's second renewal of the mandate as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General.

I am writing to convey to Roberto my full support, and to underscore what you wrote in your letter. I fully agree the OSCE PA is well served with the incumbent Secretary General, and I welcome his engagement, proactiveness and efforts. I have worked with him on several occasions and had the opportunity to witness his knowledge and the excellent team spirit he built in the International Secretariat.

Also thanks to him, the OSCE PA is managing to stay relevant during an unprecedented period of tensions, where many multilateral organizations are facing significant challenges. Our Parliamentary Assembly, though not without obvious struggles, is still on the frontline of efforts and we need to recognize a lot of Roberto's merit in this, together with the support that he gave to our leadership.

I therefore assure you that Roberto Montella will have my vote and I hope the whole Assembly can agree on him continuing in his tenure as our SG.

Yours sincerely,


Malik Ben Achour
President of the Belgian delegation

Letters received regarding the renewal of OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella's mandate

Standing Committee Members'

1. Albania	Mr. Damian Gjikhuri	Head of the Delegation
2. Andorra	Ms. Meritxell López Guitart	Head of the Delegation
3. Armenia	Mr. Sargis Khandanyan	Head of the Delegation
4. Azerbaijan	Mr. Azay Guliyev	Head of the Delegation
5. Belgium	Mr. Malik Ben Achour	Head of the Delegation
6. Bulgaria	Mr. Stanislav Anastassov	Head of the Delegation
7. Cyprus	Ms. Irene Charalambides	Head of the Delegation
8. Czech Republic	Mr. Jan Bauer	Head of the Delegation
9. Finland	Mr. Ville Kaunisto	Head of the Delegation
10. Georgia	Mr. Nikoloz Samkharadze	Head of the Delegation
11. Greece	Mr. Dimitrios Markopoulos	Head of the Delegation
12. Iceland	Mr. Birgir Thórarinsson	Head of the Delegation
13. Ireland	Mr. Michael Creed	Head of the Delegation
14. Italy	Mr. Eugenio Zoffili	Head of the Delegation
15. Kazakhstan	Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev	Head of the Delegation
16. Lithuania	Ms. Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene	Head of the Delegation
17. Malta	Ms. Amanda Spiteri Grech	Head of the Delegation

18. Moldova	Ms. Veronica Rosca	Head of the Delegation
19. Mongolia	Mr. Tsogtbaatar Damdin	Head of the Delegation
20. Montenegro	Mr. Slaven Radunovic	Head of the Delegation
21. North Macedonia	Mr. Igor Janushev	Head of the Delegation
22. Netherlands	Ms. Farah Karimi	Head of the Delegation
23. Norway	Ms. Siv Mossleth	Head of the Delegation
24. Portugal	Ms. Paula Cardoso	Head of the Delegation
25. San Marino	Mr. Oscar Mina	Head of the Delegation
26. Serbia	Ms. Sandra Bozic	Head of the Delegation
27. Slovak Republic	Mr. Marek Krajčí	Head of the Delegation
28. Slovenia	Mr. Tine Novak	Head of the Delegation
29. Spain	Mr. Pere Joan Pons	Head of the Delegation
30. Sweden	Mr. Bjorn Soder	Head of the Delegation
31. Switzerland	Mr. Daniel Fässler	Head of the Delegation
32. Türkiye	Mr. Selami Altınok	Head of the Delegation
33. United Kingdom	Rt Hon. Sir John Whittingdale	Head of the Delegation
34. Ukraine	Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev	Head of the Delegation
35. U.S.A.	Mr. Joe Wilson	Head of the Delegation

ⁱ Received by OSCE PA President Kauma and the International Secretariat from Standing Committee Members as of 24 June 2024. Please note that as the Standing Committee will vote on the renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General at its 29 June meeting in Bucharest, additional letters may be received in the coming weeks and will be duly forwarded.



To:
Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA

26 March 2024

It is with great pleasure to write in support of Mr. Roberto Montella for the renewal of his mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Indeed it is a great news as we all have had the opportunity to work with SG Montella for the past few years at OSCE PA, and have been consistently impressed with his diligence, efficiency and ability accomplish the reforms.

In this role, Mr. Montella performed many tasks with organizational skills and grace under pressure in these challenging times. He is organized, effective, and committed to getting the job done. We strongly support the renewal of another mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

We are looking forward to his valuable contributions in this organization.

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
KUVENDI

Sincerely,

Damian Gjicknuri

Head of the Delegation of Albania

to OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



CONSELL GENERAL
PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA

Delegació andorrana a l'Assemblea Parlamentària
de l'OSCE

The Honorable Pia Kauma
President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Tordenskjoldsgade, 1
1055 Copenhagen, Denmark

Andorra la Vella, 10 April 2024

Dear Madam President,
Dear Members of the Bureau of the OSCE PA,

I am writing with reference to the letter received last 11th March to communicate the availability of Mr. Roberto Montella to be considered for renewal of his mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

We consider that Roberto Montella, as Secretary General, has carried out his responsibilities with excellent diligence and expertise.

We especially appreciate the sensitivity and attention of Secretary General Roberto Montella towards small States like Andorra. He has always kept in mind our voice and specific concerns during his mandate.

Our delegation also appreciates his support and commitment during the organization of the Autumn Session in Andorra in 2017 and we would like to manifest that it would be a pleasure for us to cooperate again in the organization of the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting that we have offered to host in Andorra in 2026.

In the face of the good development of his task, I would like to express the support of the Andorran delegation for the re-election of Roberto Montella as Secretary General.

Yours faithfully,

Meritxell López Guitart

**Delegació andorrana a l'Assemblea Parlamentària
de l'OSCE**

Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE PA



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Ms. Pia KAUMA
President
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Yerevan, 25 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I am writing in response to your letter of 11 March, to express my full endorsement for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Montella has proven a capable leader of the International Secretariat. He has successfully conducted the day-to-day work that enabled our Assembly to be effective, and he has been proactive, supportive and dedicated.

Having had the privilege of hosting Mr. Montella on multiple occasions in Armenia, I have consistently observed his commitment to advancing the role of the OSCE PA and parliamentary diplomacy. I particularly commend his tireless endeavors in fostering dialogue and pursuing peaceful resolutions within the South Caucasus region.

As the host of the 21st Autumn Meeting in Yerevan, I am deeply appreciative of Mr. Montella's steadfast guidance and support throughout the entire organizational process of the parliamentary conference. Under his leadership, the professional assistance by the International Secretariat significantly facilitated the successful implementation of the Meeting by the Armenian parliament.

Furthermore, as a founding member of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, I wish to express gratitude for Mr. Montella's consistent support and valuable contributions to the network's initiatives.

Roberto Montella meets very well the requirements needed for his position, and it is my wish to recommend to the Bureau and to the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA to re-elect him as Secretary General.

Respectfully,

Sargis KHANDANYAN

Head of the Armenian Delegation to the OSCE PA
Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and
Humanitarian Questions
Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Armenia



Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA

Baku, 26 March 2024

Dear Madam President,
Dear Pia,

It is a privilege for me to provide a recommendation for Roberto Montella, as we are called to vote on the renewal of his mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. But before doing so, let me congratulate you Madam President and our Head of the Rules Committee Pascal Alizard for the timely decision to start this procedure which will provide our Assembly with the necessary stability in a period of big challenges for the OSCE as an organisation.

Roberto is to me a dear friend and a good colleague. Our productive cooperation and mutual respect dates back in time and I am proud to say that we have together worked hard to make the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly a stronger and more relevant organization.

I have been serving in the PA Bureau since 2013, also covering other positions such as Committee Vice-Chair, Vice-President, Committee Chair, Special Representative, EOM Special Coordinator and Head of Delegation. Being among the most experienced members of the PA also means I have witnessed the Assembly before his arrival and afterwards. I have witnessed the wave of reform and engagement he has brought to our indispensable organization, in support of and in cooperation with my esteemed colleagues, Presidents Kanerva, Muttonen, Tsereteli, Bowness, Cederfelt and Kauma, and all of the Bureau and leadership. That is, in fact, the main reason we elected him back in 2015: we were convinced – and I am proud we were right – that the OSCE PA could be modernized and carry out numerous activities in addition to the statutory meetings and election observations.

With the support of Roberto's advice, spirit of initiative and driving force, the OSCE PA has also strengthened its role in real parliamentary diplomacy. This was a great collective success we need to nurture and defend. I have engaged with Roberto and you many times also on events in my region: very often he has been instrumental to kick off efforts, meetings or initiatives to support and promote the lasting peace and reconciliation in South Caucasus. We have always worked in view of achieving something good. He has never imposed, but has always been active in proposing and implementing our decisions.

Finally, I wish to highlight also Roberto's managerial skills, and the set of reforms and reorganization of the International Secretariat he undertook since 2016, a very important component of his work.

In the light of his excellent performance, I encourage other delegations to agree on Roberto's renewal as Secretary General. Moreover, I underline that the stability he provides to the OSCE Assembly is not to be underestimated, especially at uncertain times where the governmental components of the OSCE in Vienna are suffering major challenges.

I remain Respectfully yours,

Azay GULIYEV

Head of the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE PA,
Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment of the OSCE PA

*Afvaardiging bij de Parlementaire Assemblée van de OVSE
Délégation à l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE*

Ms Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

Brussels, **27 MARS 2024**

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter regarding the upcoming decision on Roberto Montella's second renewal of the mandate as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General.

I am writing to convey to Roberto my full support, and to underscore what you wrote in your letter. I fully agree the OSCE PA is well served with the incumbent Secretary General, and I welcome his engagement, proactiveness and efforts. I have worked with him on several occasions and had the opportunity to witness his knowledge and the excellent team spirit he built in the International Secretariat.

Also thanks to him, the OSCE PA is managing to stay relevant during an unprecedented period of tensions, where many multilateral organizations are facing significant challenges. Our Parliamentary Assembly, though not without obvious struggles, is still on the frontline of efforts and we need to recognize a lot of Roberto's merit in this, together with the support that he gave to our leadership.

I therefore assure you that Roberto Montella will have my vote and I hope the whole Assembly can agree on him continuing in his tenure as our SG.

Yours sincerely,


Malik Ben Achour
President of the Belgian delegation



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

DELEGATION TO OSCE PA

Sofia, 22 March 2024

Dear Madam President,

Dear colleagues from the OSCE Parliamentary assembly,

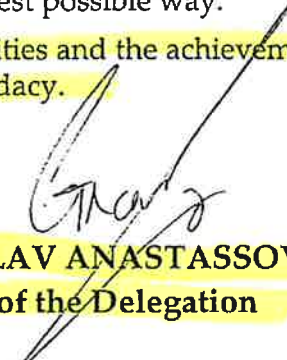
I met with satisfaction your letter regarding the readiness of Mr. Montella to continue his work as Secretary General of our organisation.

It is essential to underline his ability to listen, to understand and to respond quickly to the problems raised by Members. My impression is that he was able to provide positive working environment, clear division of responsibilities and high motivation for the members of the Secretariat, which is of key importance to the success of our political work. The International Secretariat is very well organised, result of the ambition of Mr. Montella to continue the modernisation, to increase the activity and to improve the visibility of OSCE PA. These successful efforts deserve to be rewarded and encouraged.

His last mandate was marked by extraordinary circumstances and both organisational and political challenges, especially the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. His leadership, in close cooperation with the Presidents and the Bureau, helped us to sustain our activity and keep our commitments. Now, when we face another challenge, related to the financial reductions, I see no one better prepared to help us cope with it and to adapt our organisation, without substantial damage to our activity.

Finally, I would like to underline the vast network of contacts built by Roberto over the years of work in OSCE PA both within the OSCE system and with other international institutions and organisations. That is invaluable source of strength for OSCE PA, because it helps our political bodies to steer the Assembly's work in the best possible way.

Based on all that, I have no doubts that he has all the qualities and the achievements to continue to serve as Secretary General and I endorse his candidacy.


STANISLAV ANASTASSOV
Head of the Delegation

MRS. PIA KAUMA
PRESIDENT
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE



Nicosia, 11 April 2024

Dear Pia,

I was informed about the intention of Secretary General Montella to run for a second renewal of his term-in-office in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Since I entered the OSCE PA, I have strived to raise certain topics on its agenda – above all the fight against corruption in the OSCE region and the quest for stronger transparency and accountability in politics. The post of the Special Representative was not established at that time and Roberto had supported the idea of creating such a portfolio. I was the first OSCE Special Representative on fighting corruption, a mandate that was reconfirmed by all subsequent Presidents and that is now an important component of the Assembly's work.

Taking into consideration that the OSCE PA is today a respected stakeholder on the multilateral stage in these areas of work, establishing significant partnerships with, inter alia, GRECO, the World Bank, the United Nations and receiving invitations and speaking roles for numerous international conferences and events and providing a clear parliamentary added value, I have to express my gratitude to Roberto Montella. He and his team in the International Secretariat have been of critical importance.

Roberto has always been at the service of the political leadership of the organization, flexible and versatile. I recognize his intention for finding compromises and for promoting new initiatives. I therefore wish to recommend we renew Roberto's mandate for another term, confident he will continue to do an excellent job.

In any case, I think it is standard procedure that the Rule providing that "The Standing Committee will set his or her duties, remuneration and conditions of employment consistent with the annual budget" will be discussed at the coming Bureau meeting and subsequently at the Standing Committee as foreseen, especially in view of the budget restraints that the OSCE PA is currently facing.



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



At the same time, allow me to seize this opportunity to express my view that in the coming Bureau meeting we should discuss how our Assembly will be able to focus on the multitude of challenges that the OSCE region faces. It is generally accepted that during the past few Sessions, we dedicate a great deal of time to discussing the impact of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Although I too share the view that the war in Ukraine is an issue of blatant violation of the Helsinki principles and must be given due attention, I also believe that Mediterranean affairs need also to be more thoroughly discussed, especially in view of the ongoing war in the Middle East and the incessant migratory and refugee flows. In this regard, I wanted to bring to your attention that a sharp spike in flows migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries is being recorded the last weeks, which has significant security, economic as well as human rights aspects. I would also like to reiterate in this context, a proposition I have already made, to organize a high-level visit to OSCE PA Partners which are key countries in the region and especially Egypt. Furthermore, in the next few days, we intend to send a letter to all heads of delegations of Mediterranean countries, informing them of our aim to form an unofficial group within the OSCE PA, in order to promote our special regional interests and enhance the efforts of the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs.

Additionally, I believe that the coming Bureau meeting must discuss our current budget restraints, as well as, and perhaps more significantly, a broader plan on how any increases in our contributions would be utilized, since transparency is of utmost importance in this regard.

Looking forward to meeting you soon, dear Pia, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Charalambides

Vice-President of the OSCE PA

Head of the Cyprus delegation to the OSCE PA



CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
D E N M A R K

Prague, 10 April 2024

Dear President Kauma,

In response to your letter of 11 March, I would like to express my wholehearted support for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Over the years of his service, and especially in these difficult times for the OSCE, Secretary General Roberto Montella has proven to be a capable leader of the International Secretariat. With his diplomatic approach, he has provided stability and effectiveness to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Therefore, I am very pleased to learn that Roberto Montella has confirmed his willingness to continue in his valuable work and run for re-election.

I strongly recommend the Standing Committee to give due consideration to his reappointment.

Yours sincerely,

JAN BAUER
Head of the Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OSCE PA

Sněmovní 176/4, 118 26 Prague 1 – Malá Strana, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 257 17 4257 - E-mail: bauerj@psp.cz - www.psp.cz



THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT

Ville Kaunisto
Parliament of Finland
00101 Eduskunta
Finland

Pia Kauma
President of the OSCEPA

9.4.2024

Dear OSCE PA President Pia Kauma,

On behalf of the Finnish OSCE PA delegation I would like to congratulate Mr. Roberto Montella for his work so far as the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I fully welcome his willingness to continue with this important task and I want to express my strong support for his re-election. As a new chairperson and member of the OSCE PA I have appreciated Mr. Montella's helpful guidance and his readiness to assist me and the Finnish delegation in OSCE PA related matters. I also value his and his team's support for the work of OSCE PA President Kauma.

While we warmly support the re-election of Mr. Montella to the post of Secretary General of the OSCE PA, we also acknowledge the need to further clarify and if needed develop our election procedure as expressed by some delegations.

I therefore hope that we could continue this discussion together with the secretariat and the Assembly and I look forward to our good cooperation with the Secretary General.

Yours sincerely,

Ville Kaunisto
Chairperson of the Finnish OSCE PA delegation

Ms. Pia Kauma

President of the OSCE PA

Dear President,

Dear Colleagues,

I was delighted to receive the news that our Secretary General, Roberto Montella, intends to seek a renewal of his mandate. In this regard, I share the positive assessment expressed by President Kauma in her letter.

I have known Mr. Montella for many years and have witnessed firsthand his exemplary work as OSCE PA Secretary General. Among his numerous personal and professional strengths, I wish to highlight a few that I consider particularly important for his role. He is engaged and proactive, possesses a strong knowledge of OSCE and security matters, holds a deep belief in the PA, and demonstrates personal commitment and devotion to it. He is trustworthy and endeavors to fulfill expectations in a balanced and impartial manner, always guided by the overall interests of the OSCE PA. His frequent visits to the South Caucasus and his tailored approaches to complex situations exemplify these qualities.

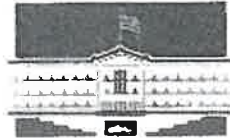
All of these attributes render him an invaluable asset to the parliamentary leadership and an excellent manager of the International Secretariat. Under his leadership, he has assembled a young and dedicated team with whom it is a pleasure to work.

Considering all of the above, I recommend to the OSCE PA Standing Committee that they give due consideration to his reappointment. I firmly believe that he is the right person for the job.

Yours sincerely,

Nikoloz Samkharadze





ΒΟΥΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ
INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

PIA KAUMA
PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE P.A.

Athens, 28 March 2024

Dear Madame President,
Dear Pia

Admittedly, the OSCE has moved into a new, demanding, but at the same time very creative period. A time of great challenges, which pushes all of us towards the need to converge opinions and intensify actions.

Additionally, I want to point out the work that took place both in Yerevan and in Vienna. Cooperation in all sectors has been positive and productive. A collaboration that obviously bears your personal signature as president, as well as that of our good friend Roberto Modella. A general manager with experience and maturity and with the willingness to negotiate at all levels.

On the other hand, I have to point out the need not to focus only on the persons but also to look at the wider political issues. The war in Ukraine certainly motivates us and is by far the top issue concerning our Assembly. Greece, although a country with ties to Russia based on history and religion, is clearly opposed to Moscow's aggression against Ukraine. This is indisputable, despite the fact that other countries in our wider region do not act so openly in this particular field.

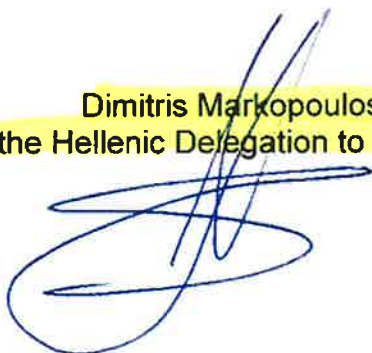
Nevertheless, I will also emphasize what I mentioned at the recent winter meetings in Vienna. The countries of the European south that are tested by the refugee flows from Africa or Asia, the Balkan member states that have specific problems of their orientation and a series of issues, we feel that, to a large extent there is a great one-sidedness in terms of the debate. As an example, I will cite the fact that the first issue on the immigration agenda was not the increased flows from Egypt and Libya or the pressures that Europe is receiving from the growing crisis and tension due to the attacks of Hamas against Israel, but this is of human trafficking from Ukraine.

A major issue obviously, but not the top one in terms of migration flows. This clearly has to do with the hierarchy that exists at the management level of the Ad Hoc Committee of Migration, which does not reflect the needs of member states such as Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Italy, France or Spain, that they are under pressure.

For the Greek delegation, in addition to the position of the Secretary General of the OSCE P.A., the division of the committees by member state is of great importance, so that our Assembly does not give an image of a single-theme focus on the problems of Eurasia.

With kindness regard,

Dimitris Markopoulos
Head of the Hellenic Delegation to the OSCE P.A.



Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE P.A.

cc. Mr. Roberto Montella
Secretary General of the OSCE P.A.



Dear OSCE PA President Pia Kauma

Thank you for your letter, 11th of March. I apologize for the late reply. I wanted to inform you that I fully support Mr. Montella for renewal as PA Secretary General. Last year, when I became a member of the OSCE PA for the first time, and the chair of the Icelandic delegation Mr. Montella was very supportive in every way. I felt right away a sense of belonging and acceptance in this vital platform. Mr. Montella has a friendly gesture which is important for OSCE PA members. He has also provided me guidance and helpful advice on Foreign Affairs Matters, which I appreciate. The effectiveness of the organization is crucial in the difficult times we are facing in Europe. I believe that Mr. Montella is the right person to adhere to the task. Reforms in the International Secretariat should also be continued, and I know that Mr. Montella is committed to the work. It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Montella for the renewal of his mandate as our Secretary General.

Respectfully,
Birgir Thorarinsson,
Chair Icelandic Delegation to OSCE.

15 May 2024

Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Parliament of Finland

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 March 2024 informing me of Secretary General Montella's intention to stand for re-election for his current position.

I would like to express my support and the support of the Irish delegation for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE for a third term.

The Irish delegation fully value the experience and work of Roberto as a diligent Secretary General in these challenging times as he has served the OSCE well during both terms of his mandate.

I would recommend that the Standing Committee endorse his reappointment as Secretary General of the OSCE PA.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Michael Creed,
Head of the Irish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

*Assemblea dell'Organizzazione
per la Sicurezza e la Cooperazione in Europa*
(OSCE)



CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI PARTENZA 11 aprile 2024
Prot: 2024/0007639/GEN/RIN

*Delegazione Parlamentare Italiana
Il Presidente*

*Gentilissimo Presidente,
Caro Pie,*

ti ringrazio per la cortese lettera con cui annunci l'avvio della procedura di rinnovo del mandato del Segretario Generale dell'Assemblea.

Da quando sono diventato componente dell'Assemblea parlamentare dell'OSCE, nella mia qualità di Capo della Delegazione italiana e di Rappresentante Speciale per la lotta alla criminalità organizzata, ho avuto occasione di confrontarmi in diverse circostanze con il Segretario Generale, Dott. Roberto Montella, e ho avuto modo di apprezzarne non solo la vasta esperienza, la professionalità e le qualità politico-diplomatiche, ma anche la dedizione e l'entusiasmo con cui svolge il suo mandato.

Vorrei anche sottolineare le capacità organizzative del Dott. Montella che contribuiscono al consolidamento della struttura amministrativa dell'Assemblea: il nostro Segretario Generale ha infatti svolto un eccellente lavoro nell'organizzare la struttura, motivare i componenti del Segretariato, assicurando al tempo stesso trasparenza e responsabilità.

Sono inoltre rimasto particolarmente colpito dalla sua capacità di favorire il dialogo tra posizioni a volte molto distanti sostenendo la cooperazione interparlamentare nel pieno rispetto delle sensibilità di ciascuno.

In un momento così importante e delicato per il futuro dell'OSCE, in cui ci troviamo a fronteggiare sfide inaspettate provenienti da più fronti, ritengo più che mai opportuno, nonché vantaggioso per l'Assemblea stessa, assicurare la massima continuità alla struttura del Segretariato anche per rafforzare ulteriormente il ruolo della nostra Organizzazione.

La squadra guidata sapientemente dal nostro Segretario Generale Montella ha dimostrato di essere vincente e, come si dice dalle nostre parti, "Squadra vincente non si cambia".

*Assemblea dell'Organizzazione
per la Sicurezza e la Cooperazione in Europa*
(OSCE)



CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI PARTENZA 11 aprile 2024
Prot: 2024/0007639/GEN/RIN

*Delegazione Parlamentare Italiana
Il Presidente*

Auspico pertanto il massimo sostegno al rinnovo del mandato dell'attuale Segretario Generale, nella certezza che saprà offrire il suo pieno e incondizionato impegno per valorizzare l'Assemblea e dare il necessario seguito alle priorità che vorremo individuare.

Un caro saluto -

Eugenio Zoffli
On. Eugenio Zoffli

Pia KAUMA
Presidente dell'Assemblea
parlamentare dell'OSCE
COPENHAGEN

Courtesy Translation

Distinguished Madam President,

I would like to thank you for your kind letter, in which you announced the start of the procedure to renew the mandate of the Secretary General of the Assembly.

Since I became a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in my capacity as the Head of the Italian Delegation and Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime, I have had the opportunity to deal with the Secretary General, Mr Roberto MONTELLA, on several occasions and I have been able to appreciate not only his vast experience, his professionalism and his political and diplomatic ability, but also the dedication and enthusiasm with which he is carrying out his mandate.

I would also like to emphasize Mr MONTELLA's organisational skills, which contribute to the consolidation of the Assembly's administrative structure: indeed, our Secretary General has done an excellent job in organising the structure and motivating the staff members of the Secretariat, while ensuring transparency and accountability.

In addition to this, I was particularly impressed by his ability to encourage dialogue between positions that were sometimes very far apart, and support inter-parliamentary cooperation while taking into account the sensitivity of everyone.

At such an important and delicate moment for the future of the OSCE, when we are faced with unexpected challenges from many fronts, I consider it more appropriate than ever, and beneficial to the Assembly itself, to ensure maximum continuity in the structure of the Secretariat, also with a view to further strengthening the role of our Organisation.

The team wisely led by our Secretary General Montella has proved to be a winner and, as we say in our country, 'Never change a winning team!'.

Against this backdrop, I trust that there will be maximum support for a renewed mandate of the current Secretary General, convinced as I am that he will be able to offer his full and unconditional commitment to enhancing the role of the Assembly and giving the necessary follow-up to the priorities that we will identify.



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ
ПАРЛАМЕНТИ СЕНАТЫНЫҢ
ТӨРАҒАСЫ**

**CHAIRMAN
SENATE OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Astana
« 9 » April 2024

Dear Madam President,

Thank you for your letter regarding the procedure for renewing Roberto Montella's mandate as the OSCE PA Secretary General.

I share your view on the importance of his continued tenure. As the head of delegation, I would like to emphasize the excellent cooperation established between the OSCE PA and the Parliament of Kazakhstan during Mr. Montella's tenure as Secretary General. His continuous and active contribution to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly is highly appreciated.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to extend the full support of the Kazakhstan delegation for Mr. Montella's candidacy as Secretary General for a third term.

I believe that under his strong leadership and astute guidance, the International Secretariat will continue to ensure the successful activity of the Parliamentary Assembly, dedicated to promoting the role of the OSCE in the new European security environment.

I hope for a successful Bureau meeting and look forward to working with you to further enhance the strong relationship between the Parliament of Kazakhstan and the OSCE PA.

Yours sincerely,

Maulen ASHIMBAYEV
**Head of the Delegation of Kazakhstan
to the OSCE PA**

**Her Excellency
Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Copenhagen



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
DELEGACIJA EUROPOS SAUGUMO IR BENDRADARBIAVIMO ORGANIZACIJOS
PARLAMENTINĖJE ASAMBLĖJOJE**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANISATION
FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

Gedimino pr. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, LITHUANIA Tel. + 370 5 239 6226 E-mail: kristina.grazyte@lrs.lt

Dear Madam President,

March 29, 2024

Dear Pia,

Thank you for your letter of March 11 in which you express your support for the renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General.

I would like you to know that I value and appreciate all the work done by the current Secretary General Roberto Montella through all these years, and do not mind extending his mandate for another term if the Standing Committee decides so, but at the same time, I would like to stress that it is of the utmost importance to ensure that we observe the nomination and election process as stipulated in Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

Rule 40 provides - The Bureau shall take steps to ensure that in the interests of transparency before the election or re-election of the Secretary General and the senior appointments referred to in Rule 40.3 the posts shall be advertised outside and within the organisation, and that all applications received are considered by the Bureau before a recommendation to or election by the Standing Committee.

Therefore I would ask you, Madam President, to announce the opening for the position outside the organisation on international recruitment platforms as soon as possible, and to allow a sufficient amount of time for potential applicants to submit their applications. The Bureau should have a proper discussion on all applicants during its next Meeting on April 29.

I would be very grateful if you could inform about the follow-up steps on this matter, and kindly request your assistance in bringing this to the attention of the Bureau members.

Cc:

Mr. Roger F. Wicker, Vice President
Mr. Reinhold Lopatka, Vice President
Ms. Irene Charlambides, Vice President
Mr. Pere Joan Pons, Vice President
Mr. Mark Pritchard, Vice President
Ms. Daniela De Ridder, Vice President
Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev, Vice President
Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, Vice President

Mr. Johan Büser, Treasurer

Mr. Costel Neculai Dunava, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Mr. Azay Guliyev, Chair, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment

Mr. Artur Gerasymov, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment

Ms. Gudrun Kugler, Rapporteur, General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment

Ms. Lucie Potůčková, Chair, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions

Mr. Sargis Khandanyan, Vice-Chair, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions

Mr. Malik Ben Achour, Rapporteur, General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions

Mr. Roberto Montella, Secretary General, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene

Head of the Lithuanian delegation to the OSCE PA



8 April 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I thank you for your letter of the 11 March, wherein you informed us of Roberto's willingness to continue in his role as Secretary General of the Assembly for another term.

Throughout my tenure as Head of the Maltese Delegation, Roberto has worked tirelessly for the Assembly and has managed to do so successfully even in the hardest of times thanks to his resiliency and efficiency. In this regard, I am confident that having him at the helm of our Assembly will allow us to continue benefiting from his expertise and will also provide us with continuity and stability. I have no hesitation in endorsing his renewal as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Amanda Spiteri Grech', written over a vertical line.

Hon. Amanda Spiteri Grech

Head of the Maltese Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Parlamentul
Republicii Moldova

VR nr. 11/01-404

04.04 2024

**Deputat în Parlamentul
Republicii Moldova**

**H.E. Madam Pia KAUMA
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Dear Madam President,

Thank you for your letter announcing your support for the renewal of the mandate of the OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella.

I would like to inform you that the Moldovan delegation to the OSCE PA fully acknowledges the important role the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly plays in strengthening the dialogue between the parliamentarians representing the participating States, but also in developing the cooperation between the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE.

In these difficult times, the effectiveness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is of crucial importance. We should be able to address all challenges the world is facing today, as well as to come with efficient and rapid long-term solutions. In this respect, we count on the assistance and full support of the OSCE PA International Secretariat led by a skilled and experienced person like Roberto.

Considering the above-mentioned, it is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Roberto Montella for the renewal of the OSCE PA Secretary General mandate.

I ask you to accept, dear Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Veronica ROȘCA
Head of the delegation of the Parliament
of the Republic of Moldova to the OSCE PA**



МОНГОЛЫН ПАРЛАМЕНТЫН БҮЛГЭМ
MONGOLIAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
GROUPE INTER-PARLEMENTAIRE DE MONGOLIE



Executive Committee
Mongolian Inter-Parliamentary Group
State Palace
Ulaanbaatar 14201
Mongolia

Tel: (976-51) 262636
(976-51) 260496
(976-51) 262866
Fax: (976-51) 322866
E-mail: foreign.relations@parliament.mn
Internet: <http://www.parliament.mn>

Ref: *МОНБ-02/085/EA*

TO H.E. PIA KAUMA
THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCEPA

Madam President,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for Your Excellency's letter dating 11 March 2024, informing and supporting for renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

It is my pleasure to learn that Mr. Roberto Montella, the current Secretary General, has confirmed his candidature for the next term. Considering his extensive experience and expert leadership at the International Secretariat, I express my full support for his candidacy.

While congratulating, I would like to express my firm belief that Mr. Roberto Montella would undoubtedly continue his dedication and devotion to the strengthening and enhancements of the effectiveness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest regard.

Respectfully

MR. DAMDIN TSOGTBAATAR, MP
HEAD OF THE OSCEPA DELEGATION,
STATE GREAT HURAL (PARLIAMENT) OF MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar
08 April 2024

2024000012



Parliament of Montenegro

Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Podgorica, March 27, 2024

Dear Madam President,

It is with sincere contentment that I received your letter from March 11, regarding renewal of the mandate of Roberto Montella as the Secretary General of the OSCE PA.

Mr Montella's tremendous work ethics, enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to our common values and shared principles has been well-known, not only through the time of my mandate as a Head of Delegation of Montenegro, but also during our previous delegations. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to the principles of the OSCE, and an exemplary dedication to enhancing cooperation and dialogue among member states. His ability to navigate complex political landscapes and foster a spirit of constructive engagement has been instrumental in advancing the OSCE PA's mission. Mr Montella's efforts in promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within the Assembly have not only strengthened its operational effectiveness but also reinforced its role as a vital platform for parliamentary diplomacy.

Profoundly convinced that his extensive professional experience will further contribute to steady leadership, devoted cooperation and fruitful work of the organization in these challenging times for international relations, I would like to convey my strong support, as well as support of other members of Montenegrin delegation, to Roberto Montella's new mandate as the Secretary General of the OSCE PA.

I am confident that with Roberto Montella at the helm, the OSCE PA will continue to make significant contributions to peace, security, and democracy in our region.

With the assurance that Montenegro remains reliable and constructive participant of the OSCE, fully committed to cooperation and dialogue in the interest of the citizens of the OSCE area, I thank you for considering my support in this important decision and warmly greet you.

Sincerely,

Head of Delegation

Slaven Radunović

Ms Pia Kauma
President
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
DELEGATION TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Skopje, 28 March 2024

Dear Madam President,

Thank you for your letters from 8 and 21 March 2024, concerning the renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I am pleased to learn that the incumbent Secretary General Roberto Montella has confirmed his availability and willingness to be considered for a second renewal of his mandate.

I fully support his candidacy, which I believe will provide stability to our Parliamentary Assembly at this particularly difficult time for the OSCE. Mr. Montella's longstanding experience and leadership of the International Secretariat will be a valuable asset, both to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to our Organization.

I believe that at a time when we are facing many challenges, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is more necessary than ever to pave the way for overcoming the dividing lines and to create a vision for a common future in line with our shared values and the needs and expectations of the citizens of the OSCE region.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

HEAD OF DELEGATION
IGOR JANUSHEV

MRS. PIA KAUMA
PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PA
COPENHAGEN





States-General of the Netherlands

To: President of OSCE PA, Pia Kauma

Department Interparliamentary Relations (Griffie IB)
Postbox 20018
2500 EA The Hague
Netherlands

T +31 70 31 2077
E GriffieIB@tweedekamer.nl

date : 3 April 2024
subject : Renewal mandate of the Secretary General of the OSCE PA

Dear President, dear Pia,

I am writing to update you on the Dutch delegation's meeting at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on April 2. One of the key points we discussed was your letter regarding the renewal of Secretary General Mr. Montella's mandate. Considering his outstanding service and contributions during the recent turbulent years, the delegation is in favor of extending his term.

Warm regards,

Farah Karimi
Head of Dutch delegation to the OSCE PA

Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Parliament of Finland
FINLAND

Our ref.:
[Vår referanse]

Your ref.:
Letter of 11 March 2024

Date:
10.04.2024

OSCE PA. Reappointment of the Secretary General.

Dear President Kauma, dear Pia,

Dear Members of the OSCE PA Bureau and OSCE PA Standing Committee,

I have read your letter of 11 March, and the letter sent on the same date by Secretary General Montella. I share your position and the conviction that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly would be best served by electing Roberto Montella for a new mandate as SG.

Mr. Montella has proven a reliable Secretary General, attentive to the inputs, priorities and requests from Parliaments, and has managed the International Secretariat in a difficult and challenging period. His term in office also coincided with a boost in the number of activities the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly undertakes, and a noteworthy growth in visibility.

I am glad that Secretary General Montella has placed specific focus on a number of priorities my delegation had identified during the years, including the security impact of climate change, especially in the Arctic region, and specific attention to human rights.

I will support the re-election of Roberto Montella as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and I am grateful for his willingness to continue his work.

Yours sincerely



Siv Mossleth, Head of the Norwegian delegation to the OSCE PA



Delegation of the Portuguese Parliament to the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Helsinki, Finland

Lisbon, 17 April 2024

Dear Madam President,

We would like to thank you for the letter of 11 March in which you inform us about Roberto Montella's availability and willingness to be considered for a second renewal of his mandate as Secretary-General of the OSCE PA.

During his two mandates Roberto, together with the team in the International Secretariat, has always shown a great commitment, team spirit and political understanding, particularly in a multilateral environment, which are qualities of utmost importance to the promotion of the OSCE principles and values.

The OSCE PA is currently facing several important challenges concerning the definition of its goals and tasks. Consequently, we believe that it is of the utmost importance for the current phase of the Organisations' evolution to ensure that we have an experienced and responsible Secretary-General in the Parliamentary Assembly.

We are therefore convinced that Roberto Montella's vast professional experience guarantees the best possible qualifications to fulfil the post of Secretary-General of our Parliamentary Assembly, and accordingly ask you to convey the support of the Portuguese delegation to him.

Sincerely Yours,

Paula Cardoso

Head of Delegation

Luís Graça

Deputy Head of Delegation



DELEGAZIONE CONSILIARE PRESSO
L'ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE
DELL'O.S.C.E.

San Marino, 26 March 2024

Ref.No. 31721/2024

MS. PIA KAUMA

President of the OSCE PA

***Hon. Members of the Bureau of
the OSCE PA***

Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

Madame President Pia Kauma,

Esteemed colleagues, Members of the Bureau of the OSCE PA,

With reference to the letter received last 11th March, I am writing to express the support of the delegation of San Marino for the re-election of Roberto Montella as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We are convinced that his work until today has been very positive and has helped the OSCE PA to be stronger and more effective.

San Marino is particularly grateful to the OSCE PA, especially for the attention it continues to convey also to smaller States, which is something never to take for granted within International Organizations.

Roberto Montella has personally travelled to our Country several times, he has made an effort to find ways in which our political priorities (the fight against disinformation and fake news, at the time) could find a space in the Assembly, and we have cooperated very well and productively to organize a PA Autumn Meeting in San Marino – initially planned for the COVID period and then postponed to 2025. This will be the biggest multilateral event in the Country's history, and we are grateful to the OSCE PA and to Roberto Montella personally for this.

Secretary General Montella works hard to take each and every position into account and he makes things happen. We strongly recommend to extend his term for a new mandate.

While thanking for your kind attention, I am pleased to express to you, Madam President and esteemed colleagues, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With best regards,

Oscar Mina

Head of the San Marino Delegation
to the OSCE PA



The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

Belgrade, 28 March 2024

Dear Mr Montella,

With your experience, energy and excellent leadership of the International Secretariat, you have made an inestimable contribution to the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Through your political wisdom, the need was recognised to improve the work, conduct internal reforms, but also to increase the political importance of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly through cooperation with numerous international and regional organisations.

The Delegation of the Republic of Serbia has always supported and actively contributed to the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. It will be our pleasure to continue to provide, in the coming period and in cooperation with you as the Secretary General, our full contribution to the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, so that together, as parliamentarians, we can address the urgent problems facing the world.

Allow me, dear Mister Montella, on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia, but also on my own behalf, to extend my full support to your renewed term of office as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Sandra Božić

Head of the Delegation of the NARS to the OSCE PA

Mr Roberto Montella
Secretary General
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



*Head of the Delegation
of the Slovak Republic
to the OSCE PA
Marek Krajčí*

Bratislava, 15 March 2024

Dear Madam President,

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you and thank you for your trust. I am glad that after last year's parliamentary elections a permanent delegation of the Slovak Republic to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was successfully established in February this year.

I fully acknowledge the important role the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly plays in developing mutual understanding and cooperation between the governmental and parliamentary branches of the OSCE. That is why you can count on my support for the renewal of the Secretary General mandate for Mr. Roberto Montella.

I look forward to our future meeting and mutual cooperation, whether during the election observation mission in North Macedonia or during the 31st OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session to be held in Bucharest.

Please accept, dear Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Honourable
Madam Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Denmark
Copenhagen*



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

National Assembly Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Šubičeva ulica 4, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
T: +386 1 478 94 83, E: gp@dz-rs.si, www.dz-rs.si

Ljubljana, 15 April 2024

Ms Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE PA
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen, Denmark
OSCEPA@oscepa.dk

Dear Madam President,
esteemed members of the Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

I have received your letter of 11 March 2024, informing me of the willingness of Secretary General Roberto Montella to stand for re-election for this important position.

The OSCE region is facing significant challenges that require increased engagement, enhanced collaboration, close ties, and coordinated efforts from all participating states of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. These goals can and will be achieved only if the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is led by individuals who are competent, industrious, empathetic, and, above all, committed to the values and goals of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, capable of impartial judgment and immune to potential biases and double standards.

I welcome your support for the renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General Roberto Montella, who has already demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and unwavering dedication in his past service. Moreover, I firmly believe that in these turbulent times, the Assembly, more than ever before, requires a leader who possesses an intimate understanding of its operations, working practices, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, I express my support and that of the Slovenian delegation to the OSCE PA for the re-election of Mr Roberto Montella as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Tine Novak
Head of Delegation





*Delegación española ante la
Asamblea Parlamentaria de la OSCE*

1 April 2024, Madrid

*Ms. Pía Kauma
President of the OSCE PA*

Dear Pía Kauma,

As Vice – President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I would like to convey my support to the process for the renewal of the different executive and institutional positions within our organization.

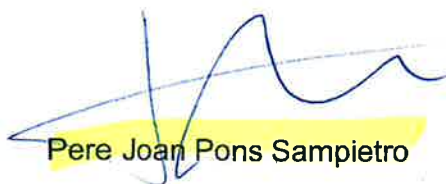
After the letter you have addressed to us regarding the renewal of the General Secretariat position, I would like to express my support to a fully transparent and open process.

The latter does not prevent me from expressing my appreciation for the work conducted by the current Secretary General and by extension all his team within the Secretariat, both in Copenhagen and in Vienna.

In my view, the General Secretariat has shown a strong leadership which, moreover, ensures a historical and evolutionary memory of the organization, apart from representing a certain geopolitical balance within the organization.

For that reason, dear Pía, I hope to be able to contribute to this process, acknowledging at the same time the work carried out all throughout these years by the current Secretary General.

Cordially yours,



Pere Joan Pons Sampietro

27 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

Dear Pia,

Thank you for the open letter dating 11 March expressing your support for renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General. I am also thankful for the information provided in the letter on 21 March that the process of said renewal has begun.

I would like to begin with extending my gratitude to the International Secretariat and its leadership for the high level of support provided to our Assembly. I thank the President for bringing attention to the Rules of Procedure related to renewal of the post as Secretary General and look forward to follow a transparent and open process.

As mentioned in your letter, our Rules asks the Bureau to consider all applications in the interest of full transparency and calls for elections and re-elections to the post of Secretary General to be advertised outside and within the organization. In line with standard procedure of international organisations, appointments of senior posts shall be guided by principles of openness and impartial consideration of all candidates.

To my understanding, the advertisement has not yet been posted outside of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as the Rules prescribe. I would therefore like to ask the President if the open advertisement is underway, and to clarify on what international recruitment platforms outside the OSCE PA it will be posted.

In order for the Bureau to be able to have an informed discussion on this item during their next meeting on 29 April it is of crucial value that the open advertisement is posted in the appropriate fora and that potential candidates are given appropriate time to submit their applications. I noticed that potential applicants should notify the International Secretariat no later than Friday 3 April, which leaves of only 10 working days for applications to be filed. I kindly ask you to prolong the application period to 25 April and to ensure that an open announcement is posted as soon as possible. For your reference, please see attached the vacancy announcement of the position of the Secretary General from 2016.

President Kauma, I am very grateful if you could provide some clarifications regarding the next steps to be taken and we look forward to receive your response on this matter. Let us extend the high level of professionalism of our organisation also to the recruitment procedures, regardless of the position involved. Only in this way, we demonstrate that we are a healthy, transparent, and robust organization deserving the contributions from member countries.



Björn Söder
Head of the Swedish Delegation to OSCE PA

To: President of OSCE PA, Pia Kauma

Copy: All Head of Delegations

Members of the Bureau

Annex: Vacancy Announcement from 2016



Swiss Delegation to the Parliamentary
Assembly of the OSCE
The President
CH-3003 Bern

oszepv.aposce@parl.admin.ch
parl.ch

Ms. Pia Kauma
President of the OSCE Parliamentary
Assembly (OSCE PA)

7 April 2024

Expression of Support for Mr. Roberto Montella's candidacy for Secretary General of the OSCE PA

Dear Madam President, *dear Pia*,

I learned with great satisfaction about Mr. Roberto Montella's intention to candidate for the position as Secretary General of the OSCE PA for another term. I particularly welcome this will, which, in these very difficult times, is essential in ensuring the effective functioning of our Assembly.

For four years now, our Assembly has been experiencing successive major crises. The one caused by the Covid-19 pandemic had already posed unprecedented challenges to the functioning of interparliamentary assemblies like ours. Under the leadership of Mr. Montella, the OSCE PA's international secretariat was one of the first to ensure that work could resume quickly. The Secretariat's performance was undeniable, since it was necessary to find innovative solutions to enable us to continue our debates. At all times, Mr. Montella listened to our delegations and did the best to respond to our expectations.

To the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, followed the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Given the historic nature of its mission, our parliamentary Assembly had to refocus almost all of its work on the catastrophic consequences of this war. In this context, we sometimes experienced virulent exchanges among delegations, which had eventually consequences on the international secretariat. In a working atmosphere where tensions were at their highest, our Assembly was nevertheless able to make adjustments to restore greater stability and serenity. In doing so and despite the difficulties he had to cope with, Mr. Montella, alongside you and your predecessor, consistently called for the maintaining of our Assembly's cohesion. The Swiss delegation greatly appreciated this attitude.

In view of the substantial contributions made by Mr. Montella to the proper and smooth running of our institution despite these major crises, I can assure you that I will warmly recommend to our Standing Committee to reappoint him.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Faessler
Councillor of States
President of the Swiss delegation to the OSCE PA



AGİT PARLAMENTER ASAMBLESİ TÜRK GRUBU
TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Ms. Pia KAUMA

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

26.03.2024

Dear President Kauma,

I am writing to you with regards to the matter of Roberto Montella's potential second renewal as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In my capacity as the Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA, I have been working with Secretary General Roberto Montella since 2020. Throughout this time it is my privilege to convey our confidence in the leadership and capabilities demonstrated by Roberto. I have consistently witnessed his dedication to his responsibilities. His adept handling of various events and situations, as well as his skilled navigation of interactions with diverse delegations and members, stands as a testament to his capabilities and experience in this role.

Roberto has displayed a commendable commitment to fostering dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among member states, irrespective of their differing perspectives and interests. He has proven to be a steadfast advocate for the promotion of peace, security, and stability in the OSCE region, demonstrating an impartial approach to addressing complex challenges and conflicts.

Roberto has consistently demonstrated a keen attentiveness to concerns of Turkish Delegation and has taken proactive measures to address them. As a negotiator, he is always considerate of both sides and readily accessible. Furthermore, his indefatigable energy has significantly contributed to the effectiveness of the OSCE PA and has fostered stability within the Assembly.

TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

oscepa-turkiye@tbmm.gov.tr

Phone: +90 312 420 8144



AGİT PARLAMENTER ASAMBLESİ TÜRK GRUBU
TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

It is my firm belief that Roberto will continue to discharge his duties with impartiality and fairness, devoid of any bias. Therefore, I wholeheartedly endorse the renewal of his mandate.

I wish to seize this opportunity not only to express my support for his continued tenure but also to convey my deepest gratitude for his tireless efforts and exemplary leadership.

I would be appreciated if you could ensure that this letter distributed to the Bureau members of OSCE PA.

Sincerely yours,

Selami ALTINOK

Head of the Turkish Delegation

to the OSCE PA

TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

oscepa-turkiye@tbmm.gov.tr

Phone: +90 312 420 8144



UK Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Delegation leader – the Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP
Interparliamentary Relations Office (Parliamentary Assemblies),
House of Commons, SW1A 0AA
020 7219 6595 oscepa.del@parliament.uk

27 March 2024

Dear President Kauma,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 11 March to express the UK Delegation's warm support for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Both myself and Deputy Leader and Vice President Mark Pritchard share the positive assessment you set out in your letter; Roberto has indeed served the Assembly with skill, expertise and creativity during a challenging period.

I recommend to the OSCE PA Standing Committee that they give due consideration to his reappointment.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP
Leader of the UK Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-
OPERATION IN EUROPE

5, M. Hrushevskiyi Str., Kyiv, 01008, Ukraine www.rada.gov.ua

Dear President Kauma,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March regarding Roberto Montella's second renewal as OSCE PA Secretary General.

On my turn, I would like to emphasize that I fully share your words, and hereby strongly recommend to my colleagues in the OSCE PA to re-elect Roberto, who has proven himself a true champion of the OSCE PA and of its principles and values, and has majorly contributed to the increase of relevance of the Assembly in the last years.

You already mentioned the main aspects that make Mr. Montella's extension the best solution for the OSCE PA. I wish to add some personal ones. I have appreciated Roberto for a long, but I will never forget his support and solidarity since 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation invaded my country. I will never forget what he said: "Enough with sugar-coating, the OSCE PA will call out what is happening with its name". Since then, while the governmental OSCE was stuck with Russia abusing the rule of consensus, Roberto has outstandingly supported the OSCE PA leadership in carving its response to the illegal and unprovoked aggression against my country, and to the horrifying and genocidal war crimes perpetrated by Russia against Ukrainians. I saw his efforts, I saw his commotion in Bucha during one of his many trips to Ukraine, and I saw his engagement to find avenues for the PA in every possible way to support my country. I saw, for instance, how he prioritized the establishment in the PA of the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine.

He is a man that stands by the OSCE, but also stands, first and foremost, for values, and for what is right. He has done this with consistency and coherency, and helped the OSCE PA to stand on the right side of history. This is true also for the International Secretariat, which he is leading with energy and competence.

I take the opportunity of this letter not only to support the renewal of his term in office, but also to express my deepest gratitude.

Sincerely yours,

Vice President of the OSCE PA,
Head of the Ukraine Delegation to the
OSCE PA

Mykyta POTURAEV

H.E. Ms. Pia Kauma,
President of the OSCE PA,

Copenhagen



Delegation of the United States of America
to the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Pia Kauma
President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Madam President,

We write as bipartisan leaders of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE PA from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to welcome your recent letters communicating Mr. Roberto Montella's availability to renew his term as Secretary General. Roberto's willingness to continue leading the International Secretariat is great news for this Assembly. We heartily endorse him and urge our colleagues in the Standing Committee to confirm his extension at the Annual Session in Bucharest this summer.

At a time of intensifying global volatility, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to universal values and robust democratic institutions. In our view, Roberto is well suited to the demands of this perilous moment for the international order. Since becoming Secretary General in 2016, he has ably navigated profound upheavals while reinforcing the pillars of this Assembly—the Helsinki principles and parliamentary diplomacy. Roberto has grappled with Russian malign influence and open aggression, a global pandemic, and democratic backsliding, among other serious challenges to the OSCE PA. All the while, he has expanded the Assembly's activities, attracted greater member participation, and enshrined better business practices and institutional transparency.

Roberto has earned broad, bicameral, and bipartisan support in our delegation. We are united in urging our colleagues in the Standing Committee to approve the extension of his mandate this year to ensure the continued effectiveness and relevance of the OSCE PA.

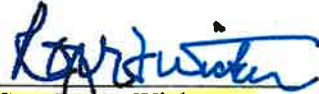
Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Wilson
Head of Delegation
Co-Chair, OSCE PA Parliamentary Support
Team for Ukraine

Sen. Ben Cardin
Deputy Head of Delegation
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance



Rep. Steve Cohen
OSCE PA Special Representative on
Political Prisoners



Sen. Roger Wicker
OSCE PA Vice President

Cc:

Members of the Bureau

Members of the Standing Committee

Mr. Roberto Montella, Secretary General, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

***Letters received regarding the renewal of OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto
Montella's mandate***

Special Representatives and other Members of the OSCE PA

Bulgaria	Mr. Kristian Vigenin	Special Representative on Eastern Europe; Deputy Head of the Delegation
France	Mr. Pascal Allizard	Chair of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure
Portugal	Mr. Luís Graça	Deputy Head of the Delegation
San Marino	Mr. Paolo Rondelli	Alternate Member of the Delegation
U.S.A	Mr. Ben Cardin	Special Representative on Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance; Deputy Head of the Delegation
U.S.A.	Mr. Steve Cohen	Special Representative on Political Prisoners



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Sofia, 21.03.2024

**MRS PIA KAUMA
PRESIDENT
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**Dear President Kauma,
Dear Colleagues,**

I met with satisfaction your letter regarding the readiness of Mr. Montella to continue his work as Secretary General of our organisation.

I have joined the OSCE PA as Deputy Head of the Bulgarian Delegation at the time when Mr. Montella was first elected as Secretary General. I had the opportunity to serve in different positions in the past almost 10 years – Special representative on South Caucasus, Rapporteur in First Committee, Vice-President, Chair of the ad hoc Committee on Migration, Special coordinator of EOMs and currently Special representative on Eastern Europe. Throughout my political journey in the Assembly, whatever my position, I have enjoyed full and competent support by the International Secretariat and personally by Roberto.

I would like to underline his ability to listen, to understand and to respond quickly to the problems raised by Members. My impression is that he was able to provide positive working environment, clear division of responsibilities and high motivation for the members of the Secretariat, which is of key importance to the success of our political work. Moreover, I need to mention that I've witnessed the gradual reforms in Copenhagen, result of the ambition of Mr. Montella to continue the modernisation, to increase the activity and to improve the visibility of OSCE PA. These successful efforts deserve to be rewarded and encouraged.

His last mandate was marked by extraordinary circumstances and both organisational and political challenges, especially the covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. His leadership, in close cooperation with the Presidents and the Bureau, helped us to sustain our activity and keep our commitments. Now, when we face another challenge, related to the financial reductions, I see no one better prepared to help us cope with it and to adapt our organisation, without substantial damage to our activity.

Finally, I would like to underline the vast network of contacts built by Roberto over the years of work in OSCE PA both within the OSCE system and with other international institutions and organisations. That is invaluable source of strength for OSCE PA, because it helps our political bodies to steer the Assembly's work in the best possible way.

Based on all that, I have no doubts that he has all the qualities and the achievements to continue to serve as Secretary General and I endorse his candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

**Kristian Vigenin,
Vice-President of the National Assembly
Deputy Head of the Bulgarian Delegation in OSCE PA**

Paris, le 18 mars 2024



Madame Pia KAUMA
Présidente
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 COPENHAGEN K
DENMARK

PASCAL ALLIZARD

SENATEUR
DU CALVADOS

VICE-PRESIDENT
DE LA COMMISSION
DES AFFAIRES
ETRANGERES,
DE LA DEFENSE
ET DES FORCES ARMEES

MAIRE HONORAIRE
DE
CONDE-EN-NORMANDIE

Dear President Kauma,
Dear Pia,

I would like to thank you for your letter announcing your support to the renewal of the mandate of our Secretary General Roberto Montella. As chair of the Rules Committee I applaud your decision to trigger this procedure in line with our precedents and well ahead of time thus allowing us to provide the necessary stability and long term security that our organisation needs in time of great uncertainties.

It is my pleasure to provide a reference for Roberto whom I have known for many years.

As you know I have served in the Assembly's leadership for many years as Vice President, Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, Chair of the Rules Committee and Special Coordinator in some Election Observation Missions so I have a profound knowledge of the OSCE PA dynamics.

Throughout my entire time in the OSCE PA I have witnessed Roberto's effort to modernize the Parliamentary Assembly and transform it in the highly engaged and active organization it is today. He has done an excellent job both in terms of internal management, where he promoted a set of reforms in the name of transparency and accountability, as well as in terms of external outreach, with an impressive increase of PA activities targeting the most pressing political priorities in the OSCE region.

Roberto's deep understanding of political and diplomatic dynamics have also allowed him to provide consistent advice to the PA's leadership in addressing some of the most turbulent years in recent history, placing the Assembly at the forefront of international political efforts on several delicate dossiers.

As one of your predecessors (President Ilkka Kanerva) also noted, the most important characteristic of Roberto is his capacity to deeply understand the needs and mentality of members of parliament. This as you know is not an easy task and it is rare to find an individual who can be as understanding and in tuning with an MP as Roberto can be. He can be your best friend and partner

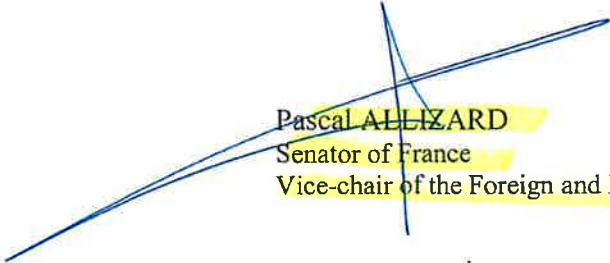


for easy and unofficial business but at the same time he will never step out of his obligations and role and will be the best civil servant for the MPs when official business comes into play. This versatile characteristic is unique and in many years in politics I have rarely found an individual who can better display this skill than Roberto.

I am confident that it would be in the best of interest for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to maintain Roberto Montella as its Secretary General for another term, providing stability and ensuring the continuation of this very positive trend.

I will not be able to participate to the Bureau meeting in Copenhagen in April and therefore I would appreciate if you could ensure that this letter reaches all my colleagues in the decision-making bodies of the Assembly.

Best wishes,


Pascal ALLIZARD
Senator of France
Vice-chair of the Foreign and Defence Committee

The President

Mr. Björn Söder
Head of the Delegation of Sweden
to the OSCE PA
Riksdag
Stockholm

29 March 2024

Dear Björn,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March expressing gratitude to the International Secretariat and its leadership, and inquiring about the process for the renewal of the mandate of the OSCE PA Secretary General.

Our Rules of Procedure make an important distinction between the election of a new Secretary General and the renewal of the incumbent Secretary General's mandate, including in the majorities required by the Standing Committee (2/3 majority of votes for a new election both in the Bureau and Standing Committee as was the case in 2015 and only a simple majority for the renewal both in the Bureau and Standing Committee for the renewal of the mandate of the incumbent Secretary General as was the case in 2019). In light of this, after consulting the Chair of the Rules Committee Senator Pascal Alizard, we have followed a similar procedure to the last time that the Secretary General's post was renewed, in July 2019. In case of interest, attached you can see the approach taken by the President and Chair of the Rules Committee at that time. This is substantively and procedurally different to the election of a new Secretary General, as in the 2015 example that you provided.

First it was my responsibility to establish if the current Secretary General was interested in having his mandate renewed.

I was happy to learn that Roberto was available to continue carrying out this very important responsibility because as I underlined in my letter to all Heads of Delegations and Bureau Members, he has done an excellent job under very difficult circumstances.

As a consequence I have registered an overwhelming support in the Bureau for Roberto's renewal as well as a significant and ever growing support among Standing Committee Members for this renewal.

The President

Following the footsteps of the previous President George Tseretelli and the previous Chair of the Rules Committee Lord Peter Bowness, Pascal Alizard and me have wanted to make sure that in the spirit of transparency it was important that any alternative candidates were fully aware of the procedural distinction between renewal and election of the Secretary General.

By circulating the call for expressions of interest by other persons wishing to be considered to all 56 National Parliaments on 11 March and by advertising openly on the OSCE PA website on 21 March, I am absolutely confident that we are achieving the appropriate transparency for this process. In consultation with the Chair of the Rules Committee, Senator Pascal Alizard we have taken note of your suggestion to further extend the deadline for possible additional expressions of interest and we have decided to extend the period for an additional week until Friday 12 April thus making the period available for expressions of interest of five weeks, well above the normal practice.

Regarding your question on advertisement outside the OSCE PA we use exactly the same procedure as the OSCE's policy for high level positions.

For the High Level position a letter from the OSCE Chairperson is distributed to all 57 participating states through an email sent to all permanent representatives in Vienna. The logic behind this is that as jobs within the OSCE are only accessible to Nationals of the 57 OSCE participating states then only those countries need to be notified. Of course nothing forbids every country to publicise within their own public administration, parliaments, governments and other general portals and newspapers the notice. But this is done by each country as they see fit

The next steps that I foresee are clearly defined by the Rules of Procedure.

Any and all applications that have expressed their interest will be brought to the attention of the Bureau for consideration at its meeting on 29 April. The Bureau will put forward a recommendation to the Standing Committee for decision during its meeting on 29 June in Bucharest. All received applications will of course be duly considered, but based on the many expressions of support already received for the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate, I would anticipate that the Bureau recommends this as a way forward. The Standing Committee will be asked in Bucharest to indicate by secret ballot if they support this renewal. Only if this renewal is not supported in the secret ballot of 29 June do I foresee a vacancy posting as in 2015, as it is only in this circumstance that there will be a vacancy.



The President

I hope that this helps to clarify the steps taken and to be expected. I do however recognise that our Rules of Procedure may benefit from some adjustment in the future to more clearly define the distinct processes between election and renewal.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Pia Kauma'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pia Kauma



**DELEGAZIONE CONSILIARE PRESSO
L'ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE
DELL'O.S.C.E.**

San Marino, 05 April 2024

Ms. PIA KAUMA

President of the OSCE PA

Tordenskjoldsgade 1
1055 Copenhagen K

DENMARK

Dear President Kauma,

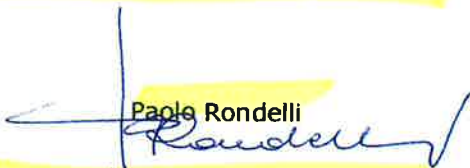
I hereby wish to join the official letter wrote by Oscar Mina on behalf of San Marino, and pay some words of gratitude and appreciation for Secretary General Roberto Montella.

After a long diplomatic and political career, where I also had the honour to serve as Captain Regent – head of state, I remain committed and passionate about my engagement within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security and its inclusiveness, is an organization with a great potential, which can be very important to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation in Europe.

I believe Roberto is doing an extraordinary job to increase the role Members of Parliament can play within the OSCE and to build a stronger OSCE PA. This means, in fact, increasing the impact of democracy and of the democratic debate in international relations. He is personally committed to working for a higher engagement of Parliamentarians and as a politician myself I deeply appreciate his service to this end. Roberto had an important role in defining the excellent stature the Assembly has reached: a dynamic body focused on dialogue that upholds human rights and fundamental freedoms with decisive strength, which I am proud to be part of.

While I am not part of the Standing Committee and will not be able to cast a vote, I wished to express my support to Roberto, and encourage colleagues in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to keep him as Secretary General and continue the good work done until now.

Yours sincerely,


Paolo Rondelli
Alternate Member of the San Marino
Delegation to the OSCE PA

***Letters received regarding the renewal of OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto
Montella's mandate***

Former Presidents of the OSCE PA

Joao Soares	OSCE PA President 2008-2010
Petros Efthymiou	OSCE PA President 2010-2012
Riccardo Migliori	OSCE PA President 2012-2013
Wolfgang Grossruk	OSCE PA President 2013
Ranko Krivokapic	OSCE PA President 2013-2014
Christine Muttonen	OSCE PA President 2016-2017
George Tsereteli	OSCE PA President 2017-2020
Peter Lord Bowness	OSCE PA President 2020-21

To: Whom it may concern

Re: Renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

4 April 2024

Dear President Pia Kauma,

Dear members of the Bureau and Standing Committee,

We are writing a collective letter to wholeheartedly support the renewal of the mandate as OSCE PA Secretary General for our dear friend Roberto Montella.

Roberto has served under our leadership either as Presidential Advisor or Secretary General.

Roberto's service to this Assembly has been exemplary. He has devoted almost his entire international career to the OSCE. He first served in OSCE field operations in south east Europe achieving excellent results in the settlement of some hot conflicts as well as creating conditions of dialogue between countries and ethnic groups who were fighting wars against each other.

In the OSCE PA Roberto has served OSCE PA Presidents with honour, dedication and expertise making the extra effort to accommodate the wishes and vision of the leadership.

His results as Secretary General are self evident. He has created excellent relations of cooperation with the OSCE Governmental side (especially in election observation with the ODIHR, which was for years a very difficult issue for our Assembly).

He has advised on the creation of committees on the fight against terrorism, on migration and on support for Ukraine which have put our Assembly in tune with the main political challenges of our times.

He has modernized the Secretariat, bringing a wind of transparency, accountability, new rules and regulations for the staff and new financial rules for the administration of our finances. The excellent results in terms of sound administrative, financial, and professional performance have now even been certified for two years in a row, by a reputable external independent audit company like Deloitte.

There are many aspects of Roberto's work that we can underline as great assets for this Assembly, but one stands out significantly: Roberto's capacity to understand the needs and ambitions of politicians, alongside his determination to deliver a fast and professional service.

In the current challenging security landscape and uncertain future, where the OSCE must remain a functional and effective multilateral organization, leadership and experience are crucial. Therefore, maintaining a stable and active Parliamentary Assembly is imperative as it serves as a vital pillar of the entire organization.

For all these reasons we fully support the renewal of Roberto Montella's mandate as OSCE PA Secretary General.

We wish you and the Parliamentary Assembly which is always in our hearts, the best of luck in these very difficult times for our European security.

Sincerely,

Joao Soares



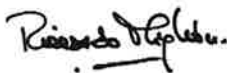
OSCE PA President 2008-2010

Petros Efthymiou



OSCE PA President 2010-2012

Riccardo Migliori



OSCE PA President 2012-2013

Wolfgang Grossruk



OSCE PA President 2013

Ranko Krivokapic



OSCE PA President
2013-2014

Christine Muttonen




OSCE PA President 2016-2017

George Tsereteli



OSCE PA President 2017-2020

Peter Lord Bowness



OSCE PA President 2020 - 2021



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

Vatroslava Jagica 5,
11000 Belgrade;
tel: +381 11 41 41 000;
info@sds-org.rs

H.E. Ilkka Kanerva
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Copenhagen

20 March 2015

Dear President Kanerva,

Let me first congratulate you on your recent election as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I recall with fond memories your visit to Belgrade in February 2008 while you were Chairman in Office of the OSCE.

I have been contacted by a dear friend, Roberto Montella, who has asked me to write him a reference letter for his candidature to the position of Secretary General of the OSCE PA.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Roberto Montella during my tenure as Minister of Defense and President of Serbia. Roberto was for a number of years the Head of the OSCE Office in South Serbia and later on he became the chief of Cabinet of the OSCE Head of Mission in Belgrade. Roberto has left a great impression in Serbia and in the region.

Let me briefly mention the situation in South Serbia at the time when Roberto worked there and the situation he had to face. South Serbia is an area bordering Kosovo and in three provinces - Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja - there is a very strong presence of ethnic Albanians (in Presevo and Bujanovac they represent the majority of the local population). Following the events in Kosovo, a local "Albanian Liberation Army" took control of the three provinces and started an "independentist movement". The international community was not ready to recognize this movement, but was also willing to avoid a military intervention by the Serbian Army. The OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was thus tasked to find a negotiated solution between the Albanian side and the Serbian Government. Roberto created a negotiating table convincing the two sides to sit and discuss among themselves; he helped elaborated a strategy to disarm the Albanian militia turning it into a multi-ethnic police force, he started a project to establish a radio broadcasting in Albanian and Serbian; he contributed in preparing the legal and political ground to hold free elections.



SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

Vatroslava Jagica 5,
11000 Belgrade;
tel: +381 11 41 41 000;
info@sds-org.rs

As you can easily imagine this was a very long and difficult process involving a lot of skilled and intelligent work. Roberto has been the key person to bring to a positive end what the then Secretary General of NATO, Lord Robertson, has defined as one of the most successful crisis management operation in the Balkans. Roberto held constructive contacts with all the parties involved (Serbian government, political parties, local communities, NGOs) as well as with international organizations (UN, UNDP, NATO, EU) and Embassies. He was the person dealing on a daily basis with the local politicians, the Albanian and Serbian communities, the media, the diplomats and the international delegations visiting the region.

Roberto has been really exceptional in carrying out all these tasks - and I weigh my words - showing an extremely sound political judgment, sense of initiative, ability to reach out and perform under a very heavy pressure.

To his professional skills, Roberto adds an extremely pleasant way to develop contacts and relations with people.

Serbia really enjoyed Roberto's work and I am sure that he has the professional and personal talent to do well in the position you are willing to fill.

Please feel free to contact me again if you need any additional information.

With my best personal regards,

Boris Tadic

Former President of Serbia

I would like to highly recommend Roberto Montella for the position of Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

I served as United States Ambassador to Serbia/Montenegro from October, 2000 until February, 2004. This was an intensely dynamic period with the fall of Slobodan Milosevic from power opened the way for significant positive change in that country. The OSCE in general and specifically Roberto Montella played a major, positive role in helping to bring about that change.

Roberto served for three years (1999-2001) in Kosovo (both in Pristina and the critical town of Mitrovica) in the immediate aftermath of the NATO bombing campaign as a Political Affairs Officer for the OSCE/UNMIK Mission and as Head of the European Center for Minority Issues. His work focused mainly on the implementation of a UNMIK Directive ("Agreement on a joint interim Administrative Structure- December 1999). This was a critical job in a number of ways. It basically required the transition of power from the self-appointed mayors who grabbed power in the vacuum following the bombing campaign to a UN-approved administration. Roberto was the negotiator that convinced these self-styled mayors to give up their power and authority in accord with the agreement. Not only was this essential for the success of the Mission in Kosovo, it also gave Roberto invaluable experience in negotiating successfully with difficult personalities and critical understanding of the complexities of the region.

When we had reached the Kumanovo Agreement with Belgrade that ended the fighting and enabled entrance into Kosovo of the UNMIK Mission and KFOR, we had unintentionally created in the agreement a dangerous loophole which radical Kosovo Albanians and Albanians living in Serbia promptly exploited. We put in the Agreement a Ground Safety Zone of five kilometers in width stretching from the boundary line between Kosovo and Serbia going five kilometers into Serbian territory. We also put in a 25 kilometer wide Air Safety Zone in the same manner. The purpose was well-intended: to prevent clashes of any kind between Serbian forces and KFOR. It

did so by preventing Serbian military units from entering the zones and Serbian police to enter in only the same number and with the same weapons as they did pre-war.

The end result was that Albanian militants both from Kosovo and from the immediate area of Serbia went into this ground safety zone and took it over by armed force. They established training camps inside it, stopped and sometimes kidnapped Serbs who entered it, and killed by mines and small arms a number of Serbian police and military outside the area. They conducted raids outside the area and returned to their "safe area." They named themselves the UCPMB, after the three strategic towns in or near the Ground Safety Zone (Presevo, Buljanovac, and Medvedje).

What followed was one of the most successful OSCE missions ever. And it was led by Roberto Montella. He moved to this violent area bordering Kosovo following his time in Kosovo. Bringing this violent "revolution" under control was immensely important. The longer it went on, the more the new Serbian government was distracted from the business of reform and the more likely it was that the Serbian Army would get outraged at the attacks and deaths and disregard the Kumanovo Agreement and enter the Ground Safety Zone was potentially highly dangerous consequences.

I cannot stress enough the anger, hatred, bitterness, and suspicion that existed between these two sides: the Serbs and the Albanians. Yet Roberto, through his personal skills, knowledge of the area, determination, and non-stop optimism and energy, was able to gradually defuse the issue and set the foundation for a better treatment of the Albanian minority in Serbia. He established a multi-ethnic police force, including getting Albanian applicants expedited acceptance and training in the Serbian police and joint patrols. He negotiated new local elections which eliminated the outrageous gerrymandering which kept the Albanians totally out of power. When the Albanians "won" those elections, he persuaded them to include Serb deputy mayors and other Serbs in the government. He worked tirelessly with all Embassies, such as ours, to keep us informed of the latest developments ensure our assistance was coordinated and effective. He had a very effective

way of ensuring that everybody on all sides felt included and felt that their viewpoints were being heard.

The endpoint was when Roberto persuaded the UCPMB to give up their weapons in exchange for amnesty and in agreement with NATO gradually removed the Ground and Air Safety Zones. The crisis was over. But perhaps even more importantly, the Serbian Government, perhaps for the first time in decades had worked in a cooperative way with the International Community and discovered that the end result was far, far better than they could ever have achieved by themselves. Again, for the first time, they began to feel that perhaps the whole world was not "against them." The NATO Secretary General at the time, Lord Robertson, called in one of the most successful crisis management operations in the Balkans. I frankly cannot think of another that matches it.

It is the various skills that Roberto demonstrated during this lengthy and dangerous process which show his capacity for far more responsible positions. He is inclusive of everybody, focused intensely on his ultimate goals, curious and wanting to learn from everyone, creative in finding solutions (perhaps dozens of tiny solutions leading to ultimate success), and intelligence and well-informed. You could not find a better person as your Secretary General.

I am happy to provide any follow-up information which is needed to bring out Roberto's best qualities.

Best Regards,



William Montgomery

US Ambassador to Bulgaria (1993-96), Croatia (1998-2000), and Serbia/Montenegro (2000-2004) and Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Bosnian Peace Implementation (1997-98)