

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Weeks 40-42, 2010

During these three weeks the diplomats were busy mainly with the Review Conference which prepares for the Astana Summit, while we also attended the Election Observation Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Fall Meetings in Palermo and a Pre-Assessment Mission to Baku. Other meetings in Vienna included one Permanent Council and several committee meetings.

The News from Copenhagen reported about the participation of the PA President in the opening of the first segment of the review conference in Warsaw and of Vice President Grossruck in the second segment in Vienna. In addition, we made a number of oral and written contributions based on the recommendations which the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability adopted in Palermo. While this covers most areas of the OSCE's work, all of us put a special emphasis on the PA's proposals to address the democratic deficit of the OSCE.

As reported, I had sent a letter to ambassadors several weeks ago pointing out the PA's interpretation of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement on Election Observation. I received a very short answer by the EU the essence of which was that PA and ODIHR should continue to cooperate on the basis of MC.Dec 19/06 and the Cooperation Agreement. None of the controversial issues addressed in my letter was mentioned. The "Like-minded" (Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland) delivered an oral statement in the Permanent Council, which can be summed up as not mentioning the MC Decision, putting in question the validity of the Cooperation Agreement, restricting the leadership of the CiO appointed Special Coordinator to the short term observers, ignoring that he is appointed to lead the only OSCE mission mentioned in the Agreement, and alleging that it is merely the PA Secretariat that criticizes ODIHR's failure to fully implement the Agreement. My equally oral reply has been circulated as Document PA.GAL/5/10.



Ambassador
October 22, 2010