

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 48, 2012

This week, there were meetings of the PC, the FSC, the PrepCom, the ACMF, as well as a number of informal meetings, most of them on draft texts for the Ministerial Council in Dublin. I accompanied Vice President Grossruck on an electoral pre-assessment mission to Romania.

On the occasion of a presentation by the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Permanent Council debated issues of religious hatred. The report by the Representative on the Freedom of the Media led to heated reciprocal accusations and a controversial debate about media freedom in OSCE participating States. Under "Any other issues", I briefed the PC about our ongoing election observation of the Romanian elections. I also referred to the report on the election observation in the US that Special Coordinator Joao Soares sent to the Chairman in Office. This report outlined again ODIHR's failure to comply with the 1997 Cooperation Agreement, and addressed other misinterpretations of the Agreement. The Czech Republic invited OSCE observers to its presidential elections on January 11 and 12, 2013.

On drafts for the Ministerial Council: There is still little progress. Perhaps the very modest draft on confidence building measures that could enhance Cyber Security has moved closer to consensus. The EU has proposed language for a draft on election observation that demonstrates again how EU diplomats take the side of the ODIHR in its persistent re-interpretation of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement. This time, the EU has requested to include language going beyond what had already watered down the 2006 Ministerial Council's call on the ODIHR to comply with the Agreement, and to include the same terminology that the ODIHR has been using to justify its failure to comply with the Agreement.

The Permanent Council is now moving to Dublin, where it will continue its work until the end of the Ministerial Council next week. The same applies to the staff of the Liaison Office.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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