

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

*PC Brief Week 19/20, 2013*

During these weeks, there were meetings of the PC, the FSC, the ACMF, the committees and other subsidiary bodies, as well as a "Roundtable Meeting on Inter-religious Dialogue in Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief". Roberto Montella, Christian Pauzenberger and I spent a large part of these two weeks on the election observation in Bulgaria; I also participated in the Regional Heads of Missions Meeting in South East Europe in Skopje.

Secretary General Zannier presented the Programme Outline (PO) of the 2014 OSCE Unified Budget to the PC. This PO is meant to give political guidance to the fund managers before they start drafting the budget. It proposes increases in the budgets of the Vienna based Secretariat and the ODIHR in Warsaw by 3% and 12% respectively. The EU, while opposing an overall increase of the OSCE budget in the current economic context, would consider positively diverting resources from the field operations in the Balkans to both institutions. The USA supports additional resources for the ODIHR, particularly for election monitoring, but is opposed to an increase of resources allocated to Vienna. The Russian Federation is opposed to any increase in the ODIHR budget.

In a special meeting, the PC was addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. He complained that the OSCE's peacekeeping mandate is not substantively addressed, and that there was an absence of political will to look into the problems of internally displaced persons. According to the minister, problems impeding progress in protracted conflict resolution formats are kept apart from OSCE conflict cycle related discussions and documents and attempts to reinforce the principles of transparency, state, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and host-nation consent in negotiations on modernizing arms control regimes and CSBMs yield no results. Most delegations underlined the importance of finding a solution for the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, but did not go into the details of the minister's complaints. Instead, they raised issues regarding the human rights situation in the country and the requested downgrade of the mission. Switzerland regretted that Azerbaijan's opposition on some PC decisions is delaying the OSCE's work and preventing consensus in the decision-making process.

The PC finally took an organizational decision on the Human Dimension Seminar "Media Freedom Legal Framework" to be held on 13-15 May. The adoption of the agenda only four days before the event actually took place was heavily criticized by Western states for the burden it put on the organizers. I reported about OSCE-PA Cooperation during the EOM in Bulgaria, which was characterized by a return to the practices that had led to the Bureau's Dublin Decision. The Chairmanship announced that it would pass this on to the ODIHR and ask ODIHR to also report on its experience.

The FSC took a decision on the agenda, timetable and modalities for the second Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. For the first time in months, we were invited back to attend the Secretary General's coordination meeting.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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