

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 19, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), as well as the other committees and subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council.

The PC finally took a decision on the agenda, timetable, and other organizational modalities of the 2014 Human Dimension Seminar, which started this morning (!) Contrary to some optimistic expectations, however, there is still no consensus on the 2014 OSCE Budget. By failing to adopt the 2014 budget this week, a new record was set for the latest adopted budget in the history of the OSCE. The previous record dates back to 2005 when the budget was adopted on 12 May. This delay was further highlighted as the PC saw the launch of the 2015 budget cycle in the presentation of the Program Outline by the Secretariat. The Program Outline proposes an increase of the overall budget level from 144 million Euros in 2013 to 150 Million Euros for 2015. The funding levels in the Balkans are scheduled to continue decreasing while the bulk of the proposed increases would go to the Secretariat, the ODIHR and the Project Coordinator in Ukraine.

The Swiss Chairmanship announced that no participating State has objected to the Ministerial Decision on appointing former German Minister of State Michael Link, who had also been a member of the OSCE PA, as successor to ODIHR Director Lenarcic. The latter will continue to serve until June 30. I briefly congratulated the parting Head of the Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amb. Fletcher Burton, for his work and in particular the excellent close cooperation he had offered the PA throughout his mandate.

Besides that, the seven hour long meeting of the PC again served as a verbal battlefield between Permanent Representatives from major Western countries and Russia – not only during the discussions devoted to Ukraine, but also on many other agenda items. In contrast, the Security Committee tried to focus on other OSCE business that is under threat of being forgotten in this crisis; the exclusion of the Ukraine crisis from the agenda of this meeting was met with criticism by the US and the EU. I briefed the Permanent Council about the PA's ongoing activities in Ukraine.

The FSC saw the opening of the Moldovan Chairmanship, an event of largely ceremonial nature.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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