

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 4, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) (Presentations by the Chairs of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee), the Forum for Security Cooperation, all three thematic committees (Security Committee, Human Dimension Committee, Economic and Environmental Committee), the Advisory Committee for Management and Finance (Presentation on the Enhancement of the Secondment System, Presentation on the OSCE Training Strategy for 2014-2016) and of the Asian Contact Points, as well as other informal gatherings. Marc Carillet, together with the ODIHR, spent most of the week participating in the Needs Assessment Mission for the Hungarian elections.

The PC debated the reports by the Chairs of the second and third committee. All three Chairpersons will brief parliamentarians at our Winter Meeting, a point which has been announced in some of the above mentioned meetings. In addition, the PC debated seven issues under the "Current Issues" agenda item. Apart from a commemoration of Holocaust Day, with an impressive statement from the ambassador of Israel, the most relevant current issue was the events in Ukraine. I briefly referred to the pertinent PA Press releases and presidential statements. I also announced the Winter Meeting, giving some indications about the program of that meeting.

The FSC held its opening session under the new Maltese Chairmanship, which was addressed by the Maltese Foreign Minister Dr. Vella. The Maltese Chairmanship will put a particular emphasis on security issues in and linked to the Southern Mediterranean. The Arab Partner Countries, whose ambassadors were (almost) all present, expressed their satisfaction with this.

There is still no consensus on the 2014 OSCE budget.

The interest in the upcoming Winter Meeting is very high, not only in the context of the cooperation between the committees, but also with reference to the Helsinki+40 Process. I had a number of meetings with ambassadors in preparation for the Winter Meeting, and more will follow next week.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
January 27, 2014