

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 42, 2014

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and other committees, as well as several meetings on technical issues and informal briefings and discussions, the most relevant being the Ambassadorial Working Group on Helsinki+40 and the Working Group on Legal Personality of the OSCE.

The PC heard reports by the chairpersons of the three PC committees, as well as reports by the Head of Mission to Moldova and the EU Border Assistance Mission to Ukraine-Moldova. While Western delegations expressed regret over the repeated postponement of the 5+2 talks, Russia welcomed those held in the 1+1 format (Chisinau and Tiraspol). There were 12 items under "Current Issues", most of them mutual accusations directly or indirectly related to the ongoing crisis between Russia and the West. As the Chairmanship did not want to discuss the outcome of the Election Observation in Bosnia and Herzegovina under this agenda item, I made a statement under "Any other business", reporting on the preliminary post-election statement by the Special Coordinator for these elections, Roberto Battelli, and on PA-ODIHR cooperation during the observation. In particular, I highlighted that while the ODIHR offered some improvements in cooperation on the ground, it continues to limit the extent of this cooperation under the Cooperation Agreement, most prominently by refusing to send the Long Term Observer reports to the Special Coordinator -- a breach of the clear wording of the Cooperation Agreement -- and by refusing to enter into formal negotiations on a text for the statement before leaders of other parliamentary delegations have arrived. In their brief replies, Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the work of the OSCE observers and the US expressed their wish for good future cooperation between the PA and ODIHR.

Upon request by the chairmanship I delivered a report on the PA's Moscow Helsinki+40 seminar to the Helsinki+40 Working Group. There was no subsequent debate. During the meeting of the informal working group on Legal Personality of the OSCE, its coordinator, retired Danish ambassador John Bernhard, introduced a proposal for a "draft convention plus" on Privileges and Immunities and Legal Personality of the OSCE. This proposal tries to combine the draft convention with elements of a constituent document in order to overcome Russian opposition (Russia does not want to approve the convention without a parallel agreement on a constituent document). These additional elements, which most notably consist of a paragraph on the structure of the OSCE, do not mention the Parliamentary Assembly. I strongly rejected any text that defines the OSCE's structure without appropriately describing the role and status of the PA.

I also had an opportunity to brief the staff of the incoming Serbian OSCE chairmanship about the OSCE PA, its role and its political positions.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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