



The President

To: Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Re.: **Facing the Migrant and Refugee Crisis**

Copenhagen, 20 October 2015

Dear colleagues,

As we had the opportunity to discuss in Ulaanbaatar during our Autumn Meeting, the migrant and refugee crisis is one of the main challenges we face nowadays in the OSCE. The rising number of refugees and migrants coming to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea and Southeast Europe presents the greatest humanitarian challenge we have faced in decades. The OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, given their broad membership, can contribute to finding a coordinated response to this crisis.

The Bureau of the OSCE PA will be meeting in Belgrade on 2 December prior to the opening of the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting. It is my intention to devote the Meeting of the Bureau in Belgrade to discussion of the migrant and refugee Crisis and offer some concrete proposals to the Ministerial Council during my address to the Foreign Ministers at the opening of the meeting of the Council on 3 December.

As you know from the letter of Chairperson Isabel Santos the Assembly's General Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Humanitarian Questions is considering the issue as one of its key priorities for the upcoming year and is currently working on a comprehensive action-oriented policy plan which may also be presented at the Belgrade Bureau.

Following the Bureau and Ministerial Council Meetings I will inform you of the outcome. I hope that at the time of our next Winter Meeting in Vienna in February 2016 we can have a debate on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ilkka Kanerva'. Below the signature, the name 'Ilkka KANERVA' is printed in a bold, sans-serif font.

Ilkka KANERVA

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