

To: Members of the OSCE PA Standing Committee

3 September 2024

Esteemed Colleagues,

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we must address an urgent and pivotal issue concerning the expiry of the mandates of the Heads of OSCE Institutions.

Today, we bid farewell to Secretary General Helga Schmid, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Director Matteo Mecacci, Representative on Freedom of the Media Teresa Ribeiro, and High Commissioner on National Minorities Kairat Abdrakhmanov. Their invaluable service and significant impact during their tenures have been indispensable.

As you may recall, in December 2023 the incumbents were only extended - at the last moment - for a limited 9 month period. The current lack of agreement on their successors presents a critical challenge. The absence of new appointments undermines the credibility and functionality of our Organization. Strong and effective leadership is essential for the OSCE to address the pressing issues confronting our participating States and to uphold our commitment to peace, security, democracy, and human rights.

We commend the Maltese Chairmanship for its tireless efforts in seeking a resolution. While Malta's leadership has been exemplary, the responsibility of navigating the OSCE through this crisis cannot rest solely on their shoulders. As emphasized in the Bucharest Declaration, it is imperative that we collectively demonstrate the political will necessary to ensure the effective functioning of our Organization.

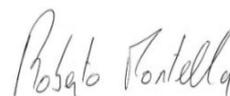
I hope you will take this opportunity to exchange with your Minister for Foreign Affairs and encourage increased efforts to find a solution in the best interests of the Organization. Your active engagement is crucial in overcoming this impasse and ensuring that the OSCE continues to serve its vital role.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your continued engagement and support as we work together to overcome this challenge.

Yours sincerely,



Pia Kauma  
President



Roberto Montella  
Secretary General