

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 11, 2013

This week, meetings of the PC, the FSC and their subsidiary bodies took place, as well as the Security Day on Afghanistan and the informal ambassadorial working group dealing with the Helsinki+40 Process. Roberto Montella was absent participating in PA President Migliori's visit to Mongolia.

The Security Day consisted of an enormous number of presentations by keynote speakers and experts on the situation in the country. The presentations made clear once more how serious the situation is, especially in light of the fading out of the military engagement by the allies. The meeting also confirmed that the current level of activities might well be the limit of what the OSCE can do, even if more would be desirable.

The PC debated a presentation by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Y. Meshkov along the usual dividing lines. ODIHR Director Amb. Lenarcic delivered his regular report on the activities of the Office. A large part of his written text and of his oral presentation was devoted to the ODIHR's financial difficulties and the lack of readiness by participating States to provide the ODIHR with seconded election observers. He did not mention the issue of ODIHR-PA election observation, while most delegations did refer to it. I used the opportunity to refer to the PA's positions on the OSCE budget, as well as the current discussions in the PA's Transparency Committee. The text of my statement is attached.

Canada replied that they wanted to flag that there is impatience from capitals and parliamentary assembly delegations members, "some of whom are elected, some of whom are not elected, depending on the system of each country", and asked the Chairmanship to get involved to help. Canada added that suggestions to be more transparent vis-a-vis the PA "are not helpful", and that they did not ask this of the PA vis-a-vis the Permanent Council. Secretary General Amb. Zannier also criticized what my statement said about the budgetary procedure, announcing that he would come back to the statement in a later meeting.

Azerbaijan has asked to downgrade the mission in Baku to an Office of Project Coordinator within one week, announcing that failure to comply would have serious consequences for the functioning of the organization.

To a large extent, the discussions in the Helsinki+40 Working Group were a repetition of what was said in the first meeting, with the notable exception of the Russian statement, which clearly expressed dissatisfaction about the perceived dysfunctionality of the OSCE.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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