

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Weeks 16/17, 2012

During these weeks, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the PrepCom and other committees took place. There were also a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) on Combating intolerance and discrimination in society through sport in Vienna and a Chairmanship conference on peace building – “The Northern Ireland Case Study” in Dublin, a Gender Focal Point Meeting outside of Vienna, the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Dublin, a “Ministerial Conference on the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI)” and the PA’s Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen.

Despite the high number of activities, the substantial output from the many diplomatic gatherings seems to be rather limited. Discussions more often than not culminate in valuable conclusions that somehow sound like “it is important to have safe borders” or “transnational crime needs to be combated”. In other meetings, much time is lost on protocollary and ceremonial business. The last PC was interrupted for hours, because some delegations wanted to make statements under “Current Issues” on the negotiations between Serbia and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo that were taking place in Belgrade, and would have liked to see a result of these negotiations before they spoke, a result that was not obtained that day.

The Chairmanship proposed a food-for-thought paper which could be called “Corfu 3” (the actual name is “Towards An Osce Security Community - The “Helsinki + 40” Concept”). It will be discussed during an upcoming ambassadorial retreat to which I have been invited. The paper itself makes no indication that the PA will be asked for input into this process. Since it creates the idea of a leadership group composed of the current OSCE Troika plus the two following ones, Switzerland and Serbia, it is most likely that it will face opposition from participating States.

On a positive note, cooperation with the Secretariat continues to be good, especially with regard to the efforts to improve the OSCE’s handling of crisis situations, where the Secretariat continues to underline the importance of the contributions that the PA can make to dialogue facilitation and mediation. In this context, the PC decided to establish an informal Working Group on “Conflicts stemming from the use of Information and Communication Technologies”. Also, the 14 – 16 May Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw will be on a “Rule of Law framework for combating trafficking”. During the SDHM, the Holy See and some NGOs referred to the PA’s work.



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Ambassador
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