

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 21/22, 2013

I was absent from Vienna all of the first week (for the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination and the electoral pre-visit in Tirana, Albania, accompanying Mr. Battelli) and half of the next week (for the Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Ohrid, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, accompanying President Grossruck). On Thursday May 30, the Office arranged and staffed a visit by the Bureau of the Assembly's First Committee to Vienna, and on Sunday June 2 I contributed to a reception by the Prime Minister of Upper Austria for the President. Christian Pauzenberger accompanied the President on a visit to Bratislava, Slovakia. During these two weeks a PC meeting and meetings of the FSC, of several committees, and a substantial number of informal meetings took place, as well as an Inaugural Conference of Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the OSCE Area took place.

The High-Level Conference was attended by a number of Permanent Representatives from Vienna. The News from Copenhagen contains a report about this conference and the opening statement of the PA'S Special Representative on South East Europe, Mr. Battelli. The Bureau of the PA's First Committee attended the meeting of the Permanent Council and had talks with the Chairman of the FSC, and the Chairman of the PC's first committee, the Secretary General, and other relevant officials. The PA website has reported about it.

In the Permanent Council I had to react to a letter from ODIHR Director Lenarcic that the Chairmanship had circulated in Vienna. This letter, as well as other correspondence and the ODIHR practice in the field, demonstrates that the ODIHR continues to interpret the role of the Special Coordinator and of the PA as laid out in the 1997 Cooperation Agreement in a manner incompatible with what the PA has for many years seen as the correct interpretation of that Agreement. These diverging interpretations are listed in the report of the leader of the PA election observers during the EOM in Bulgaria, as well as the practice that resulted from ODIHR's narrow interpretation of the Agreement, challenging the PA's leadership role.

The Informal Working Group on Cyber Security, led by the United States, made significant progress towards drafting a set of CBMs during a two day meeting with capital level experts last week after repeated setbacks over the past year.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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