

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 37-39, 2017*

During these weeks, although delegations were temporarily based in Warsaw in order to participate in the Human Dimension Meeting, the PC and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) met. Also, a number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have held meetings. Tim Knoblaug, Leah Nodvin and I assisted the Election Observation in Germany. Our office also saw three different visits from senior OSCE PA Officers: President Emeritus Kanerva in his capacity as Special Representative on Mediation, Senator Allizard as new Special Representative on the Mediterranean, and OSCE PA Secretary General Montella. The News from Copenhagen has reported about all three visits, which had comprehensive programs with high numbers of relevant interlocutors from the PC and the OSCE executive structures. Finally, PA President Muttonen addressed a meeting of the "Parliamentarians for Peace" at the UN.

The PC did not take any decisions. In addition to the long regular meeting with reports from OSCE actors in Ukraine and the subsequent usual discussion, the PC held a special meeting on violent extremism and radicalization that lead to Terrorism, in the presence of the Chairman-in-Office. His Special Representative Neumann presented his report, which was met with significant criticism by some Permanent Representatives. I delivered a statement related to the PA's new counter-terrorism committee.

During the regular PC, there was a remarkable controversy between several EU countries and Ukraine about new Ukrainian legislation affecting national minorities in the country. The other issue a little bit out of the ordinary was brought up by Spain and dealt with the planned referendum in the Spanish Province of Catalonia.

The FSC devoted one of its meetings to the role of parliaments in the security sector, in line with the Serbian FSC Chairmanship's priorities. I made a statement on the positions and the activities of the PA in that regard, congratulating the Chair for making the topic one of its three priorities, as well as reiterating the PA's support for the Code of Conduct.

I also hosted a working luncheon with the three recently arrived ambassadors from Serbia, Sweden and the EU, introducing them to the work of the PA. All of them pledged to be ready for close cooperation with the Assembly.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
September 29, 2017