

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *Permanent Council Brief Week 37, 2011*

During this week, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, and the ACMF, took place. Many ambassadors participated in the second part of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague on the last two days of the week.

The main - and practically only - substantial item on the PC agenda was the Secretary General's report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, which was delivered by the head of his office as the Secretary General had urgent out-of-country commitments. Under "Current Issues", Russia criticized the Kosovar authorities for their attempts to take over the border crossings with Serbia. The EU has not yet replied. Although probably unrelated, the ability of the EU Group to act is currently limited owing to internal divisions about how much the EU is entitled to speak on behalf of its member states.

Contrary to some expectations, Russia has not yet extended an invitation to observe its December 4 elections. Apparently, despite a considerable downsizing in the number of observers requested in ODIHR's "Pre-Election Assessment Report", Russia is still unhappy with this report. Further ODIHR-Russia consultations will take place next week. ODIHR has made no attempts to coordinate these negotiations with the PA.

In the Contact Group, I made several announcements about upcoming PA events and activities. Egypt and Tunisia have new ambassadors, bringing the number of new heads of delegations in the PC since the Summer Recess up to nine, with more to follow. I have organized a series of meetings with them.

An external institute that the Swiss Mission (the Swiss ambassador chairs the Human Dimension Committee – HDC) has tasked with collecting ideas to reform Human Dimension events held a week of consultations in Vienna, including with me. In addition, the Swiss HDC Chair has also been following up on the PA resolution pertaining to his committee.

Not everybody in the Secretariat is enthusiastic about SG Zannier's concept for its restructuring, in particular the creation of a new "Transnational Threats" directorate. There are also controversies within the executive structures relating to the participation of heads of OSCE Field Missions in events outside their areas of responsibility, which includes PA events. This marks a continuation of the internal turf fighting that went on already during the tenure of the previous Secretary General.



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September 16, 2011