

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 12/13, 2017

During the past two weeks, there have been meetings by the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), including a joint meeting of both. In addition to these meetings the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, a number of committees as well as other informal bodies and gatherings have also held meetings. Finally, there were side events organized by the delegation of Ukraine on their reform efforts, and an OSCE Security Days Conference "Creating Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable Cities: Local Approaches to Global Challenges". Also, Francesco Pagani accompanied the PA delegation to the Petersburg conference.

In parallel to these meetings of the OSCE's governmental side, PA President Mutonen and the Austrian Parliament had organized a Conference on women and security (which was reported in the News from Copenhagen and PA press releases). This conference was met with considerable interest by several Vienna-based Permanent Delegations of the OSCE participating States.

PC and FSC did not take decisions. So far, there has not been visible progress regarding the appointments for the vacant heads of OSCE institutions nor on the budget. Also, the situation regarding the OSCE Office in Yerevan does not look promising. There is also an additional problem that has come up for the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine. A new "External Management" operated by the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR") has recently taken over the hotel in Donetsk which hosts the SMM Office. Changing attitudes of the new owners, including financial requests, might make the SMM's operations in the Donetsk region additionally difficult.

On a positive note, the chairmanship has reacted to my letter regarding the PA's role in the selection processes. Ambassador Koja confirmed my position that, in fact, the OSCE Rules of Procedure do not create an obstacle for the Chairmanship to give PA representatives the floor for questions during candidate hearings and announced that the chairmanship will therefore continue to do so.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
April 3, 2017