



STORTINGET

# Candidacy for OSCE PA President Ms. Kari Henriksen, MP

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PA AND MEMBER OF THE  
NORWEGIAN DELEGATION





**DEAR COLLEAGUE,**

In the upcoming election at the Annual Session in July 2021, I will ask for your trust to be elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA).

As elected MPs, we have a shared responsibility to bring the principles that the OSCE stands for into action, as outlined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the Paris Charter of 1990.

By our common efforts in the OSCE PA, by initiating political debate in our national parliaments and with our governments, and through parliamentary diplomacy, the OSCE PA can contribute to anchoring and implementing OSCE commitments. As a regional security organization, the OSCE has an important role to play for people living in the OSCE area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok.



### AS PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PA, I WILL

- Work for the continued relevance and important contribution of the OSCE PA.
- Strengthen the formal decision-making organs of the OSCE PA.
- Reach out to the members of the Assembly and be responsive.
- Emphasize dialogue and build trust between OSCE PA participating states, and between the President and heads of delegations.
- Enhance the important role of the Vice-Presidents and the Bureau.
- Focus on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the OSCE PA.

### I AM COMMITTED TO

- **The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.** The political-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension are equally important to ensure security for all citizens of our region. I am committed to a thematic approach to issues, dialogue based on respect, and sharing best practices.
- **The practical work in the field, which makes the OSCE unique.** Field operations assist states in implementing commitments and contribute to early warning and conflict prevention, as well as managing crises. They also play a critical post-conflict role.
- **Peaceful conflict resolution.** This must remain at the top of our agenda. The OSCE PA has a key role in helping resolve conflicts by nurturing dialogue through parliamentary channels. Increasing the meaningful inclusion of women in all phases of the conflict cycle will make peace processes more sustainable.
- **Mitigating the economic and environmental factors that can pose a threat to security and stability.** In the current pandemic, the severe economic consequences have widened differences between people and countries. The security implications of climate change are vital to all generations.
- **The Paris Charter.** Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are essential to build, consolidate and strengthen security. For me, four areas are particularly important: confidence, inclusion, protection and legislation. The work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is of key importance.
- **The OSCE PA election observation missions.** These missions, carried out in cooperation with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), are critical to all participating states, and must continue, despite the pandemic.



## MY BACKGROUND

I have been a Member of the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) since 2009, and engaged in the OSCE PA as a member of the delegation since 2013.

I have gained broad knowledge of the assembly during my tenure as Vice-President in the OSCE PA Bureau (since 2018), and on several election observation missions. As Head of the OSCE PA delegation of observers to the US election in 2020, I experienced the important contribution we perform. I served as Head of the OSCE PA delegation to the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan and Moldova in 2019. I have also been a member of recent OSCE PA election observation missions to Montenegro, Belarus, Georgia, and Russia.

In the Storting and in the Labour Party, I have taken on several positions. I have been Chief Whip since 2013, and served as interim Vice President of the Storting. I have served on the Election Committee, the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs and the Standing Committee on Justice.

I also have government experience as a state secretary ('deputy minister') in the Ministry of Health and Care Services (2007- 2009). The government coalition consisted of three parties.

As a politician, I seek compromise and look for common ground. I am an enthusiastic dialogue partner, and have the capacity to work hard in all I do. Courage, dedication, and openness are always at the heart of my work.

I am a nurse by profession, and have worked extensively in the fields of drug addiction, psychotherapy, and children's rights. I live with my husband in the city of Kristiansand, where my children and grandchildren also reside.

In my spare time I love reading and knitting. I also spend time by the sea with family and friends or walking in the woods. Some of my first inspirations were biographies about Florence Nightingale and Madame Curie. Biographies about individuals like M. Luther King and N. Mandela aroused my interest in politics. Henrik Ibsen, Märta Tikkanen, Karl Ove Knausgård, Elena Ferrante and Fyodor Dostoevsky are among my favourite authors.

## THIS IS WHY

I seek your support in the forthcoming election of OSCE PA President. I look forward to working closely with you to strengthen the role of the OSCE PA and to bring the principles that the OSCE stands for into action.

Yours sincerely,  
Kari Henriksen

## SUPPORT



“Norwegian parliamentarians are active in the OSCE, and MP Kari Henriksen has for many years been one of the most engaged Norwegian members of the Parliamentary Assembly. She has participated in many OSCE PA election observation missions, among them in Uzbekistan, Georgia, Montenegro and the USA. Through her initiatives to raise the OSCE core principles in the Norwegian parliament, she has raised the profile of the OSCE in the political debate in

Norway. I give my full support to Kari Henriksen’s candidature to become President of the OSCE Parliamentarian Assembly.”

Ms. Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, (Conservative Party), Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. Photo: Asgeir Spange Brekke, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



“Several times, Kari Henriksen has raised OSCE-related issues in Parliament, and she has a strong commitment to transforming the principles that the OSCE PA stands for into concrete political action. I am sure that she can make a difference to the OSCE PA’s role in resolving conflicts and build trust through dialogue among parliamentarians.”

Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, (Norwegian Labour Party), Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence in the Storting, Norway. Photo: Storting



“As a fellow delegation member, I’ve seen Kari Henriksen as an active member of the Norwegian OSCE PA delegation since 2013. Her contribution to several OSCE PA election observation missions has been instrumental. As Minister for Equality, I fully support her initiatives to include women in all phases of conflict prevention and resolution”.

Mr. Abid Q. Raja, (Venstre -Liberal Party of Norway), Minister of Culture and Equality, Norway. Photo: Storting



“I have known Kari Henriksen since we were both elected to Parliament in 2009. Before entering politics, Kari had a long and distinguished career in the health care sector, culminating in 2007–2009 as a state secretary (‘deputy minister’) in the Ministry of Health and Care Services.

In parliament, Kari has been the chief whip of the Labour Party since 2013. Kari has raised OSCE-related issues in Parliament on several occasions. I am confident in her commitment and ability to transform the principles and mission of the OSCE PA into concrete action. Kari has a long record of building trust and bridging differences, critical skills for the leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.”

Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, MP, leader of the Norwegian Labour Party and leader of the Labour Party Parliamentary Group in the Storting, Norway. Photo: Storting



#### YOU MAY CONTACT ME HERE:

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#### PHOTOS

Front Page: Kari Henriksen chairs session one of Autumn Meeting, Bishkek, 4 October 2018. Photo: OSCE PA

Page 3: Kari Henriksen in her office in the Norwegian Parliament. Photo: Storting

Page 4: Kari Henriksen and Tor Wennesland (United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) participate in a debate in Kristiansand about the OSCE and the Middle East in February 2020. Photo: Frida Neverdal


Page 6: Kari Henriksen stands next to a ballot drop box in Ingham County, Michigan, October 2020. Photo: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Page 7: Kari Henriksen speaks to a reporter at a Chisinau polling station, 24 February 2019 during the Moldova Election Observation Mission. Photo: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Page 10: Kari Henriksen on a boat trip in the Kristiansand area with one of her grandchildren. Photo: Helge Eg Johansen

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