

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

*PC Brief Week 47, 2013*

During this week, in addition to the usual meetings of the PC, including a "Reinforced PC" (with some higher level participants from the capitals, the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the PC Committees and meetings of other informal bodies, there were a high number of drafting sessions for Ministerial Council declarations and decisions and a first meeting with the Helsinki+40 Coordinator for issues of Efficiency and Effectiveness of the OSCE.

The PC took decisions on the agenda for the Twentieth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council (though, as of yet, there is still no consensus on its modalities – one week before the meeting!), and on the extension of the mandates of the OSCE Centre in Astana, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. The Reinforced PC consisted of a series of statements in which participating States expressed their expectations with regard to the upcoming Kyiv Ministerial Council, without any surprises. At the end of the week, it became known that the US Secretary of State Kerry has cancelled his participation in the Ministerial Council.

All in all, discussions, especially at the occasion of the Chairmanship's Helsinki+40 report, revealed not only the usual East-West divide on a high number of issues in all three dimensions, but increasingly also a split between Western countries as to whether the OSCE should strictly be a forum for diplomatic dialogue or if explicit critical statements on Human Dimension issues should be the main working method. Only one country, Turkey, explicitly called for close cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly during this debate. Under "Current Issues", Mongolia spoke about its first year as a participating State, with extensive references to visits it had received from PA representatives throughout the year.

The drafting has now gained momentum. However, there is still little likelihood that participating States will agree on a political declaration. Two points continue to make this impossible because of fundamental disagreements between the West and some CIS countries: concrete references to several of the "frozen" conflicts and specific language in the human dimension. In general, (improved) text proposals on the Parliamentary Assembly have been supported by individual delegations. Due to opposition from Russia, Canada and other participating States, however, it is unlikely that references to concrete PA recommendations will be possible, even in the – usually less controversial – drafts on economic issues. Although several EU member States in the Economic and Environmental Committee had signaled to be supportive of proposed language, the representative of the EU took the same negative stance on PA proposals as Canada had done before.

Three members of Parliament from the OSCE Partner Country Japan visited the office.



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Ambassador  
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