

**To the Permanent Representatives of the OSCE Participating States**

**Vienna**

27 June 2011

Dear Ambassador,

Taking in consideration the last developments on the nomination of the Secretary-General of the OSCE I would like, as candidate, to formally ask you, and your government, to break the silence procedure adopted on the last meeting (three minutes during a retreat in Baden!) of the Permanent Council.

The procedure followed after the first veto, and especially after the veto to the Austrian candidate, lacks transparency and jeopardizes the OSCE principles and commitments. If this process was followed in one of the Participating States during an election the OSCE would be the first to condemn it and to consider it contrary to the principles of democracy and transparency that are the core of the OSCE's Human Dimension commitments.

There are, however, some other points that I would like to rise:

- The point of having an "enhanced political level" profile for the position of Secretary-General of the OSCE was made several times by many Governments, namely during the Astana Summit.
- The necessity to appoint a Secretary-General with a clearly marked high political profile was also recalled in several interventions during the selection of the four candidates in Vienna.

On the selection process:

- The numbers of preferences received by each candidate have been disclosed only to very few people (countries of the four candidates and a few others) thus raising discontent and distrust in the process. Plus from various sources these results have been disclosed but with contrasting figures. In some cases the number of preferences exceeded the number of participating states!!! The numbers were clearly manipulated.
- Once two of the candidates had been vetoed, the chair should have not used the number of preferences obtained in the context where four participants were running as the base for choosing between the two remaining candidates. This is a very basic violation of any logical rules of fairness. The initial results (however controversial as they seem to be) were obtained under totally different circumstances.

- The Ministers, who had indicated overwhelmingly that they preferred a political profile Secretary-General, should have been given the opportunity to choose between the two remaining candidates.
- The Ministers should have been asked if they still wanted a political profile candidate or if they wanted to go back to the old tradition of having a candidate coming from the ranks of the diplomatic core.
- Once it was clear that the Ministers wanted one type of profile, then the consensus should have been sought for that particular candidate (political or diplomat).
- These proceedings are obviously orchestrated by a few who are clearly ignoring the instructions/political indications they got from their authorities but use the fact that the Ministers are distracted by other activities to manipulate the selection in favour of the candidate that guarantees their interests and the status quo.

This race is a battle between those who saw an opportunity in the fact that a political profile Secretary-General might introduce a new fresh air and bring more political relevance to the organization and those who are strenuous defenders of the status quo and low profile for the Organization, preventing a true political control.

I hope that you may consider these arguments and stop the current silence procedure. The OSCE deserves a brighter future!

**Sincerely Yours,**

**João Soares**

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