

Heads of OSCE PA Delegations
Members of the OSCE PA Bureau
Officers of the General Committees

June 16, 2005

Dear Mr. / Mrs.,

Following the familiarization with the agenda and draft resolutions of the OSCE PA annual session to be held in Washington on 1-5 July 2005, I can confirm with satisfaction that interesting and important discussions are ahead at the session.

However the draft resolution on Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict submitted by the Azeri parliamentarian Sattar Safarov has aroused serious concerns. It is obvious that the coming into being of such a document prior to the presentation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the report by Mr. Göran Lennmarker, special representative of the OSCE PA President, aims at distracting the Assembly from the discussion of Mr. Lennmarker's report and drafting a resolution based on it.

At the recent meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations to the OSCE PA held in Brussels at Mr. Lennmarker's invitation, an agreement was reached with respect to discussions to be held only following the presentation of the report by the Special Representative.

For these reasons, as well as given the fact that the Washington session is a jubilee and being dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki process, is called to strengthen the mutual trust between the OSCE participating states, the Armenian delegation refrained from any interference. Unfortunately the same cannot be said about the Azeri parliamentarians. The biased, one-sided draft resolution prepared by Mr. Sattarov presents a completely distorted picture of the situation, which has nothing to do with the reality and the provisions set forth in Mr. Lennmarker's report.

I believe that the rules of the political ethics peculiar to our organization require that only a resolution drafted by an impartial approach might be in the basis for the discussion of arguable points.

I am deeply convinced that the OSCE PA should in the first place discuss Mr. Lennmarker's report, and only following it, undertake the drafting of the resolution. In this case haste might be dangerous. This, in particular, is important to realize now when the meetings between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and foreign ministers held on the initiative of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs seem to give a new breath to the process of the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and any indiscreet step, statement or one-sided resolution might seriously obstruct the peaceful negotiations.

I am hopeful that your high reputation will enable to delay the inclusion of any resolution on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh in the agenda in the OSCE PA Standing Committee before the discussion of Mr. Lennmarker's report. This will enable to approve a more balanced and substantiated resolution in the near future.

Sincerely yours,



Vahan Hovhannesian
Head of the Armenian delegation