

*REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SOUTH EAST EUROPE
ROBERTO BATTELLI FOR THE OSCE PA BUREAU MEETING*

Copenhagen, 26-27 April 2015

During the 2006 Winter Meeting in Vienna, President Alcee Hastings appointed me Special Representative on South East Europe. This appointment was renewed by President Lennmarker in 2006, President Soares in 2008, President Efthymiou in 2010, as well as by President Migliori in 2012, President Krivokapic in 2013 and President Kanerva in 2014. In renewing my mandate, the Presidents have ensured the continuity of observing developments in South East Europe. A main objective of my functions as Special Representative is the facilitation of parliamentary dialogue in the region.

My mandate also includes:

- Promoting dialogue in all segments of society, in particular at the parliamentary level, so as to encourage reconciliation and rehabilitation in the region, most especially in the Western Balkans, and to contribute to the transformation and construction of democratic institutions.
- Maintaining close contact with, and serving as a focal point for, the Assembly's work in the region in general and with the Regional Cooperation Council.
- Advising and reporting back to the President on the situation in the region, with a focus on developments pertaining to Kosovo.
- Communicating with relevant actors within the OSCE that work on South East Europe regional issues.

Since my last report to the Standing Committee during the Winter Meeting, I have paid particular attention to a worrisome pattern of political developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Assisted by our Liaison Office in Vienna, headed by Ambassador Nothelle, I have promoted and supported an increased coordination with other OSCE structures and institutions vis-à-vis the referenced political stalemate. This, above all to the benefit of the country and of the region but also of our Parliamentary Assembly. With the same reasoning, I issued a public Press Statement last month in which I attributed the present stalemate to the protracted absence of a constructive dialogue across the political spectrum. I called on the political leaders to meet their responsibilities. I also granted an interview with Radio Free Europe reiterating the same concerns while also warning against the risks of a further deterioration and emphasizing the crucial need to restore a functional parliament. Together with Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, I plan to visit Skopje next month. Preparations for this visit are already underway, as I am aiming for comprehensive talks in Skopje. This visit will represent a further opportunity to lend the Parliamentary Assembly's contribution towards a resolution of the political stalemate. While in the region, I will also use the opportunity to visit Pristina and Belgrade as announced in my last report.

Looking ahead, between now and my next report to the Standing Committee at the Annual Session in Helsinki, I plan to continue to closely observe regional developments of concern and take appropriate measures in my capacity as OSCE PA Special Representative on SEE.