

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

*PC Brief Week 6, 2014*

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), committees and an event called "Hour with the Secretary General". I also had a number of bilateral meetings, in particular with the OSCE Secretary General, the Helsinki+40 Coordinator for reform issues (the Irish Ambassador), and with the OSCE Gender Advisor. Marc Carillet, the PA's Gender Focal Point, spent two days in Warsaw at a workshop on Women's Political Participation.

The PC heard presentations by the Chairman of the PC's First Committee and the Head of the Mission in Kosovo, followed by routine debates. Under "Current Issues", the PC debated the situation along the cease-fire lines between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the situation in Ukraine, including offers by the OSCE to assist with the peaceful resolutions of both cases. The ambassador of Moldova spoke about the situation in his country. I made a statement about the upcoming Winter Meeting.

The most interesting meeting this week was the "Hour with the Secretary General". In this meeting, Amb. Zannier informed the delegations about the exchange of letters he had with me on the status of the OSCE PA as an OSCE institution and the way in which it is listed on the OSCE homepage. He voiced support for my argumentation, which was based on the practice established in the first decade of the OSCE and on a number of key OSCE documents, particularly the Declaration of the Istanbul Summit, which listed the PA first among – what the Heads of States and Governments called – "our institutions". Another issue discussed in the meeting was the continued failure of the Permanent Council to adopt the 2014 OSCE budget.

The deadline for applications for the post of Director of ODIHR (successor to Amb. Lenarcic) expired on Thursday at lunchtime. Despite my request for information from the Chair, I have no official knowledge about the candidates. Informally, however, the list is as follows: Michael Link (Germany), Viktor Makarov (Latvia), Petr Mareš (Czech Republik), Arni Sigurðsson (Iceland). All four of them have had parliamentary experience.

Ambassador Beham, the OSCE Gender Advisor, discussed with me different ideas about how to adequately organize this year's tenth anniversary of the Gender Action Plan. Finally, the Swiss Chairman of the PC praised the OSCE PA for the systematic and comprehensive manner in which it has organized its process of developing a contribution to the Helsinki+40 Process.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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