

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 10, 2014

The week was overshadowed by the events in Ukraine. The situation also – partly – impacted on the tone of the debates, in which some ambassadors did not adhere to the usual diplomatic language. It should have been the week of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM – on the implementation of Confidence Building Measures), but this meeting, too, was devoted – in part – to political rather than (as in previous years) purely technical issues. Besides that, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), a joint meeting of both decision-making bodies (Forum for Security Cooperation – FSC – and PC), the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners, the Preparatory Committee, and other committee meetings, among them the Human Dimension Committee which was addressed by the Chair of the PA's third committee, Isabel Santos. Two afternoons were devoted to the hearings of the candidates to succeed Ambassador Lenarcic as Director of the ODIHR. Throughout the week, Roberto Montella accompanied President Krivokapic; first to Prague and then to Paris.

Both informal and formal meetings revolved around searching for activities that the OSCE could undertake in order to deescalate the tensions in Ukraine. The ultimate goal is to deploy an OSCE monitoring mission, but while these negotiations continue, including on a draft decision, the participating States, the Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the Institutions have taken steps that did not need formal decision-making. The first followed Ukraine's request for participating States to send military observers to Ukraine, based on Art. 18 of the Vienna Document, which might have been inspired by the parallel holding of the AIAM. Such a mission, while based on a document that belongs to the OSCE acquis, remains a bundling of bilateral actions by participating States and is not – as sometimes wrongly described – an "OSCE Mission". Other activities undertaken include the deployment of the Chairmanship's Special Representative Tim Guldemann, who visited the Crimea together with the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) Astrid Thors, the Secretariat's opening of a project on furthering dialogue within Ukraine to be funded by donations, and the deployment of Human Rights Monitors by the ODIHR and the HCNM. Ukraine has also requested that the PA contributes to these efforts, but such a visit did not occur because the Russian interlocutors did not find the PA's requested meetings timely.

Despite the ongoing parallel meetings, Isabel Santos's presentation in the Human Dimension Committee resonated strongly and was hailed by the Chairman of the pertinent PC committee, Ambassador Kvile of Norway. In the constituent meeting of the Group of Friends on Mediation, Romania urged the delegates to include the PA prominently in the efforts.

The hearings of the candidates for Director of the ODIHR did not result in a clear indication of who might be the front-runner. However, seen from a PA perspective, only Michael Link (Germany), himself a former PA member, devoted substantial parts of his presentation to ideas about closer cooperation with the OSCE PA. He and the Icelandic candidate Sigurdsson, another Member of Parliament, also met with me to discuss our expectations, while the Czech candidate Mareš, a diplomat and lecturer with some parliamentary experience, expressed regret that he had not found time for such a meeting. However, both Sigurdsson and Mareš, when mentioning the PA in their presentations, addressed it as an outside actor similar to the Council of Europe or the NGOs. Sigurdsson corrected this in our bilateral meeting. The Latvian candidate Makarovs did not mention the PA at all in his presentation. Next week, the Chairmanship will ask participating States for their impressions.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
March 10, 2014