Council of Europe The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 19 October 2023

Dear Minister,

I am writing to warmly congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs and to wish you a very successful term in office.

The 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, which Iceland hosted in May, was a significant milestone in the history of our Organisation. The Council of Europe deeply values Iceland's remarkable efforts, which made this Summit a resounding success, as well as the responsible and decisive leadership displayed by your country throughout its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

At a time when we are confronted with the ongoing war in Ukraine, democratic backsliding and other complex challenges, unity around our European values remains a cornerstone for ensuring effective multilateral responses. I am confident that during your mandate co-operation between Iceland and the Council of Europe will continue to remain exemplary as we strive to deliver on the ambitious course of action set out by the Reykjavík Declaration, and I very much look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Marija Pejčinović Burić

Mr Bjarni Benediktsson Minister for Foreign Affairs Iceland

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