

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Weeks 46 - 48, 2010

I already reported about the drafting of the Summit Document in Vienna. During the reporting period, apart from Summit related events, meetings of the PC and other bodies took place. The most important decision taken in the PC meetings was the recommendation to give the 2013 OSCE Chairmanship to Ukraine, which was approved by the ministers through the "Silence Procedure".

The media have reported about and sufficiently commented on the outcome of the Summit. President Efthymiou's statement at the opening of the Summit was very positively commented upon by OSCE ambassadors. The Summit itself yielded a minimal result, namely an "Astana Commemorative Declaration Towards A Security Community" containing a reconfirmation of OSCE commitments. Neither the descriptive part of the document (part 2, which originally contained the language on the PA) nor the Action Plan (which in the end did contain some language on the PA) were adopted.

In paragraph 5, which refers also to other OSCE institutions, the Declaration states "We are determined to intensify co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and encourage its efforts to promote security, democracy and prosperity throughout the OSCE area and within participating States and to increase confidence among participating States." The placement of the paragraph relatively high up in the Declaration (altogether 13 paragraphs) and the absence of a limitation of the PA's activities in promoting democracy can be seen as positive, as can the fact that the document abandoned the idea of attributing civil society and the media the role of the implementation agencies of democratic accountability. On the other hand, PA proposals to include references to transparency and accountability in the OSCE were not accepted, and anything referring explicitly to the PA as an OSCE institution was blocked. I reported in a special report about the difficulties PA language was confronted with in the drafting.

Before the Summit, one decision worth mentioning that was taken was on a "Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan". Contrary to the Police Task Force, which was to comprise 52 seconded international staff plus support staff, have a four month mandate and be deployed in Bishkek, Osh, Jalal-Abad, Tokmok, Batken, Uzken and Kyzilkiya, the new Initiative will have no more than 30 seconded international staff, 1 international contracted staff member and 27 locally recruited staff, a one year-long mandate and be active in 8 police stations in the south and 2 police stations in the Chuy region.

This week, Vienna will see a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Freedom of Religion or Belief". Apart from that, diplomats will have to continue trying to get an approved budget before the expiry of the annual deadline of December 20.



Ambassador
December 6, 2010