

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### **Permanent Council Brief Week 38, 2009**

During this week, a two-day Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons "Prevention of Modern Slavery: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure", as well as meetings of the PC, the FSC, a joint meeting of both, a meeting of the informal ambassadorial group on the Corfu Process, and of several committees/working groups, took place. Marc Carillet participated in this year's annual ACMF visit.

The Anti-Trafficking Conference gave a good opportunity to outline what the PA has done on the issue. We distributed a paper, and Roberto Montella delivered a statement on our behalf. In the PC meeting, several delegations, on the occasion of the presentation of ODIHR's Final Report on the elections in Albania, gave a very positive assessment of the PA/ODIHR cooperation. Apart from that, the PC debated a report by the Conflict Prevention Center about the OSCE's border management projects in Central Asia.

The meeting on the Corfu process this time entered more deeply into the essence of the controversies that divide the Participating States. While there is still a group of countries that believes that all problems will be solved by NATO expansion and EU integration and sees a problem only in the attitude of some countries that do not sufficiently implement commitments, another group of countries seems to be gaining strength which, while not sharing the concerns expressed for instance by Russia, take these seriously and offer to start an in-depth effort to come to an agreement on perceptions. Also, Russia's statement was very elaborate and constructive, and Georgia's statement refrained from strong rhetoric, too. All this created a much better atmosphere than before, and it also sounded more promising than the meeting in the previous week. On a side note: One point in the Georgian statement that needs to be mentioned is that it called for the introduction of a modified consensus principle, which of course is an often repeated PA position. However, this was immediately rejected by Russia.

Greece has announced October 30/31 as the days of the next Ambassadorial Retreat on the Corfu Process. So far, I am unaware whether the PA will be invited this time. Ukraine has invited the OSCE to observe its elections in January 2010.

On the issue of the legal status of the OSCE, which is in some ways linked to the debate on the Corfu Process, no progress could be recorded, except for two different proposals put forward by the Netherlands and by Russia to create working groups.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
September 18, 2009