

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

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During these two weeks, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the Prep Com, of the informal ambassadorial Working Group on the "Corfu-Process", of the ACMF and of other committees took place.

The PC decided on the modalities for the OSCE Mediterranean Conference, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, on December 14 and 15 this year. The PC heard routine reports by the Heads of the field presences in Turkmenistan and in Kosovo. It also routinely discussed, under "Current Issues", the usual controversial items (for instance Georgia and individual human rights cases), without any new arguments resulting from these discussions.

During the discussions in the PC, however, the Russian Federation increased its attacks on Western countries for alleged double standards. It listed a number of incidents which it viewed as breaches of OSCE commitments within the EU, several of them pertaining to the EP elections. Kazakhstan made a detailed statement on one of the items addressed by Western countries, the four-year court sentence against an NGO activist for involuntary manslaughter. It outlined in detail the court findings, and relevant legal provisions, emphasizing in particular that a sentence of four years in the "mildest" detention facility is relatively moderate in comparison to thousands of other similar cases. In this context, it viewed the attacks on the country as attempts to unduly influence the decisions of the judiciary for reasons that have to do with the political position of a person who has committed a totally unrelated crime, thereby threatening judicial independence and violating fundamental OSCE commitments.

In his written report to the PC, as well as in an informal briefing on Kosovo, the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Amb. Almhofer, made extensive references to the successful visit by PA President Soares to the region, as well as to his own participation in the Winter Meeting.

In the first of many more weekly meetings of the WG on the "Corfu Process", a high number of ambassadors took the floor. There was unanimity that it was good to talk and that everybody was ready to work in a constructive manner. Some participants that host "frozen conflicts" were slightly less positive in their statements. There seems to be relative unanimity that there is no need for new commitments, but rather for an implementation of the existing ones, and that the discussions should continue in 2010. The most likely outcome of this year's discussions seems to be an agenda and modalities for next year's discussions. The Russian Federation on one hand welcomed the discussions within the OSCE, which it apparently would like to turn into a renewed OSCE reform debate. On the other hand, however, it stressed that the big issues of security, in particular "hard security", should and will take place in other fora. The Greek chairmanship is planning to organize another "Ambassadorial Retreat" as part of the discussions. It remains to be seen whether PA representatives will have access to it.

The Chairmanship, when informing the PC about the early elections in Greece and inviting PA and ODIHR to observe them, stressed that the CiO will remain in office until a new government is in place, and that the electoral campaign will not endanger events that have already been scheduled.



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