

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Weeks 20-22, 2010*

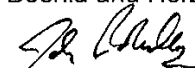
During these two weeks, while no decisions were taken, further discussions on the issues dealt with in the Corfu Process took place, in informal meetings at ambassadorial level as well as in working groups of the three PC committees, without any notable progress. In addition to the meetings of the Permanent Council, Joint PC/FSC meetings also took place. Other meetings included meetings of the FSC and the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) as well as of other committees. The PrepCom is currently holding its intensive discussions on the 2011 Program Outline, a sort of a pre-budget (without financial figures) meant to give guidelines to the Fund Managers who are drafting the Draft Unified Budget for 2011. PA Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier addressed a meeting of the Economic Committee on the migration issue.

The PC saw an interesting debate following the address by Amb. Heidi Tagliavini. Although the agenda item was not labeled as such, it was mainly about Tagliavini's (EU) report of the war in Georgia. Tagliavini summarized the events by stating that Georgia started the war without justification and that arms deliveries were also to blame, much to the liking of the Russian delegation, in spite of her critical remarks about Russian actions before, during and after the war. A second debate was once again devoted to the recent events in Kyrgyzstan. I made a statement on the recent visit by a PA delegation led by President Soares to the country, which had already been referred to by the Head of the Office, who also made proposals on a further involvement of the PA. A week earlier, French Minister of State Pierre Lellouche (former NATO PA President) addressed the PC on a wide range of OSCE issues. In his concluding remarks he said that the problems and differences that he had detected in the statements of the ambassadors were small in comparison to the real challenges, in particular the world economic crisis.

Following the interception of boats that were attempting to break through the Israeli blockade of Gaza, the Mediterranean Partners and others have been pushing for an OSCE statement on the events. In this context, some diplomats expect this to be debated during the upcoming Annual Session. Israel, in the joint meeting of the PC/FSC, while regretting the loss of lives and wishing for full recovery of the wounded, saw "the first and foremost responsibility to the unfortunate results ... with the organizers of the flotilla whose aim was to create a provocation and not just to deliver humanitarian aid." Egypt, on the other hand, said that "this aggression constitutes yet another case of reprehensible use of military force by the State of Israel against civilians, and testifies to Israel's repeated and blatant disregard for the norms of international law and of respectable behavior." Egypt also regretted that "reactions by a number of other governments around the world have been muted and have fallen short of unambiguously condemning an act that would have drawn severe outrage and the strongest possible condemnation had it been perpetrated anywhere else in the world."

The Corfu discussions have not yet given a clear indication of what will be the content of the Interim Report to the Ministers during the July Informal Ministerial Council Meeting in Almaty. In light of the many papers that have been put forward, there is a real danger that it will not be possible to extract sufficient non-controversial substance from these papers to produce a substantive paper.

Bosnia and Herzegovina invited to observe its October 3 general elections.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador, June 8, 2010