

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

September 27, 2010


Permanent Council Brief Weeks 36-38, 2010

During these weeks, meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, the Preparatory Committee and all other committees and working groups took place, as well as a "CiO Seminar on Present State and Prospects of Application of Electronic Voting in the OSCE participating States". Also, the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability visited Vienna, meeting with the Chairman of the PC, the OSCE Secretary General and with nine of the ten Corfu-Coordinators. The News from Copenhagen already reported about this meeting.

The PC only took two managerial decisions (on the date of the next Ministerial Council Meeting, which now is dealt with in the Silence Procedure, and on the Work Program for the upcoming three meetings of the Review Conference). The PA will be represented in all three meetings. I briefed the PC about our upcoming Palermo meetings. In response to a general report by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) on the work of his department, Uzbekistan expressed disappointment because there was no real effort to do a sincere and independent investigation into the Southern Kyrgyzstan events. The Kyrgyz ambassador reacted to this by, among other things, referring to the investigation which will be lead by PA Special Representative on Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen. Regarding recent shootings in the disputed areas, Azerbaijan and Armenia entered again into reciprocal accusations. Other Current Issues included the treatment of Roma and Sinti in Europe, death penalty in the U.S. and in Belarus, and the killing of a journalist in Belarus. On Belarus' request, the OSCE will send two forensic assistants to support the investigation into the incident.

The Seminar on Electronic Voting was a very technical one; ODIHR-PA cooperation was not an issue there. In light of the many questions I got and because of the way the upcoming EOM in Bosnia and Herzegovina was depicted on ODIHR's website, I sent ambassadors a legal analysis of the Cooperation Agreement. A few days before that, I had informed all secretaries of PA delegations about the paper and my intention. Although the analysis is a purely factual description of the rules of the Cooperation Agreement, showing where it is not honored by the ODIHR, and as such a repetition of a similar paper that was circulated for the first time in July 2008 (PC.GAL/3/08) and positively received by many, it has led to negative reactions from diplomats who have been consistently critical of PA's position on this.

This discussion cannot be separated from what is going on in the context of discussions about a possible draft constituent document of the OSCE. The News from Copenhagen already reported about the position of the OSCE Secretary General on this issue. In a non-paper which was circulated and assessed positively by many, the PA features at the very end of a listing of all other OSCE bodies in a paragraph labeled "related/autonomous bodies", together with the Court of Arbitration, which so far has not played a role. I presented the Oslo recommendations on the legal framework to the relevant Working Group, but I also reminded the group of the role and status of the PA and our expectation that any document will adequately reflect the high value of the OSCE's parliamentary dimension.


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Ambassador