

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 20, 2015*

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), including a Special PC with the Foreign Minister of Spain, José Manuel García-Margallo, the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm), and a two-day ambassadorial retreat.

The PC did not take decisions. In addition to the debates on the crisis in and around Ukraine, there was a round of statements on the recent violent events in Kumanovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In this context I referred to the pertinent Press Statement by PA President Ilkka Kanerva issued on Monday of the same week, and announced the upcoming visit of the PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli, to the country.

The ambassadorial retreat dealt with preparations for a possible informal High Level Meeting in July in the context of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, and held a first debate on possible "deliverables" for the Ministerial Council in Belgrade in December. The Serbian Chair concluded that the High Level Meeting will now be planned for July 10 in Helsinki, immediately after the PA's Annual Session.

The FSC approved a decision regarding an OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Practical Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, which will take place on July 14 and 15, 2015, in Vienna.

The PrepComm is currently debating the political guidelines ("Program Outline") for the draft 2016 budgets for the different parts of the OSCE that will be drafted later this year under the ACMF (Advisory Committee on Management and Finance) chairmanship of Germany. Several delegations complained about the non-inclusion of the budget of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), which veils the actual size of the Unified Budget. With the SMM it would increase by a third. The pending revision of the Scales of Contributions also constitutes a major obstacle to a smooth adoption of a budget.



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Ambassador  
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