

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 24, 2013

This week was another routine PC week with meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Cooperation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Security Committee, the Economy and Environment Committee, and other subsidiary bodies, as well as an informal Helsinki+40 Working Group meeting (“Developing strategic approach to the OSCE economic and environmental dimension: the way forward”).

The PC debated three periodic reports (OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE Centre in Astana, OSCE Project Co-ordinator Uzbekistan) and approved – one week before the event! - the Decision on the agenda on organizational modalities of the 2013 Annual Security Review Conference PC.DD/7/13. The compromise was – once more – to refrain from agreeing on a detailed agenda.

Under “Current Issues”, the delegations debated, among other items, the situation in Turkey and legislation in the Russian Federation on “Propaganda non-traditional sexual relations among minors”. Both items revealed once more the deep divide that exists in the perception of value-related developments in the OSCE area, and also in the way in which such issues are addressed. Increasingly, countries “East of Vienna” resort to similar attacks on their “partners” on the other side. This time, they (Belarus and Russia) raised the issue of the “Violation of the right to privacy by the USA” - the PRISM affaire. The EU and its membership remained silent on the issue.

The entire week, the staff of the Liaison Office and I were also analyzing the current situation of the elections in Albania – the seventh election that we are observing in the country -, in cooperation with colleagues in Copenhagen. A briefing book has been prepared and circulated, and evolving issues are closely monitored as a follow-up to our recent pre-assessment visit. Half of the office will move to Tirana tomorrow.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
June 17, 2013