

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 5, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), several committees and the "First Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) 'Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area'".

The PC debated presentations by the Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Mauer. In my reply to the minister, I recalled the many welcome contributions by the Austrian side to the work of the OSCE PA, and referred to the upcoming Winter Meeting. I also highlighted the co-operation between the OSCE PA and PACE. Finally, I suggested that the minister might support the OSCE PA's efforts to strengthen its role within the organization and to acquire competences regarding senior appointments and the budget that are similar to those of PACE. In conjunction with the weekly report by the OSCE chairmanship, the delegations debated the possibility of an OSCE mediation in Ukraine. I stated that the OSCE PA, its president and its members stand ready to provide a helping hand to the chairmanship, in the event they decide to undertake such efforts.

The FSC debated the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs. One of the introducers was the Head of the Maltese PA delegation, Christopher Fearne. Upon request by the OSCE Secretariat and the FSC Coordinator for the Code of Conduct, I made another statement on the issue (PA.GAL/2/14).

The EEF turned out to be extremely dry and technical event, with an obvious lack of interest from delegations, visible in particular on the second day of the meeting. There is still no consensus on the 2014 OSCE budget, although the chairmanship has offered another compromise proposal.

The interest in the upcoming PA Winter Meeting remains very high. We are in close contact with several ambassadors on issues related to the meeting, including with the ambassador of Afghanistan. I also received some first comments, all of them positive, about the announcement of the PA's Helsinki+40 Project in the latest News from Copenhagen.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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