

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Status of MC preparations in the PrepCom

At present, the PrepCom is discussing 21 draft decisions/declarations (some texts are operational or have already been adopted). Several – on issues like trafficking, tolerance, partners for cooperation, terrorism and on environmental security - have a fair chance of getting adopted. A decision on the further engagement in Afghanistan might pass, although there is still one high obstacle (the issue whether the decision should include an exclusion of any further going activities than those mentioned in the draft, for instance stationing of border guards, and who decides about projects).

The draft Ministerial Council declaration has been discussed at length. The issue of the Istanbul Commitments has not been put in front. There might be some readiness not to touch upon it in the text. On the other hand, other regional conflicts (Nagorno-Karabakh) might stand in the way for some countries to accept it.

It is an open question whether the draft decision recommending the signing of the Convention on Legal Status will be accepted. The CIS make it dependent on a decision to elaborate an OSCE Charter before the Helsinki MC to be included in the same MC decision, whereas the other participating States reject this link, the U.S. stating that there will never be such a Charter.

The big controversies are right now Human Rights Issues (Human Rights Defenders and Effective Participation in Democratic Societies) and Election Observation. The CIS countries refuse to discuss the two drafts on Human Rights, as well as the EU text on Improving Electoral Commitments. They would be ready to discuss the latter one, if their own draft on ODIHR election observation was discussed, or the ideas contained therein were integrated into the EU draft. Both requests are categorically rejected by Western Countries. For them, the discussion about Election Observation has been terminated with Decision 19/06 of the Brussels MC, so they pretend they cannot accept the slightest tasking to that extent. Russia has threatened that this will deepen the current crisis of the OSCE. I believe that this is a real danger and that the Western refusal is contra-productive.

The Chairmanship will have to decide whether they see the chance of getting a compromise paper on these issues, whether they want to burden Madrid with four drafts that have no chance of getting consensus, or whether they do away with them.

Annexed to this is the current state of text passages that either directly or indirectly refer to the PA or parliamentarians. I also attach the last status list I received (dating last Wednesday).

So far, the provisional list of participants contains the names of almost 40 Foreign Ministers. But this might well change. U.S.A., Canada, UK and some of their closest allies will not be represented by their Foreign Ministers.



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