



Vienna, 3 July 2019

Dear Member of the IOI,

Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce myself following my appointment as one of the three new members of the Austrian Ombudsman Board and in particular as new Secretary General of the IOI.

Before starting this exciting mission at the IOI, I have been a member of the Austrian Parliament for many years. In addition to my international academic background, I gained extensive professional experience in a global environment.

Since 2018, I am one of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) dealing with human rights violations, observing elections and giving recommendations on laws and treaties. In this function, I could already take a stand for civil liberties, political rights and the rights of elderly among others. Furthermore, I have been speaker for the Austrian People's Party for Human Rights, Development Policy and Youth during six years. Thanks to this experience, I could gain deep knowledge on human rights issues, which I consider as crucial to build and protect a healthy democracy.

It remains for me to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Günther Kräuter, who did a remarkable job in advancing the institute to what it is today. I am glad I will be able to consult him - in particular at the outset of my mandate - to ensure a smooth transition at the IOI Secretariat in Vienna.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you soon and to our fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Werner Amon