

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

June 12, 2017

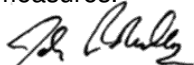
### *PC Brief Week 22/23, 2017*

During these two weeks, there have been meetings by the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Cooperation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance, the 2nd meeting of the IWG Structured Dialogue in Capitals Format "Trends in Military Force Posture", an Ambassadorial Retreat, and many other informal meetings and gatherings. In addition, PA Vice President Harstedt held a meeting with the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the OSCE. Staff from the Liaison Office also participated in PA President Muttunen's retreat on National Minorities in Villach (Austria).

The most important result: the PC finally adopted the 2017 OSCE Budget. Almost half a year into 2017 the OSCE institutions and missions can now start new projects (including the recruitment of staff), which they will have to finish by November to do the accounting. The PC also extended the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, which, however, must close down all field offices. Other than that, the SG presented the "Program Outline 2018" - a kind of a political guideline for the drafting of the budget. Furthermore, the usual briefings/reports were presented and "Current Issues" were discussed. From a PA perspective, it was remarkable how the head of the field presence in Uzbekistan along with many ambassadors highlighted the importance of PA President Muttunen's visit to Uzbekistan. Additionally, in the talking points he circulated, SG Zannier reported about the PA's visit to Turkey. I added the PA's condolences to a series of statements regarding the terrible terrorist attack in Kabul.

The OSCE Chairmanship also made an effort to get an agreement on the four open posts for the most senior OSCE officials (Secretary General - SG, ODIHR, High Commissioner on National Minorities - HCNM, and the Representative on the Freedom of the Media - RFoM). Out of the lists of candidates that I have reported about, they proposed for SG former PC Chair Amb. Greninger (Switzerland), for ODIHR Ms. Gisladdottir (Iceland), for RFoM Mr. Désir (France) and for HCNM Mr. Packer (Canada). These decisions having been proposed all at the same time, with some delegations not accepting one decision without the others, this has created some confusion. Because, as a package, it could be considered as quite imbalanced. However, the Chair as well as other Western delegates insist that this is not meant as an offer for a "package deal", but based on the merits of the candidates only. At the same time, it is obvious that several countries are holding "their" candidates in reserve, and others are still reluctant to make their position generally known. Despite all this, the Chairmanship will make another attempt to reach consensus this week, mainly motivated by the urgency of the matter and the fact that nobody raised strong objections against any of the four individual candidates.

The second meeting of the "Structured Dialogue" in capitals format "Trends in Military Force Posture" was again well attended. This time, the PA had a seat at the table. It was less polemical and more to the subject matter than the previous meeting. It also made it very clear how difficult it has become in the times of 21st century military strategies to qualify military strength, a comparison which would be the prerequisite for confidence and security-building measures.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador