

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 7, 2014

As this week was host to the Winter Meeting, there were only a limited number of diplomatic activities held within the OSCE. There was no meeting of the Permanent Council (PC), though the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACFM) convened as usual. In addition, there was an informal meeting on the Comprehensive Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Program in the Republic of Moldova. The FSC debated examples of national practices for combatting illicit maritime trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) from France, as well as the aforementioned comprehensive conventional ammunition stockpile management from Moldova.

More importantly, there was intensive interaction by the PA with the governmental side, although the Swiss chairmanship was not represented at the ministerial level. The Chairman of the PC, Amb. Thomas Greminger, addressed questions from the floor, the three Chairs of the three PC committees briefed the three PA committees, and OSCE Secretary General Amb. Zannier spoke to the joint committee session. During his briefing, Amb. Zannier underlined his conviction that the PA is – and has always been – one of the OSCE's most important institutions, as described in the Istanbul Summit Declaration. In the first committee, there was a panel on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs with briefings by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, Amb. Kobieracki, and representatives from the Chairmanship and the FSC.

In addition, a considerable number of meetings were held on the sidelines of the conference. The President, the Committee Chairs, Gender Representative Fry, Vice-President Kanerva and PA SG Oliver all met with relevant interlocutors from the governmental side. In particular, there was a meeting chaired by the President with the chairs of the PA and the PC committees, and one of the PC's coordinators for the Helsinki+40 process, Irish Amb. McDonagh, organized a working dinner between President Krivokapic, Vice President Kanerva, SG Oliver, Maria Chepurina, and myself, during which we discussed the project with a number of ambassadors, including representatives from the EU, US and Russia.

SG Oliver and I had another side meeting with the Chairman of the PC where we discussed the Chairmanship-commissioned study on Security Sector Governance, conducted by the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) and carried out in close cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat. The PA was excluded from this study as the authors, on the basis of false assertions that the PA is for "inter-parliamentary dialogue only" and does not contribute to the organizational work of the OSCE, opted not to conduct the PA for input. SG Oliver requested the study, which is based on these inaccurate assumptions, be corrected. He raised this issue during his report at the joint session of the committees, and I spoke about it this Monday during the Security Committee meeting.

President Krivokapic and SG Oliver also reiterated their request for the Chairmanship to include me in the Group of Friends that will assist in conducting the consultations for finding a successor to departing ODIHR Director Lenarčič. The four candidates will present themselves at hearings on March 4 and 5.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador, February 18, 2014