

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

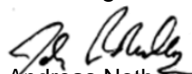
*PC Brief Week 23/24, 2015*

During these weeks, there were four meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), as well as meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the Committees, a two-day Colloquium "Conciliation in the Globalized World of Today" by OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, as well as a plenitude of additional informal meetings. I spent the first week on a field trip to Belgrade, Pristina and Skopje with the PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli. Roberto Battelli spent several days in Turkey as part of the PA's election observation.

The PC did not take any decision. In particular, the delegations have not been able to find consensus on the agenda for the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) scheduled for June 23 – 25, 2015 (!!). The principal controversial issue is how to phrase the Ukraine conflict as an agenda topic. The PC heard extensive presentations from the Chair of the Council of Europe Council of Ministers Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Foreign Ministers of Malta, George Vella, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki, in addition to regular reports from missions and special representatives. One of the Special PC meetings debated the consequences of the decision of Azerbaijan to terminate the agreement on the Office of the Project Coordinator in Baku, closing the office and requesting to withdraw all personnel and equipment within one month, despite a mandate which is based on a consensual PC decision and is valid until the end of the year.

During the latter debate, most delegations deplored the untimely decision and the unusually short deadlines set by Azerbaijan, while Russia and Kazakhstan underlined that the closure is a sovereign right of Azerbaijan. During the debate on recent events and the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, most delegations, after having received additional information from the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office Gerard Stoudmann, stressed the need to speedily implement the EU-facilitated all-party agreement of June 2, calling on the government and the opposition to work together in a cooperative spirit. I reported about the visit of PA Special Representative Roberto Battelli, referring to his recent press release on the issue. The debates on Ukraine did not contribute anything new. During the debate with the Foreign Minister of Malta, all Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation were present, supporting the urgent call for a stronger OSCE engagement in the Southern Mediterranean.

The Colloquium of the OSCE Court took place almost unnoticed by most delegations. Also, so far, it has not been invited to the planned commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Although it offers diverse possibilities to react to international disputes, including through decisions taken by means of consensus minus two (without the parties to the conflict) and is based on a 1992 Stockholm Convention, which has been ratified by 33 participating States, it has never been used. The Colloquium tried to explore why this is so and how it could be changed, looking at institutions and cases that have used conciliation and arbitration.



Andreas Nothmann  
Ambassador  
June 12, 2015