

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 25, 2011*

This week, several meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) took place, as well as meetings of the FSC, the committees, a conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons "Preventing Trafficking for Labor Exploitation" and a two-day ambassadorial retreat.

The most important item on the PC agenda was the decision regarding the successor for outgoing Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. Ending a long and painful process, the PC decided to recommend to the ministers the adoption of a decision to appoint the former Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, Italian Diplomat Amb. Lamberto Zannier, to the post. The decision take effect on July 1, 2011, unless any minister objects to it before Thursday at noon. The decision should already have been made in the PC on Thursday, but it had to be postponed until Saturday upon a French request, which we know was linked to the decision on the leadership of the European Central Bank. The Saturday meeting was a mere formality of a few minutes.

In the regular PC on Thursday, I once more outlined the well-known PA position, criticizing the process and restating for the diplomats the PA calls for an OSCE reform which would enhance the PA's involvement in such central decisions. Again the Chairmanship did not provide the numbers regarding the preferences that ministers had expressed, despite my questions and previous calls from delegations to do so. The numbers that we are hearing informally still do not add up. After some back and forth, the Chairmanship accepted my request to attach the statement to the Journal of the Day, which makes it accessible on the OSCE website. SG Perrin de Brichambaut used his farewell address to the PC to criticize the micro-management of the organization by the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF). Russian Ambassador Azimov found harsh words about the style of PC statements made under "Current Issues" by Western countries.

The retreat discussed a list of more than two dozen possible decisions to be prepared for the December Ministerial Council in Vilnius. They cover much of what the PA's Transparency Committee listed in the Palermo recommendations, with one remarkable exception: Migration, as such, does not appear on the list. The discussion was again mainly about whether the list strikes the right "balance" (urged for by Russia) "between and within" the dimensions, and whether there should be a political Ministerial Council Declaration. When I urged for increased involvement of the PA, the Chairmanship replied it was grateful for the PA's interest in the organization's work on the "conflict cycle".

During the upcoming Annual Session, there will be a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) "Promotion of Pluralism in New Media" and an informal trip for OSCE ambassadors to Moldova, thus preventing members from participating in the SDHM and many ambassadors from participating in the Annual Session. What is worse is that diplomats regularly urge PA members to participate in Human Dimension events, although it has frequently been the case in the past that the Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw overlapped with our Fall Meeting.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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