

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 3, 2015*

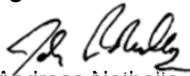
This week saw the opening of the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship and the Annual Meeting of Heads of OSCE Field Operations and Institutions. The OSCE PA was represented by PA Secretary General Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Pallares, Program Officer Chepurina and the Vienna Office. There were also meetings of the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm) and informal negotiations, including a briefing by the Head of the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM), Ambassador Apakan. During the Winter Recess there were two Special PC and Prep-Comm meetings, as well as meetings of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.

As a result of these meetings participating States managed to come to an agreement over the Unified Budget for 2015 – after the expiry of the deadline. The budget contains another slight nominal decrease, despite the added challenges caused by the crisis in and around Ukraine. Compared with 2014, The overall budget decreased by -0,8%. In absolute terms, the 2015 budget is at 141,1 million Euros, for the Secretariat at +1%, ODIHR at +1,2% (75000€ increase for elections, 75000€ for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, 40000€ for Trafficking).

There was also an agreement on financing the additional staffing of the SMM, which is now increasing its staff to full capacity. In addition to the usual formal opening of the year by the Chairmanship, the PC's January meeting approved a declaration on the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and also debated the events in Ukraine.

In his informal briefing, Ambassador Apakan reported on the current state of the SMM's deployment, including efforts to start monitoring the Russian-Ukrainian border. However, serious security concerns persist, not only in the light of the most recent attacks.

In the meetings of Annual Meeting of Heads of OSCE Field Operations and Institutions, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and his staff underlined once again the high value the PA attaches to the OSCE's work in the field and highlighted the PA's activities in relation to regional issues.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
January 19, 2015