

The President

To: Members of the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

11 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

After meeting yesterday, the Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted several important decisions related to the 2021 Remote Session in accordance with the *Provisional Rules for Emergency Situations / Online Meetings During the Current COVID-19 Pandemic* adopted by the Standing Committee last February.

First, the Bureau decided that our remote session will take place in a hybrid format. The Three General Committees will meet fully online on 30 June, and 1 and 2 July, while a meeting of the Standing Committee and a Plenary Session will be held on 5 and 6 July with the physical presence in Vienna strictly limited to **Heads of Delegation**, **Members of the Bureau**, and **Special Representatives**. All other Members are to participate online via ZOOM.

Please note already that Members travelling to Vienna will be subject to entry regulations as set by the Austrian authorities. Physical presence in the Hofburg will also be subject to a strict limit set by the OSCE Chairmanship and OSCE Conference Services.

Second, and in accordance with Rule 4-5 of our Rules of Procedure, the Bureau also validated the list of candidates for election to the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the Assembly. The list of validated candidatures is hereby attached, along with information regarding candidates for election as Officers of the three General Committees.

For positions which are not contested, the election will take place by acclamation. For contested positions, the elections will take place electronically over a 30-hour period starting on Monday 5 July at 10:00 (CEST) and closing at 16:00 (CEST) on Tuesday 6 July.

The International Secretariat will soon circulate detailed information on the organization of our remote Annual Session and the conduct of elections.

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I thank you for your continued co-operation and commitment to the OSCE PA in these challenging times, and I look forward to your participation in our upcoming annual meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lord Bowness