

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 37, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and informal briefings and discussions.

There was no regular meeting of the PC this week because of the closing session of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague during the second half of the week. As mentioned in last week's report circulated on Monday, an abbreviated agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw has finally been agreed upon at the special meeting of the PC that took place on Monday.

The Special PC's main focus was on the crisis in Ukraine. Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, and Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, spoke at length about the political and humanitarian issues related to the crisis in Ukraine as well as the future of OSCE-UN cooperation. The polemics were less belligerent than previously, most probably because of the cease-fire agreement. Although the presentations by the two UN officials could have been a basis for more concrete discussions about future avoidance of bloodshed, it was again left to the Chairmanship and the Secretariat to give concrete information about the OSCE's reaction to the cease-fire: 59 staff from the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) were immediately redeployed in order to be able to observe the implementation of the agreement, and the recruitment of an additional 250 observers has begun. In the regular meeting of the FSC, during which Monaco took over the FSC Chairmanship, Russia made a very aggressive statement concerning Ukraine, but also commended Poland for its detailed announcement of a military exercise.

Under Current Issues, the PC held a brief debate on the current situation in Iraq and Syria regarding the IS terrorists. Partners for Cooperation participated in this debate. In this context, Malta again reminded participating States of Libya's unmet request to be included among the Partners for Cooperation, and Egypt pointed to an alliance formed by Libya's neighbors to address the threats resulting from the actual political split in the country and the dominance of the Islamists in some parts. They called for more joint efforts of regional organizations such as the OSCE and League of Arab States to combat the issue of foreign fighters and extremism. The USA emphasized its "No-Concessions Policy," which prevents the USA from engaging in ransoms for kidnappings, and urged others to do the same. On Moldova, several Western countries expressed regret that the 5+2 talks on the Transdnestrrian conflict originally scheduled for 11-12 September in Vienna had been postponed by Tiraspol for the second time this year. The EU in particular decried Tiraspol's "preconditions".



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Ambassador
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