

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 39, 2013

As announced in my last reports, due to the absence of delegations from Vienna, the PC did not meet this week, nor will it meet next week. However, there was a meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and its working groups, and there were meetings of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) and the Mediterranean Contact Points.

The FSC discussed matters pertaining to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), particularly the insufficient reporting practices by participating States. The FSC also debated a report from the regional seminar on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs which had been held in Malta, together with representatives from the Mediterranean Partners. As reported in the News from Copenhagen, the Chair of the PA's First Committee, Makis Voridis, represented the PA there. This and the fact that in October PA Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli, will represent the PA at a similar seminar in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the South East European region prompted me to make a statement outlining the PA's interest in the subject matter and underlining the importance of parliamentary oversight. The FSC had papers dealing with further updates of the Vienna Document on its agenda, but there was no interest among members to discuss them at that meeting.

The meeting of the ACMF was the last one under the Ukrainian ACMF Chairmanship. Traditionally, the incoming Chairmanship takes over in the second half of the year, in order to chair the meetings that deal with the next budget. In this context, it is noteworthy that Secretary General Zannier will unfortunately, as he had announced earlier this year, break with ten years of a useful tradition and not present the 2014 draft budget at the PA's Autumn Session in Budva. The draft budget came out, including a requested 30% increase of the ODIHR budget, representing an almost 60% increase over the current budget for elections. A large part of this request is based on the ODIHR's intention to hire Long Term and Short Term observers which in the past used to be seconded by participating States.

The Chairmanship released four draft decisions in the Human Dimension for the Kiev Ministerial Council. The topics are "freedom of religion", "freedom of the media", "freedom of movement" and "Roma and Sinti". The draft on media freedom, dealing specifically with the protection of journalists, makes direct reference to and quotes the PA Resolution on Strengthening OSCE Engagement on Freedom of Opinion and Expression adopted in Vilnius.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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