

Special Representative

OSCE's parlamentariske Forsamling
OSCE alm. del - Bilag 7
Offentligt

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 42, 2005

This week, meetings of the PC, the PrepCom, the Advisory Committee for Management and Finance and the Working Group on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the OSCE (Reform Group), took place. I also participated in a two-day seminar, organized by the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe, on refugees and internally displaced persons in the region, which took place in Skopje, FYRoM.

The Permanent Council approved the timetable and modalities for the upcoming Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana. A central point in the Permanent Council discussions was the report by the Director of ODIHR on the recent Human Dimension Implementation Seminar (HDIM) in Warsaw. While this debate appeared to be the usual routine, some delegations made references to the discussion about "Copenhagen Plus" that have started because of Russia's insistence on overhauling the current election monitoring procedures. For this purpose, ODIHR has put out an "Explanatory Note", which has received support from all sides. It reaffirms the Copenhagen Principles, calling on the Participating States to do the same, and proposes additional commitments to enhance transparency, accountability and public confidence in the electoral process. Russia once more suggested to have a much shorter HDIM, and to eventually transfer the seminar and ODIHR to Vienna. Under Current Issues, the usual debates about the upcoming elections in Azerbaijan, and on Moldova (this time raised by Russia) took place.

This week's Reform group Meeting was a drafting session, which discussed two papers, "Elements for a Draft Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE" and one on "Improvement of the Consultative and Decision-making Process" (mainly on the issue of establishing a committee structure with three committees corresponding to the three dimensions). The first paper is based on the recommendations by the Panel of Eminent Persons. In paragraph 10 of its preambular part, it contains a reference to recommendations contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons "and in other contributions". I had requested the Chairmanship to enhance this reference, which of course is mainly meant to hint at the Colloquium's recommendations, by making an explicit reference to the Parliamentary Assembly. I was told that this was compromise language, because other papers and recommendations had come out, and they did not want to include all of them. I replied that the Parliamentary Assembly was not just any other contributor, but an institution of the OSCE and its parliamentary dimension. In the meeting, the Chairmanship and Belgium (incoming chairmanship) said that "other contributions" mainly meant the Parliamentary Assembly, but also other documents. Other delegations opposed any specific reference, saying that mentioning one would open a flood-gate for other documents that its authors wanted to be mentioned. I wrote letters to the delegations that opposed an explicit reference, requesting a change in their delegation's position. Whether this will be the case, remains to be seen.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
October 25,