

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 43/44, 2013

These two weeks included the visit by President Krivokapic, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the ambassadorial working group on Helsinki+40, an Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (attended by Rosa Aknazarova), the Security and the Human Dimension Committee (attended by the Bureau of the PA's Third Committee), meetings of other committees and other informal meetings, as well as a two-day presentation of ODIHR's Review of Electoral Legislation and Practice in the OSCE participating states. I spent the first week on the official visit of the PA's Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including participating in the regional Code of Conduct Seminar on parliamentary oversight of the Armed Forces (the News from Copenhagen reported about the visit and the seminar). Additionally, Marc Carillet attended the OSCE Mediterranean Conference accompanying VP Alain Néri, and Roberto Montella participated in the Election Observation Mission in Georgia.

The PC took two decisions: on the date of the 2013 meeting of the Heads of Verification Centers and on an Election Support Team to Afghanistan. The address by the PA President, as well as the presentations by the PA's Committee Officers, were very well received. 12 Permanent Representatives representing 47 countries replied to the President's statement, which underlined the PA's aspirations for a stronger role in OSCE decision-making. Only one delegation, Canada, disputed this by stating that sufficient oversight was exercised by the governments, internal controls of the Secretariat and the diplomats. All delegations expressed their satisfaction with the positive PA-ODIHR cooperation that had marked the most recent election observations.

At the occasion of Council of Europe SG Jagland's address to the PC the US highlighted the discrepancies between the Azerbaijan post-election statements of OSCE observers on one side and PACE on the other side. In his reply, SG Jagland said that the ODIHR had the most solid concept of election observation and that the observers from PACE had only been in the country for a short time.

During the Helsinki +40 Working Group meeting on "Implementation of Human Dimension Commitments", the Georgian delegation called again - as some years ago - for a Human Rights monitoring mechanism in which the OSCE PA would have a central role. Russia rejected the idea of creating any additional monitoring mechanism. Azerbaijan and Russia are blocking any reference to PA resolutions in a Ministerial Council Draft Decision on the Protection of Journalists, and Russia also blocks such a reference in a PC draft decision on Trafficking. On the other hand, during the presentation of ODIHR's comparative study of electoral legislation, Russia stressed the important role of the OSCE PA in election observation and called for its reinforcement.

Irish Amb. Philip Macdonagh was appointed as Helsinki+40 coordinator on strengthening OSCE effectiveness and efficiency, thus being the first of eight ambassadors to be appointed as coordinators.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador, November 4, 2013