

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 13 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

As a founding member of the Council of Europe, the United Kingdom has played a consistent and leading role in upholding and reinforcing the values and principles that underpin our work. Today, as our Organisation approaches its 75th anniversary, in very challenging times for our continent, we all remember that it was Sir Winston Churchill who first spoke about a Council of Europe and outlined the vision behind it. We also recall that it was in London that our founding Statute was signed on 5 May 1949.

This year, in Reykjavík, the Council of Europe's Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government not only fostered a renewed sense of unity, but also agreed an ambitious course of action, not least in supporting our member state Ukraine and ensuring that the Russian Federation is held accountable for its crimes in that country.

The active support of our member states remains crucial and I am confident that we can continue to rely on the United Kingdom as we pursue our shared objectives.

I wish you every success in your important duties and look forward to working together in addressing Europe's common challenges.

Yours sincerely,



Marija Pejčinović Burić

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