

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 7, 2013*

This week, meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), of the Human Dimension Committee (HDC) and several informal meetings took place. The OSCE Internet 2013 Conference "Shaping policies to advance Media freedom" was attended by four members/alternate members of the OSCE PA as well as by the staff from the Liaison Office.

Though largely being a routine PC, during the debate of "Current Issues" the atmosphere was nevertheless quite tense. Belarus reacted sharply to allegations of human rights violations in the country, and Azerbaijan issued what it called a "third warning", asking the OSCE Chairmanship to ensure that the mission in Baku refrains from what Azerbaijan terms activities that go beyond its mandate. Azerbaijan underlined that it found assistance by the mission to be very useful, but that it should not be allowed to act like a human rights monitoring NGO. I briefed the PC about the upcoming Winter Session.

The FSC held an interesting debate about the future of conventional arms control. Many – especially Western - delegations had problems accepting the assessment by the Director of the German "CORE - Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik" Wolfgang Zellner who said: "The whole European arms control regime has been seriously eroded over the last couple of years. With the original CFE treaty suspended by Russia in 2007, no prospects for the ratification of ACFE, and the consultations 'at 36' having failed, the CFE Treaty is definitively dead. The Vienna Document is functioning, but progress on its modernization and adaptation to changed circumstances has so far been quite limited. And finally, the functioning of the Open Skies Treaty is impeded by a dispute between two states on the admission of a third one." I used the opportunity to refer to the PA's recommendations concerning Arms Control. The next Security Days, organized by the OSCE Secretary General in cooperation with Austria on March 4 in Vienna, will also be devoted to this topic. In addition, there was another meeting of the working group on possible confidence building measures in the cyber space.

At the first meeting of the ambassadorial working group on the Helsinki +40 Process, many ambassadors explained their expectations regarding the envisaged three-year process, with one of the issues discussed being the role of input by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Ukrainian Chairmanship announced that it would invite representatives of the PA to participate in the meetings, and would appreciate written submissions by the OSCE PA on any issues of concern to the Assembly. I referred to the extended mandate of the PA's Committee on Transparency and Accountability and the resolution on Helsinki +40 that had been adopted in Monaco.

A visit by US Ambassador Ian Kelly to the office gave us another opportunity to discuss the activities of the PA.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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