

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 20/21, 2014

During these two weeks, in addition to the (partly joint) meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), there were numerous meetings of the PC's subsidiary bodies, in particular the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), which is currently deliberating the Program Outline for the 2015 budget. During the same two weeks, Marc Carillet accompanied Sevki Kulkuloglu to the 2014 Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw, while Roberto Montella, Francesco Pagani and I have spent considerable time in Ukraine. In addition, I spoke at a briefing event on election observation in the German Bundestag.

Though many of the discussions again focused on Ukraine, the PC finally reached a consensus on the budget for the current year. It continues the trend of decreasing resources seen over the past decade. This year's overall budget amounts to a total of 142.3 million Euros compared to 144.8 million Euros for 2013 with cuts, and includes the suppression of a hundred posts, mostly at missions in the Balkan region. Also, the Ministerial Decision on the extension of the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General came into effect after the expiry of the deadline for the "silence procedure", and there was a decision on the dates and agenda of the 2014 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting.

In the FSC, the USA presented a series of aerial photos in an attempt to substantiate their allegations of a Russian military build-up, while Russia made a counter presentation in an effort to demonstrate the inaccuracy and selectivity of the US photos. At the following joint FSC/PC, Russia made another extensive presentation of lists of military equipment deployed in the past weeks. They also claimed that the current exercise, which they referred to as a competition, had been planned in autumn of last year.

In all discussions on Ukraine – and almost every point was more or less artificially linked to the current verbal warfare between Russia and the West - the tone continued to be confrontational. Reports by the Head of the Special Monitoring Mission, the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and ODIHR about the Human Rights situation Ukraine did not help to create a constructive dialogue. I continuously reported to the PC about the PA's election observation in Ukraine. I also conveyed the PA's condolences to the countries of South East Europe most affected by the recent floods, referring to the pertinent Press Release by the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli.

There was also another of the usual confrontations between the West on one side and the Holy See and Russia on the other side about LGBT issues. In the Mediterranean Contact Group, there was a vigorous debate about the death sentences against Muslim Brotherhood members in Egypt, leading to a heated discussion between the ambassadors of Turkey and Egypt.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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