

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 4, 2015

The schedule of the first regular working week was impacted by the increased hostilities and civilian casualties in Ukraine. A Special Permanent Council (PC) meeting with - via video transmission - Amb. Tagliavini, Special Representative for Ukraine, and Amb. Apakan, Head of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) dealt exclusively with the issue. There were also regular meetings of the PC, the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Security, the Economic and Environmental and the Preparatory (PrepComm) committees as well as informal negotiations. Roberto Montella participated in visits of the PA leadership to Georgia and Turkey.

The regular PC devoted its first part to Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a special event on this topic taking place during the lunch break. In his statement, the ambassador of Israel strongly commended OSCE PA President Kanerva's press release on the terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris. The Special PC approved a declaration on the conflict in Ukraine, as recommended by Ambassadors Apakan and Tagliavini. While, in both meetings, everybody stressed the need to adhere to the Minsk accords, the reports made it also apparent that the violence is a result of both sides trying to establish facts concerning the demarcation line between the parties of the conflict. Apakan and Tagliavini called upon the parties to refrain from launching attacks from positions near civilian installations or residential areas because this inevitably leads to civilian casualties. Under several "Current Issues" items, the controversies regarding the situation in and around Ukraine again led again to long discussions.

The FSC saw the opening of the Mongolian Chairmanship with the Foreign Minister of Mongolia, Lundeg Purevsuren. I reiterated the PA's wish for a continuation of the good cooperation with the FSC Coordinators on issues like the Code of Conduct and parliamentary oversight over the security sector, and thanked Mongolia for hosting our next Autumn Meeting.

In the Security Committee, the OSCE Coordinator for Transnational Threats (TNTD) pledged to continue his department's cooperation with the OSCE PA, in particular its Special Representative on Terrorism.



Andreas Nothelfer
Ambassador
January 19, 2015