

**Special Representative**

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

*Permanent Council Brief Week 23, 2009*

During the past weeks, parts of which I participated in the visit of President Soares to several countries in South East Europe as well as in the regional Heads of Missions meeting for that region, the Permanent Council held four meetings, in which it took one decision, namely on the agenda and the organizational modalities of this year's Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), which will be held June 23/24, 2009. The delegations also participated in this year's second part of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Athens, and several heads of delegations undertook a field visit to the missions in the three Central Asian countries that border Afghanistan.

Much attention focused on the preparations for the Informal Ministerial Council in Corfu on June 27/28, 2009, which will be devoted to a continuation of the discussions about proposals for the future of European security and the role of the OSCE, as outlined in the Chairmanships "food for thought" paper of April 8, 2009. The event will be preceded by the NATO-Russia-Council taking place in the same location. After some discussions, PA President Soares has also been invited to attend to the informal MC. On June 19, 2009, an informal preparatory meeting for the Corfu Ministerial will take place in Vienna.

All discussions are in one way or another linked to the future of OSCE activities in Georgia. However, an address by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Gregory Karasin to the PC did not contribute to a rapprochement of the positions. On the contrary, the atmosphere seems to progressively get more confrontational, at least when it comes to this issue.

Starting with the presentation of the Program Outline 2010 in the PC – a document that should serve as a political guideline for Fund Managers in preparing the draft Unified Budget for 2010 – a round of discussions is taking place in the PrepCom. In this context, the U.S. delegation called for a stronger prioritization. They asked each delegation to produce a list of 30 priority programs. This would then bring about a list of priorities which could lead to a sorting out of projects that have received lesser support. Canada also asked delegations to identify areas of highest and lowest priority. Other delegations said that it was impossible to make such a prioritization.

In the EE Forum in Athens, many delegations objected to an extension of OSCE activities in the second dimension, especially those addressing migration, urging the OSCE to concentrate on its core issues. Due to objections from a number of delegations, the PC also put an end to attempts to formalize the relationship between the OSCE and the Alliance of Civilizations.

Several delegations criticized the limitations that Kyrgyzstan had issued when inviting the OSCE to observe the upcoming parliamentary elections (150 Observers each for the PA and the ODIHR, of who up to 30% can be Long Term Observers).

The Greek Chairmanship will hold an informal conference on Energy Security in Bratislava, Slovakia, on July 6 and 7, 2009.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
June 5, 2009