

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

July 26, 2013

*PC Brief Week 30, 2013*

This week, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the informal ambassadorial working group on Helsinki+40 and subsidiary bodies took place, as well as an OSCE Conference on Prevention of Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet. Roberto Montella accompanied PA SG Spencer Oliver to a meeting with President Krivokapic in Podgorica, Montenegro.

In these two last meetings before the Summer Recess, the PC adopted decisions on the Theme, Agenda and Modalities for the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum "Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE area", on the agenda of the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), on the extension of the mandate of the Office in Yerevan, on the OSCE Project Coordinator in Baku, as well as on the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2012 and the Report of the External Auditor.

Several delegations welcomed that the PC had been able to find (hard-fought) compromises on these issues. The HDIM will start – as an exception, as the U.S. underlined – with a presentation of the new High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM). This exceptional change to the established practice of beginning the HDIM with freedom of expression and other fundamental freedoms has been justified by the fact that this year the HCNM celebrates its 20th anniversary and that it will be the new Commissioner's first appearance. Several delegations again urged to adopt a standing agenda for future meetings. As for downgrading of the office in Baku to a Project Coordinator, which will take place as of January 1, 2014, the mandate still includes all the three dimensions and contacts with Civil Society.

I made a contribution to the main topic of this week's PC, which was the progress report on the Helsinki+40 discussion, wrapping up the main PA recommendations. Earlier in the week, the ambassadorial working group had continued the discussions that had been held to during the retreat that took place the preceding week. Reacting to a media report that had been circulated in Vienna I also clarified the PA's reasons for not observing the Azerbaijani presidential elections, which, according to the law, are expected to be scheduled in parallel to the PA Autumn Meeting.

The PC also bode farewell to seven ambassadors, bringing the total of ambassadors that will be (relatively) new after the Recess to 19. Since many diplomats below the level of ambassador will also be replaced, the PC will look differently after the break.

The Summer Recess will start on Monday July 29. The first PC meeting after the Recess will take place on September 5, 2013.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador