

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 9/10, 2013

During these two weeks, many ambassadors were busy in events that either took place outside of Vienna, like the anniversary of the High Commissioner on Minorities in The Hague, or were not linked to the OSCE, like the Conference of the Alliance of Civilizations. In addition, the OSCE's two-day Annual Implementation Meeting (AIAM - on commitments in the military field) took place, preceded by the first of this year's Security Days under the title "Developing a New Approach to Conventional Arms Control", and organized by the OSCE Secretary General. In addition, there were meetings of the PC, the FSC, the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and the PC committees. Part of the time, Roberto Montella accompanied President Migliori to Montenegro and to The Hague.

The AIAM, as well as the Security Day, demonstrated that the Vienna Document on confidence building measures is widely viewed as either flawed or not sufficiently implemented, partly due to the significant and growing distrust and lack of transparency between member states, particularly between the US/EU and Russia. Much of the debates were highly technical and specific. Several Western countries deplored the lack of progress made during the Dublin Ministerial Council meeting last year. They called for a renewed commitment to modernizing the Vienna Document including the following specific recommendations: reduction of threshold values for prior notification of military activities; extension of the type of military activities subject to notification; strengthening the risk-reduction mechanism; extension of confidence- and security-building measures to other security-relevant areas.

The Security Day "Developing a New Approach to Conventional Arms Control" at the Austrian National Defense Academy discussed the future of arms control in Europe in the face of stalled progress within the pre-existing regime, including the CFE, the Vienna Document, and the Open Skies Treaty. One of the major problems identified by the experts was a lack of knowledge, publicity, and sense of urgency on the topic of arms control in Europe. They agreed that the CFE was not feasible as it currently stands, and that it must be significantly changed to contain less controversial measures and lower its standards.

Both PC meetings were rather short in order to enable participation in the aforementioned events. The mandate of the current Representative on the Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic was extended. I briefed the PC about the work of the Transparency Committee and about the visit by President Migliori to Montenegro. The Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, when delivering the report of the OSCE Secretary General (SG), also referred to a meeting the SG had held with the Foreign Minister of Libya. He did not mention that at this occasion the Minister handed a letter over to him, which was addressed to President Migliori and formally requests the status of a partner. I supplemented the information given, and the PC Chair replied that Libya was required to address such a request to the Chairmanship and that they had not received such a request.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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