

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 13, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and the Advisory Committee for Management and Finance. Senior Policy Analyst Francesco Pagani participated in a Training Workshop on the OSCE Code of Conduct in Belgrade.

PA Secretary General Oliver, Programme Director Anna Chernova and Communications Director Richard Solash stopped in Vienna on their way to Kyiv to hold intensive talks with interlocutors dealing with the crisis in Ukraine and the deployment of the OSCE's International Monitoring Mission, including the Chairman of the PC, the ambassador of Ukraine, the Dep. Director of the Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) and the Director of the Office of the Representative of the Freedom of the Media. They also met with the US ambassador.

The PC took no decisions, but held another debate on the situation in Ukraine, under "Current Issues". The atmosphere between Russia and the countries "West of Vienna" is more poisoned than ever, also affecting personal relationships. At the same time, Armenia made a statement about attacks on ethnic Armenians in Syria by Al Quaida groups allegedly operating from Turkey, resulting in a sharp controversy between the ambassadors of Armenia and Turkey. In the Mediterranean Contact Group, another controversy, this time between Turkey and Egypt, resulted from Turkish criticism of the death penalties against Muslim Brotherhood activists. During the same meeting of the Contact Group, which was primarily devoted to elections in Tunisia, I made a statement about the PA's election observation in Tunisia two years ago.

There is still no consensus on the budget. There are rumors that a compromise may have been found with Russia, but the position of Azerbaijan remains unclear. Also, after the first round of consultations regarding the successor for director of the ODIHR, which resulted in an overwhelming support for the German candidate, the Swiss Chairmanship will now focus its consultations on building consensus around this candidate.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
March 31, 2014