

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 23, 2013

This week was very much a 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) and other subsidiary bodies, as well as informal gatherings.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Edward Nalbandian briefed the PC on the work plan of the Armenian Chairmanship over the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. This report, along with the report by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine and the issues debated under Current Issues, brought no new developments. The Coordinator's mandate was routinely extended until the end of the year.

The PrepCom concluded its consideration of the so-called "Program Outline", which is meant to give political guidelines for the establishment of the draft 2014 Unified Budget later this year. The governmental structures of the OSCE have pointed out that another extension of the zero-nominal growth policy will have to lead to a down-size of OSCE activities. The incoming Chairmanship (Switzerland) will now prepare a perception paper to serve as a basis for further discussions.

It seems that at least one delegation is asking for a new round of candidates for the succession of Knut Vollebaek as High Commissioner on National Minorities, thus blocking the Finnish candidate who had received by far the highest amount of support from delegations. This occurred after an initial round of presentations by all three candidates resulted in little enthusiasm among many delegates.

I had an opportunity to discuss at length the PA's concerns about ODIHR's non-compliance with core elements of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement with the new ambassadors of the EU and of Romania.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
June 10, 2013