

*REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SOUTH EAST EUROPE
ROBERTO BATTELLI FOR THE OSCE PA 25TH ANNUAL SESSION*

Tbilisi, 1-5 July 2016

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.

Summarizing since my last report at the 2016 Winter Meeting:

In June I participated in the South East European Co-operation Process Parliamentary Assembly (SEECP PA) in Sofia, Bulgaria, accompanied by Special Representative, Amb. Andreas Nothelle. At the event, I delivered a statement noting the important role that parliamentarians play in the region and that as parliamentarians we have a vital role to play in promoting good governance and the rule of law, supporting social and political reform, confronting corruption and the abuses of power, and protecting human rights. I have also reaffirmed the OSCE PA's readiness to intensify co-operation with the SEECP PA for the benefit of the region.

I have continued to follow developments in the region very closely and with a particular focus on the political situations in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With respect to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, I had actually been meticulously preparing to perform the tasks of Special Coordinator assigned to me by the Chairperson-in-Office, Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The elections which were originally scheduled to take place on 5 June were, however, annulled. A new date has yet to be announced. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the political environment, the obstacles in the way of progress on Euro-Atlantic integration as well as the migration crisis continued to pose additional difficulties. Moreover, domestic political challenges have been aggravated by external interference to the detriment of an already difficult internal process which sees the sides unable to compromise and converge on national strategic interests. I met with the President of the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trajko Veljanovski, at the margins of the SEECP PA.

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amb. Jonathan Moore has reiterated his interest in continuing the Mission's cooperation with the PA initiated two years ago. In this connection, Amb. Moore referred to the added value of attracting parliamentary attention to Bosnia and Herzegovina by means, inter alia, of possible visits of MPs to the country. Amb. Moore also raised the same intentions at the 2016 Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in South-Eastern Europe held in Sarajevo in June and attended by Francesco Pagani.

I will continue to follow developments in South East Europe very closely and to report on my observations.