MINISTRY FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY,
WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, POLITICAL AFFAIRS,
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

President,

Director-General,

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as President of this Assembly.

The Republic of San Marino has been seriously hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, here the Covid-19 vaccination campaign started much later than in other EU Member States.

The agreements signed with the Italian Republic and the European Commission on supply for Covid-19 vaccines have suffered serious delay due to the well-known complications in the supply of vaccines by the manufacturers. It was not until 1st March that we were able to start mass vaccination, mainly thanks to the supply of Sputnik vaccine whose effectiveness is close to 100%.

Thanks to this San Marino is now a country with no curfew, no Covid admissions to hospital, and encouraging signs of a gradual return to pre-pandemic conditions.

Now we can finally breathe a sigh of relief and prepare for the tourist season but there are always new critical issues lying in wait. These include the so-called vaccination passport.

President,

The Government of San Marino supports the view that this travel document should not be related to the type of vaccine administered but to the immunization of the person, whether or not he or she has developed antibodies to the virus.

In our view, this is the only criterion, which can guarantee that economic and geopolitical issues do not take precedence over scientific and health issues when it comes to vaccines and free movement of persons.

With a view to protecting public health, San Marino expresses the hope that the WHO will make collective efforts to ensure that the presence of antibodies, whatever vaccine has caused it (and obviously also present due to recovery from contagion), is the decisive criterion for the movement of persons.

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In conclusion, while expressing this wish and hoping that many countries will share this position, I wish to renew my thanks for the fundamental and tireless work of the WHO and WHO Europe.

Thank you.

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