

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 9/10, 2012*

During the two weeks since the PA Winter Meeting there were meetings of the PC, the FSC, the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Cooperation, several committees and a number of informal meetings. In addition, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) took place. Roberto Montella participated in the observation of the Russian presidential elections.

The AIAM, which is the FSC's most important annual event on military matters, faced the same problems as last year: there were very few or virtually no statements or other oral contributions from participants. In addition, this year, the unresolved issue of Russia currently not applying the revised Vienna Document (I reported in PC Brief 2/3 this year) continues to impact the OSCE's system of confidence and security building measures. While Russia argues it is exclusively a technical problem resulting from necessary bureaucratic procedures which need to be finalized, Western diplomats suspect other motives. There is speculation that everything was put on hold before the presidential elections in order to give the new President an opportunity to make a complete review of Russia's commitments in the areas of arms control, arms reduction and confidence building measures.

The PC approved the final recalculation of last year's OSCE budget and extended the term of the current external auditor (the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine) for another year. It also approved a training program: "Afghanistan Capacity-Building: Strengthening the Diplomatic Service". The last PC took place on International Women Day. The Speaker of the Austrian Parliament and head of the Austrian OSCE PA delegation, Barbara Prammer, addressed the PC on gender issues. Under Current Issues the delegations also addressed – among other points – the Preliminary Statement on the Russian presidential elections. I made two short statements replying to each.

The OSCE Secretary General has decided to appoint the current ambassador of Slovakia as the new director of his office. This is the second active ambassador within the last few months to take over a post in the Secretariat.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
March 12, 2012