

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Week 15, 2011

This week, in addition to the usual meetings of the PC, the FSC and their subsidiary bodies, there was a Special PC with the Lithuanian President, the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) on National Human Rights Institutions and an expert meeting within the framework of the Conflict Cycle (V to V dialogue) on Enhancing the Early Warning and Analytical Capacity of the OSCE. On Monday and on Tuesday, Roberto Montella and I also participated in the Bureau Meeting and staff meetings in Copenhagen.

In her address, the Lithuanian President underlined the value of election observation and praised the ODIHR, but did not mention the PA. The Chairmanship informed the PC that all ministers had replied to the request to express a preference for one or two candidates for Secretary General (SG), most of them expressing one preference. All candidates received support, though one was blocked by two ministers, and another received considerably more support than the others. It was announced that the Chairman-in-Office (CiO) will now try to build consensus around this candidate, in full transparency. The Russian ambassador wanted to know more about the concrete numbers, and what the preference of the Chairmanship was, to which the Chairmanship did not reply, referring to the necessary confidentiality. It also did not disclose who was the leading candidate, but according to reliable sources it is the Austrian MP Ursula Plassnik.

The OSCE SG informed the PC that he has appointed Amb. Adam Kobieracki (Poland) to succeed Amb. Salber as Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, and French Françoise Nocquet as Director for Human Resources. The PC also discussed cooperation in South East Europe, and Amb. Remler's report on the Mission in Moldova. Portugal invited the PA, among others, to observe its elections on June 5.

The two-day SDHM discussed ways of strengthening national human rights institutions. Many of the positions presented there were undoubtedly motivated by a desire to strengthen human rights protection. However, the implications of strengthening non-accountable autonomous technocratic institutions, the way it was suggested, could come – as so often in OSCE recommendations - at the expense of parliamentary and judicial institutions as well as traditional ombudsmen.

The workshop on Early Warning was introduced by a highly theoretical and professorial presentation, complemented by a CPC briefing on the numerous Early Warning instruments that already exist within the OSCE, in particular through the field operations. The CPC complained that Early Warning was often underrated in the OSCE, especially because the OSCE focuses predominantly on project-oriented work, suffers from lack of analytical capabilities and develops political options too slowly to react to emerging crisis situations.



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