

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Week 18, 2011

This week, the first working week after the Easter Recess, the usual meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and its subsidiary bodies took place, as well as a two-day "OSCE Chairmanship Workshop on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding".

The PC took two managerial decisions on small OSCE events, and heard an address by the Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures (CICA) in Asia, as well as the regular reports by the heads of the field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Uzbekistan. Because of this extensive agenda, no points were raised under "Current Issues". However, there was a round of statements to mark the passing-away of the first High Commissioner for National Minorities Max van der Stoep.

The Chairman repeated that the Chairman-in-Office is now consulting with the countries that nominated candidates for the post of Secretary General and that it will then try to build a consensus around the strongest candidate. There are rumors that the Italian diplomat Zannier is back in the running, as allegedly he received the highest number of second preferences (only part of the countries expressed such a "second" preference). This would add to the odd way in which this is being conducted, as not all major players expressed a preference at all, and several did not come out with a second preference.

Switzerland invited the PA and the ODIHR to observe its 23 October elections, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reiterated its invitation to both institutions to observe its June 5 elections. At the end of the meeting, the PC said goodbye to parting Director of the Center for Conflict Prevention (CPC), Amb. Herbert Salber.

The workshop might have been interesting for outsiders, in particular invited representatives of other organizations, one of whom (from a major International Organization) confessed that she heard about the OSCE's work in the field for the first time as she prepared for her presentation at the meeting. Others considered it important that Russia had agreed to hold this workshop. The Russian ambassador contributed a statement saying that any activity in this field had to be approved by the PC and agreed to by the host country.

On Friday afternoon, experts from delegations that have invoked the Moscow Mechanism for Belarus met with Prof. Emmanuel Decaux, the rapporteur for the fact-finding mission who was nominated by them. Belarus has not nominated a rapporteur, and Prof. Decaux will most probably not be able to travel to the country, since the country considers the invocation of the Mechanism as unjustified.



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Ambassador
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