

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 10, 2009*

This week, meetings of the Permanent Council, the PrepCom, and other committees took place, as well as the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation and an ODIHR Seminar on Discrimination against Christians. There was no ACMF meeting, and the draft 2009 Unified Budget has still not been approved.

The Permanent Council debated the regular report from the Mission in Belgrade. Ambassador Ola Urstad, the Head of Mission, again received an extremely high amount of praise for his work from all sides. The Permanent Council also took decisions on the dates for the second part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw (September 28 to October 9, 2009) and for the Human Dimension Seminar (May 12 until 14, 2009 on Rule of Law Issues, focusing on the effective Administration of Justice), as well on the date for the Annual Security Review Conference (June 23/24, 2009).

Under the agenda item "Current Issues", the EU and countries aligning themselves with its statement, as well as Norway on behalf of another group of countries, unjustly criticized the fact that the Assembly had published the names of the leaders of the parliamentary observer delegations to the upcoming three elections (FYROM, Montenegro and Moldova). While acknowledging the need for good cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR in the upcoming elections, the statements again failed to mention the ODIHR's persistent breaches of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement. The ODIHR consistently publishes a press statement on the composition of the ODIHR election observation team long before the Parliamentary Assembly. They also do so before any decision by the OSCE Chairmanship on the appointment of a Special Co-ordinator. In clear contradiction to the Cooperation Agreement, the ODIHR characterizes its team as an Election Observation Mission (EOM) led by an ODIHR "Head of Mission", asserting that "it" will deliver the Preliminary Post-Election Statement, without any mention of the PA's participation.

Andorra has invited the ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly and others to observe its parliamentary elections to take place on April 26, 2009.



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Ambassador  
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