

The President

To: Members of the Standing Committee

7 May 2024

Dear colleagues,

Last week, the Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met in Copenhagen. In addition to our regular business, we took the time to follow up on a discussion launched in January on **the future of our Assembly**. I want to thank Members of the Bureau for their input and ideas, including the proposal for a two-year presidency starting from the 2025 Annual Session, which has already been considered by the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure and will be forwarded to the Standing Committee in due course.

Our discussions also served to **recalibrate the PA's priorities** in the coming months, with a continued focus on the Russian aggression against **Ukraine** and greater attention to the impact of instability in the **Middle East**, both of which I expect to be the topic of a plenary debate during our Annual Session in Bucharest.

Following up on the Winter Meeting in Vienna, our three General Committee Rapporteurs presented their draft reports and draft resolutions. We had a **substantial debate on political issues**, and I found the constructive tone on issues of concern between Armenia and Azerbaijan particularly heartening.

By the end of this week, all **General Committee Reports and Draft Resolutions** will be available on the OSCE PA's website for all our Members to read and propose amendments to. In line with Rule 21-1, please be reminded that up to fifteen **Supplementary Items**, which do not relate directly to subjects proposed by the General Rapporteurs, may be added to the agenda of the Annual Session by the Standing Committee.

In Copenhagen, the Bureau also endorsed the **draft 2024-2025 budget** presented by our Treasurer. I thank Johan Büser and the International Secretariat for crafting a reasonable proposal, which balances the demands expressed during our Winter Meeting to **implement targeted cuts without compromising on a high level of activities**. This draft budget will soon be made available to all Delegations for comments before the Standing Committee decides on it on 29 June in Bucharest.

Let me underline that, given the OSCE PA's system of contributions (Rule 41-1), **every budget proposal is balanced**, based on the premise that contributions will be paid

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in full and on time. Unfortunately, the unilateral decision by the Russian Federation to withhold its contribution may again lead to a 6 per cent **shortfall in revenue**. However, as demonstrated by the results of the integrated financial and business / performance audit presented during the Winter Meeting, I am fully confident in the International Secretariat's ability to continue to **identify and implement necessary efficiencies** over the upcoming financial year to sustain the PA's ongoing activities. A draft list of planned and expected activities for 2024/2025 is attached to this correspondence. I also extend my gratitude to the Delegations that have pledged **extrabudgetary contributions** which will significantly assist in bridging this revenue gap. I remain committed to assisting the Treasurer and the International Secretariat in identifying additional income.

Finally, the OSCE PA Bureau unanimously endorsed Roberto Montella for a **renewal of his mandate as OSCE PA Secretary General** and called on the Standing Committee to confirm this in Bucharest.

As all Delegations prepare for the Annual Session, let me remind you of the following **deadlines**:

- Supplementary Items: 25 May 2024
- Amendments to Committee Draft Resolutions: 15 June 2024
- Amendments to Supplementary Items: 22 June 2024

I thank you for your continued support and engagement on behalf of the OSCE, and I look forward to seeing you at the soonest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Pia Kauma