

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 6, 2015

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), a cross-dimensional informal meeting to prepare for a Security Days, the Preparatory (PrepComm) committees, and an extensive informal meeting with the Head of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), Ambassador Apakan.

The PC did not adopt any decisions. Ambassador Apakan confirmed media reports regarding the recent escalation in Eastern Ukraine, which has caused a high number of civilian casualties and presents severe security risks for the SMM-Monitors. Also, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs = drones) used by the SMM have been shot at, their radio transmission has been jammed making it impossible for them to operate, and one UAV crashed due to severe weather conditions. While the informal briefing by Ambassador Apakan offered an opportunity to exchange views on what could be the necessary next steps to be taken, the debate at the Permanent Council was more or less a repetition of the mutual accusations of previous meetings. In addition, countries that are normally accused of violating OSCE commitments are raising an increasing number of issues regarding the human rights performance of Western countries.

Under Any Other Business, the delegation of the USA briefly referred to the visit by a PA delegation led by the Chair of the PA's Human Dimension Committee, Isabel Santos, to the detention facility in Guantanamo, stating that the US administration continues its efforts to close down the facility. Early attempts to reach a consensus on a date for the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) have been unsuccessful so far.

The preparatory meeting for a Security Day on "promoting dialogue to advance tolerance and prevent radicalization" to be held in May with a focus on the Mediterranean region, was introduced by a lecturer from Tunisia and the representatives of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.

There is a considerable interest in the upcoming Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA, as demonstrated by many requests for additional information received by the office.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
February 9, 2015