

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 30, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) as well as a meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Conflict Cycle and an informal briefing on the outcome of the OSCE PA Annual Session.

The PC took two decisions: One on the Deployment of OSCE Observers to Two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border and the other on the Theme, Agenda and Modalities for the Twenty-Third Economic and Environmental Forum (Water Governance). As reported, last week the PC had already submitted a decision to extend the mandate of the Ukraine Special Monitoring Mission by the "Silence Procedure". Since the silence was not broken, the decision entered into force on Tuesday. The decision to send observers to only two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (Gukovo and Donetsk), and not to all of them, was controversial. In the end, it was accepted as a first step and small sign of good will. In this context, delegations referred to the Joint Berlin Declaration made on July 2, and the subsequent invitation by Russia, which was seen as a step forward in the implementation of that declaration.

Despite the consensus reached on both decisions relating to Ukraine, the sharp controversies over the crisis persisted and continued to include personal attacks between diplomats. The term "lie" has become a frequently used word in PC meetings these weeks. Another equally heated debate took place in the context of an item under "Current Issues" raised by Turkey that addressed Israel's attacks on Gaza. A third controversy came up when France read out a statement by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, which Azerbaijan viewed as an example of their lack of readiness to take Azerbaijan's position into consideration.

As reported in the News from Copenhagen, I presented an informal briefing on the results of the Baku Annual Session. I also informed the Working Group on the Conflict Cycle about the Ukraine-related activities of the PA, which the Conflict Prevention Center promised to list in their next report. I also had a meeting with the President of the Venice Commission, Gianni Buquicchio, about possibilities for a closer cooperation with the Commission, in particular - but not exclusively - through the Council for Democratic Elections. Finally, I had a meeting with ODIHR Director Link to follow-up on his Copenhagen visit. Among the issues discussed was the PA's request that inappropriate conduct by the Head of the ODIHR election department regarding President Kanerva's activities during the Ukraine EOM must have consequences.

This was the last regular week of meetings before the OSCE Summer Recess. The next scheduled PC will be on September 4. However, due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, there is the likelihood that there will be one or more Special PCs. My next regular PC Brief will appear after the September PC, but I will issue Spot Reports in the event of any special meetings. I wish everybody a good summer holiday!



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
July 28, 2014