

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

September 9, 2013

PC Brief Week 36, 2013

During this first week after the Summer Recess meetings of the PC, the Human Dimension Committee as well as some informal meetings took place. Roberto Montella accompanied the PA President to Copenhagen and Warsaw.

The PC had a routine agenda with reports by the Head of the Mission in Kosovo, the Personal Representative of the CiO on Art. 4 of the Dayton Agreement and the Chairs of the three committees. There were no issues raised under Current Issues, and the debate on the reports was short without any surprises. In fact, one of the ambassadors, when talking to me, characterized the PC as "terribly boring". The Slovak ambassador who chairs the second committee suggested, also in a conversation with me, that the PA support her intention to put one focus in the second dimension on the protection of non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from natural and man-made disasters (the first committee deals with the protection against terrorist attacks). This is what is left over from the full issue of Energy Security, which many participating States refuse to discuss in the OSCE. Equally in a private conversation, the Chairman of the third committee told me that he would appreciate an appearance of the Bureau of the PA's third committee in his committee before the Ministerial Council Meeting this year.

The Human Dimension Committee mandated two informal working groups to continue to work on reforming of the Human Dimension events and updating the 2003 Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings. ODIHR presented a report on its election activities. The ODIHR's election department has a budget of 6,5 million Euro (out of which 3,5 million Euros are spent on consultancies) and counts 11 professionals and 5,5 assisting staff. The Long Term observers that are not part of the ODIHR's Core Teams and the Short Term observers are seconded (paid) by participating States. This year, according to the report, it is expected to deploy 17 election observation activities. Marc Carillet from our office made a statement about the PA's most recent and ongoing activities. Last year, the PA deployed 10 missions, on a budget of less than 200.000 Euros.

The PC bade farewell to the US ambassador with whom I had weekly consultations throughout the last years. His successor will arrive next week. After the many changes reported before the recess, there were more than ten new ambassadors this week alone. Such large turnover is always a challenge for continuity, especially regarding the PA-PC relationship.

In the coming weeks, there will be two events outside of Vienna (Economic Forum in Prague and Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw), as well as an ambassadorial trip to South East Europe (on which – according to the ambassador of Norway who organizes it – a PA Representative is not welcome). This means that for some weeks activities in Vienna will remain on a low level. Between now and October 10 there will be only one more regular PC.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador