

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 10 July 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

I would like to congratulate on your appointment as Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

You assume your duties at a time when Europe is faced with unprecedented challenges, and strong unity, leadership, and multilateral co-operation are needed to ensure the protection of our common values and freedoms. As one of the Council of Europe's founding members, the United Kingdom has played a key role in upholding and promoting them since the beginning.

This year's 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe was a stocktaking moment, reminding us of Sir Winston Churchill and all the founding fathers of the European architecture, and of their inspiring leadership. In line with their vision, last year the Council of Europe's Summit in Reykjavik fostered a renewed sense of unity and also opened an ambitious course of future actions.

I am convinced that in the coming months and years, the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Council of Europe will continue to grow stronger, not least by the support provided to Ukraine in face of the ongoing Russian aggression.

I look forward to attending the European Political Community Summit to be held in the United Kingdom later this month and to meeting you there.

I wish you every success in your new functions.

Yours sincerely,



Marija Pejčinović Burić

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