

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 18, 2013

During this week, (May 1 is an official OSCE holiday) there were meetings of the PC, the Security Committee Meeting (on cyber security, security-related gender issues and the preparations for the Annual Security Review Conference - ASRC), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), as well as a Workshop on Sustainable Energy in the Southern Mediterranean. The main event, however, was a two-day Ambassadorial Retreat on the Helsinki+40. Roberto Montella paid a two-day pre-electoral visit to Bulgaria.

The PC heard an address by the Secretary General of the South East European Regional Cooperation Council, former OSCE Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities Goran Svilanović. Beyond praising the work done by the Council to promote regional cooperation and assist its members in their efforts to meet the EU acquis, several EU delegations welcomed that Kosovo has recently become a member of the Council (which is a successor organization to the Stability Pact on South East Europe). At the end of May, PA President Wolfgang Grossruck will address the meeting of the Speakers and Presidents of Parliament of the South East European Cooperation.

Under Any Other Business, I drew the attention of the delegations to the News from Copenhagen report about the PA's pre-electoral visit to Bulgaria and in particular to its description of the current status of PA-ODIHR cooperation there. According to all reports I have been receiving and correspondence that I have seen, the ODIHR continues to insist on the same practices that had led to the Bureau's Dublin decision to cancel the Cooperation Agreement. I have also been informed that not only is there a lack of a positive change in attitude on ODIHR's side, but that it has sent out a number of very negative signals instead.

The discussion at the retreat was as general as many previous discussions during the Corfu Process, the "VtoV-Dialogue" and the first meetings on the Helsinki+40 Process – with one notable difference: The Russian ambassador presented a list of the most burning challenges that need to be addressed, a list most delegations agreed on, but added that the OSCE is not in a position to properly deal with any of them. Several delegates criticized him for this pessimistic approach. I recalled the PA's recommendations for a greater involvement of the PA and its members, referred to the PA's contributions to the reform discussion since 2003 and announced once more that the Annual Session in Istanbul will be devoted to the process.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
May 7, 2013