



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE PRESIDENT  
LE PRÉSIDENT

## To all NATO PA members

11 December, 2024

Dear colleague,

It is an honour and privilege to have been elected as the Assembly's President at our session in Montréal. I want to thank you for your trust.

At this critical time, our Assembly must play its full part in helping shape NATO's response to an increasingly dangerous and competitive security environment which will test our unity, solidarity and determination. The **Assembly's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, which we will celebrate throughout 2025, will offer a timely opportunity to highlight the relevance and importance of our work as well as to pursue our priorities with renewed resolve.

First, I am determined to pursue President Connolly's efforts to **reaffirm NATO's democratic foundations** and to press for the creation of a Centre for Democratic Resilience at NATO Headquarters. Because democracy is the best guarantee for peace. I made this clear in my first meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte earlier this month in Brussels.

Second, we must continue to **bolster the unique bond between Europe and North America**. To do this, **we Europeans need to step up**. The only way to do this is by strengthening Europe's contribution to transatlantic security and by strengthening our industrial capacity. Because there is no peace without strong and credible defence and deterrence and no strong and credible defence and deterrence without strong and credible capabilities. As parliamentarians, we must support this effort. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly has a long-standing partnership with the European Parliament, which we are currently expanding as part of our partnership reform. But we need to go further. That is why I would like to propose that the European Parliament and the NATO PA work together on a new mechanism to monitor and evaluate the development of NATO-EU cooperation – in full complementarity.

Third, we need to **help Ukraine win**. This war is the existential struggle of our generation, and we cannot allow the Russian dictator to prevail – otherwise we will be faced with catastrophic consequences. As elected representatives of our people, we have a crucial role in pushing back against the creeping 'Ukraine fatigue' and urging our governments to increase and accelerate the support to Ukraine, including by advancing Ukraine's path to NATO membership. I count on your continued leadership on this fundamental priority.

Lastly, our Assembly invests extensively in the parliamentary track of engagement with NATO partners. Strong as our Alliance is, when faced with threats of such magnitude, we must continue **expanding the network of friends both in our direct neighbourhood and far beyond**. In particular, we need to forge a dialogue with major non-aligned democracies, such as India and Brazil. This is a vital prerequisite for an effective 360-degree approach to security. I therefore intend to explore the possibility of presidential visits to at least some major democracies outside the Euro-Atlantic area.

Thank you again for your commitment to our great Assembly. I look forward to working with you to ensure our voice is heard on all our key priorities.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish that we can all find, in the time spent with our loved ones, even greater determination to work towards strengthening our unique transatlantic alliance and furthering peace, security, democracy, prosperity and partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos Perestrello de Vasconcellos  
President

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