

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 3, 2013

This was the traditional opening week of the new OSCE Chairmanship, combined with the two-day Annual Meeting of Heads of Institutions and field operations. The PA was represented by SG Spencer Oliver, DSG Tina Schøn and Program Director Anna Chernova, in addition the staff of the Vienna Office. They participated in all meetings taking place in this context, including in the regional working groups on Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and South East Europe. SG Oliver and I hosted a reception marking the tenth anniversary of the Vienna Office attended by Vice President Wolfgang Grossruck, most Permanent Representatives (ambassadors) of the participating States, and OSCE SG Amb. Lamberto Zannier as well as several staff of the International Secretariat.

The new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, outlined his priorities for the year, followed by comments from participating States. The priorities entitled "Promoting trust and confidence within the OSCE area - Pursuing the Helsinki + 40 process" are laid out in a seven page document. As to be expected, they are a balanced list of what is feasible in an organization that works on the lowest common denominator. All hope is invested in the Helsinki+40 Process. This focus combined with the EU's one-sided praise of the ODIHR's election observation (while failing to mention the PA in this context) prompted me to deliver a brief statement in which I also replied to the most frequently asked questions I receive in background discussions.

The core sentences of my statement were: "We stand ready to make our contribution to the work of the Helsinki +40 Working Group. For that purpose, the OSCE PA has mandated a committee to prepare our input into the process. We will also continue to help the OSCE achieve greater effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and visibility. According to all democratic constitutions, members of parliament have been democratically mandated by our citizens to exercise oversight over any activity of the executive branch of government. We will continue our successful, independent, non-partisan, fact-based and future-oriented election observation activities which increase the legitimacy and visibility of the OSCE's work in this field. All in all, you will find us to be firm supporters for every effort aimed at strengthening the implementation of our common commitments in all three dimensions."



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
January 22, 2013