

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 36, 2014*

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Human Dimension Committee and several meetings on technical issues, as well as informal briefings and discussions.

During the regular meeting that week, the PC again failed to take a decision on the agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw which is scheduled to start on September 22, 2014 (!!). Open objections to the current draft agenda came from Azerbaijan and the Holy See, with the Russian delegation voicing sympathy for the objections. Azerbaijan was dissatisfied with the agenda item on media freedom, opposing an explicit mentioning of the protection of journalists. The Holy See had supported the original draft and the following revisions, but has always been unhappy with the failure to mention media responsibility, and it opposed the newly introduced wording on the topic regarding anti-discrimination, most likely because of their standard position that the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is not an OSCE commitment. The Chairmanship threatened to proceed with a non-consensual agenda, but then proposed a substantially shorter agenda without specifications and subtitles. This agenda was adopted by Special PC today, with all delegations who spoke emphasizing that this should not serve as a precedent for future HDIMs.

In the PC, a record number of ten items was raised under "Current Issues". Two of them were directly on Ukraine, while several others could be seen as related attacks and counter-attacks between Russia and Western countries. While the Chairmanship and the Conflict Prevention Center are working hard to help reduce the grave risk for European security stemming from the crisis, others seem to be more interested in repeating what one can read in the media on a daily basis. From talks with colleagues I know that some are very unhappy with this unproductive way of addressing the crisis in an organization which should reduce tension rather than serve as a propaganda platform. On a positive note, there was a presentation on the completion of the organization's successful work on regional disarmament in the context of the Dayton Peace Accords, a process which will be handed over to the states in the region. In the debate following the routine report by the mission to Kosovo, Albania and the USA launched an appeal to bring Kosovo into the organization and allow for its participation in the Permanent Council. Under "Any Other Business" I informed the PC about the talks President Kanerva had in Moscow.

Also, during the Summer Recess, two Special PC meetings took place that held – again fruitless – discussions on the Ukraine crisis. No decisions were taken. The Liaison Office was represented in both meetings. Roberto Montella and Firuze Demir from the Office also staffed the PA's election observation to Turkey.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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