

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 36, 2005*

This week, due to the Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, Morocco, a regular Permanent Council did not take place. Instead, two Special PCs were addressed by the Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro, Vuk Drašković, and the FM of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov. A meeting of the Gender Group was equally held. Finally, a one day seminar "OSCE's Future After 30 Years" was hosted by the "Helsinki Monitor", a Quarterly on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the support of the Dutch Government.

Foreign Minister Drašković's address as well as his call for "compromise, compromise, compromise" and for an unconditional dialogue", which included "unconventional solutions", were very impressive and stirred a lively debate, especially on the issues of the indictees of the Hague Tribunal, on the future of Kosovo. He also explained the country's position on the future of Kosovo under a formula defined as "more than autonomy, less than independence", referring to a plan offered to the Krajina (Croatia) Serbs in 1995. Another keyword was "Europeanization". On the war crimes' issue he said that Serbia and the Serbs were victims of the former regime's policy and had every reason to support the court. He also stressed the excellent work of the OSCE mission, and his good personal relationship with Albania.

In the debate on Foreign Minister Mammadyarov's address, everybody welcomed the recent positive development in the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The focus of most speakers, though, lay on the upcoming elections.

In the seminar, issues like transparency, credibility and the OSCE values played a major role. The Representative of the Chairmanship made an explicit reference to the PA's Expert Report. Former Secretary General Amb. Höynck also referred to the PA, explaining later that he thought of a human rights' monitoring as performed by the Council of Europe. Former Estonian Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland pleaded for a change in the consensus principle. I took the floor to remind the audience of our own reform activities, underlining the issues of transparency and consensus, and called for a better involvement of the PA.

The Chairmanship, in preparation for the Ljubljana Ministerial, has distributed a Food-for-Thought Paper on the Principles of Integration Respecting Diversity, which sums up the results of different meetings and might be of interest to the PA in the light of its resolutions on the "new" minorities.

The upcoming High Level Consultations appear not to become as "high-level" as it had been intended when the Sofia Ministerial Council took the relevant decision. Most countries will be represented at best by Deputy Political Directors, with the exception of Russia that is sending a Deputy Minister.



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