

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 22, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and a number of informal meetings, as well as another of the OSCE Security Days and the ambassadorial "Hour with the Secretary General". There was also an OSCE-NGO event titled "Forging a Shared Vision of the Future in Divided Societies: Lessons from 25 Years of Moving Beyond Conflict." Roberto Montella, Francesco Pagani and I spent part of the week on the EOM in Ukraine.

The PC saw a routine debate on the outcome of the Ukrainian elections under the agenda item "Current Issues", as well as a short Ukraine debate under the same agenda item – sub-heading "Ongoing violations of OSCE principles and commitments by the Russian Federation", raised by Ukraine. The discussion seemed slightly less emotional than in past PCs; the focus is actually more on the concerns about the fate of OSCE monitors. Russia informed the PC that it will contribute 600.000 Euros to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). I briefed the PC about the PA's election observation in the country.

The security of the SMM also dominated the "Hour with the Secretary General", although it was intended to inform the delegations about the Secretary General's plans for a restructuring of the Secretariat. Delegations have asked the Secretariat not to disclose the nationalities of detained monitors in press releases. As a consequence, the Secretariat is refusing to give such information to the PA as well. The restructuring of the Secretariat would lead to the creation of a department for political analysis, but at the same time also to the creation of a new post of a director. Although it was presented as being cost-neutral, it did raise a lot of questions from delegations.

The focus of the Security Day, a public event, was on OSCE cooperation with other international organizations. Some of the panel discussions touched upon more fundamental issues, including, for instance, very sober warnings by Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja against turning conflict mediation into PR events. In this context, former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek discussed the "three great failures of the OSCE" (Georgia in 2008, Kyrgyzstan 2010 and – to some extent – Ukraine). In the case of Ukraine, he suggested forming a task force attached to the Chairmanship to conduct fact finding on the ground. He expressed his fear that the "OSCE is running the risk of becoming the Woody Allen of regional security organizations: self-absorbed and introspective to the point of self-obsession."

During the NGO event on conflict resolution, José Maria Argueta from the Organization of American States (OAS) argued in favor of an inclusive approach when dealing with actors in a conflict, including – to a certain extent – outside actors.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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