

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

Permanent Council Brief Week 38, 2011

During this week, meetings of the PC, the FSC, the ACMF and other committees took place, as well as an ambassadorial workshop within the framework of the "V to V Dialogue" (the follow-up of the Corfu-Process) on "Early Response to Crises and Emerging Conflicts", a meeting of the informal WG on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE, and the Annual Police Experts Meeting on "Harmonization of Police Reform within the Reform of the Criminal Justice System".

The PC heard activity reports from the respective chairs of the three committees, followed by a very short debate (in which the EU did not participate). I once more repeated the call of the OSCE PA to seek ways for closer cooperation between these structures and the PA's General Committees. While this was not taken up by any delegations in the meeting, I received positive comments about the PA's proposal from all three chairs afterwards.

Other items on the agenda included a report from the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center on the Center's activities and his report on his visit to Bishkek in his capacity as Special Envoy representing the CiO in a joint UN-EU-OSCE mission Kyrgyzstan. The discussions after these reports were intensive, but without surprises. On a related note, the Chairmanship held the last ambassadorial "V to V-Workshop" for this year. It was clear that everybody now is waiting for concrete results in terms of draft documents for the December Vilnius Ministerial Council, so in turned out to be not overly productive.

The Working Group on the OSCE Legal Framework discussed a "non-paper" which outlines prerequisites for possible negotiations on a constituent document for the OSCE. The underlying issue has still not been resolved: the USA makes it clear that they do not see the need for such a document and for Russia it is a prerequisite for the adoption of the draft Convention on Legal Personality, Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE. This draft Convention was already finalized five years ago and has since been held hostage by this mutual blockage.

It is noteworthy that Austria – has circulated a request by its Foreign Minister to grant Libya the status of Partner for Cooperation. This is unusual, because Libya has never requested this. So far, we have not heard any official reactions from other participating States. The annual conference of OSCE executive structures with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation will take place in Budva, Montenegro. This Conference is largely being prepared by the incoming OSCE Chairmanship Ireland which chairs this Contact Group. In the context of preparations for the PA President's participation in this conference, indications re-surfaced that Ireland does not view the PA as a statutory body of the OSCE.

The new Senior OSCE Gender Advisor will be the current Permanent Representative of Serbia, Miroslava Beham, who will take over this post after Vilnius Ministerial Council.

Many of the heads of national delegations to the OSCE, altogether more than ten ambassadors, have recently been replaced. I have managed to set up initial meetings with all of the new ambassadors. Because of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, which will stretch over the coming two weeks, the next PC will take place on October 13. Next week, however, there will be an extended Special Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation on Small Arms and Light Weapons.



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