

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 28, 2014

This week saw a high number of conferences and other events in addition to the regular meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the Economic and Environmental Committee, the Human Dimension Committee and other informal meetings such as the Working Group on the Legal Status of the OSCE. The conferences included the Third Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC), an OSCE-UN Conference on Strengthening OSCE-UN Co-operation on Security Sector Reform (SSR), Capital-level Meeting of the 1039 Informal Working Group (Cyber Security), Security Day on Enhancing Security through Water Diplomacy: The Role of the OSCE and a two-day Gender Equality Review Conference. The latter was attended by three PA members: Margareta Cederfelt, Sweden, Gordana Comic, Serbia, and Arta Dade, Albania, all of whom made presentations. In addition, many more MPs participated. There was also a Commemorative Event for the 20th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct.

The PC decided the Agenda and Organizational Modalities of the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, which will be held 27 and 28 of October in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the issue of "Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight Against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region". The highlight of the PC, which again lasted until the evening due to a long discussion about the report by the High Commissioner on National Minorities and an even longer one about issues related to Ukraine, was the address by Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans. His address was assessed as one of the best ever at the PC; it combined a firm stance on principles and commitments with language that was credible because it was neither patronizing nor triumphant, as opposed to what is heard every week in this round. I briefed the PC about the outcome of the PA's Annual Session in Baku.

I also familiarized the participants of the OSCE-UN Conference on Strengthening OSCE-UN Co-operation on SSR about the PA's work on Security Sector Governance, and I gave the Implementation Meeting on the Code of Conduct an overview over the PA's Baku recommendations on the Democratic Oversight over the Public and Private Security Sectors. The latter event turned into another controversial discussion about Ukraine, despite its commemorative nature on the 20th anniversary of the Code, while the SSR conference lacked real interest from OSCE delegations. In terms of participation, the same applies to the Conference on Water Management, despite a very informative presentation by Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan and the significance some Permanent Representatives attach to the issue. In contrast, the Gender Conference turned out to be a very lively event with intensive discussions.

The Working Group on Legal Personality of the OSCE once more ended without tangible results; the US continues to be fundamentally opposed to a constituent document, while Russia makes this a prerequisite for consensus on the draft Convention on Legal Personality, Privileges and Immunities. Several delegates again reminded the group of the 1993 Rome Commitment to give the OSCE an appropriate legal status through their national legislation, a commitment that has only been implemented by less than a quarter of the participating States.



Andreas Nothelle, Ambassador

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