

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 17, 2013

This week, there were meetings of the PC and the FSC, the Contact Group with the Asian Partners, the committees and other subsidiary bodies, as well as a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) on Freedom of Movement. I accompanied PA President Grossruck on his two-day visit to Kiev (was reported in the News from Copenhagen).

The PC adopted two decisions, one appointing the Federal Court of Auditors (Bundesrechnungshof) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Court of Audit (Tribunal de Cuentas) of Spain to provide external audit services to the OSCE for the periods 2013-2016 and 2016-2019 respectively. The second decision finally approved the OSCE High-Level conference on Combating intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE area to be held in Tirana, Albania on 21-22 May. During the past weeks, the decision was held up by a sharp controversy about the explicit inclusion of issues of discrimination related to gender and sexual orientation into the agenda.

In reply to the report of the PC Chair, which included information about the visit of President Grossruck to Kiev, I thanked the Chairmanship for the extremely successful visit that included talks at the highest level of political representatives of Ukraine and the Chairman-in-Office for accepting the invitation to speak at the Istanbul Session. I also informed the PC that we have been receiving mixed signals from the ODIHR in regards to the ongoing election observation missions in Bulgaria and Albania, some of which are unfortunately disappointing. I asked for the support of the colleagues in order to avoid the obstruction of a successful cooperation. In fact, we see indications that the ODIHR is basing its cooperation during these missions on the previous practices which had led to President Migliori's Dublin decision.

The SDHM was far from well-attended. This led to complaints from Russian representatives. The reason for the low attendance might be that the topic was chosen also because of requests from non-EU participating States to change existing visa regimes in order to facilitate travels from countries east of Vienna to Western countries.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
April 29, 2013