



## Remarks by OSCE PA Special Representative on Arctic Issues

**Ms. Torill Eidsheim**

### *OSCE PA Winter Meeting 2021 – Standing Committee*

Colleagues and friends,

Time does not allow for a full and comprehensive report. I have placed in the E-Folder of this Standing Committee **my updated work plan** as well as the **highlights of the OSCE PA Web dialogue “From the Arctic to Global: the political role in addressing climate change”**, a document which contains some key conclusions and recommendations for our Assembly and sums up most of my work.

Let me just make three key points:

1. As you know, I continue to give priority in my mandate to looking into the effects of climate change on Arctic societies and on raising awareness on how what happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic. Climate change is a climate *crisis*, and it is directly impacting people’s security. Consequences affecting Arctic societies should ring the alarm for all of us.
2. As Parliamentarians we have some key assets: notably legislative and oversight capacities, and to support and provide long-term strategic political leadership to efforts aimed at building resilient, sustainable and climate-friendly societies. In particular, it is urgent to adapt national legislation to relevant international agreements, mobilize adequate resources, engage youth and work cooperatively with all stakeholders de-politicizing the topic, and consider joint responses to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change together.

3. Taking into account all of the above, I call on the PA leadership to explore ways to develop a more structured portfolio on the work on climate within our Assembly. It is clear that there is an added value we can play on this as Parliamentarians, and we should make use of it.

Thank you!

ANNEXES:

- Work Plan
- Highlights of the OSCE PA Web Dialogue “*From the Arctic to Global: the political role in addressing climate change*”