

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 43/44, 2014

During these two weeks, there was a two-day ambassadorial retreat reinforced by political directors from the capitals preparing the upcoming Basel Ministerial Council (MC) meeting, meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), including a Special PC which took a decision on the Extension of the Deployment of OSCE Observers to two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border, the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and other committees, several meetings on technical issues and informal briefings and discussions, a two-day Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) on Human Rights in the Economic Crisis, an Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) and several conferences on technical issues. Together with Marc Carillet and Roberto Montella, I participated in the PA's election observation mission in Ukraine.

The ambassadorial retreat discussed ways and means to ensure a successful MC meeting in Basel in the context of the current crisis between Russia and the vast majority of OSCE member States. Ambassadors focused on how to achieve a high-level dialogue instead of the routine sequence of statements that is typical for the meeting. They also discussed the prospects for reaching decisions at a time of sharp disagreements. One idea put forward by the Chairmanship is to create another Panel of Eminent Persons addressing the future of European security architecture. Several representatives reminded the participants that there is, and has been, an abundance of such expert panels, and underlined that the PA is already engaged in systematic discussions and offers itself as a high-level forum for dialogue about possible concepts. Delegations have started to discuss potential draft decisions (see list attached). Several contain language on the PA's work and/or resolutions, however, there are always individual delegations objecting to this.

The PC agreed on the extension of the deployment of OSCE observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border (22 October). The mandate was extended for one-month to 23 November 2014. The extension will be funded by the Secretariat's cash surplus. The EU and the US expressed regret that the Russian Federation could not join consensus on both extending and expanding the current mandate of the border observer mission.

The PC also heard a report by ODIHR Director Link about the recent Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw. I reminded the PC that the PA was active in the meeting through the participation of the Deputy Chairman of the PA's third committee, Kulkuloglu, and Marc Carillet from the Vienna Office. Under Current Issues, which again had nine topics mostly relating to the Russia-West conflict, there was a discussion about the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. I briefly quoted from the statements by PA Special Coordinator Kent Härstedt, the leader of the PA's delegation for this mission Vice President Doris Barnett, and President Kanerva. I stated that the important issues of ODIHR's non-compliance with the 1997 Cooperation Agreement that I mentioned in last week's report have not been resolved, although we cooperated well with the ODIHR mission on the ground. There also was a vigorous debate about the interpretation of the Minsk Protocols with regard to local elections in Ukraine, because of the diverging dates set by the rebels and by Kyiv.

The FSC decided on the dates and venue, agenda and modalities of the twenty-fifth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

The focus of this year's EEDIM was on Good Governance with an emphasis on fighting corruption. The US delegation referred to this year's EEDIM as "the most effective EEDIM yet". The SHDM was very much a routine meeting, but also presented an opportunity to discuss the Baku Resolution on Protection and Promotion of Socio-Economic Rights in the OSCE Area.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador, October 31, 2014

LIST OF potential DRAFT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS FOR BASEL

- **1st Dimension**
 - DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OWNERSHIP PROCESS REGARDING THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT ARTICLE IV - ANNEX 1B
 - DECISION/DECLARATION ON KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM
 - DECISION/DECLARATION ON 'FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS'
 - FSC.DEC/0001/14 - Change of Date for the Global Exchange of Military Information for 2014
 - FSC.DEC/0002/14 - Agenda, Timetable and Modalities for the 3rd Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security
 - FSC.DEC/0003/14 - Voluntary Guidelines for Compiling National Reports on SALW Exports From/Imports to Other Participating States During the Previous Calendar Year
 - FSC.DEC/0005/14 - Implementation Assessment in Respect of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

- **2nd Dimension**
 - DECISION ON ENHANCING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (MC.DD/5/14)
 - DECISION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION (MC.DD/10/14)

- **3rd Dimension**
 - DECISION ON THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE (Circulated as MC.DD/03/14)
 - MC DD on reform of HDIM (standing agenda, meeting in May)
 - Freedom of Media/Protection of journalists

- **Partners**
 - WELCOMING LIBYA AS A PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION
 - DECLARATION ON THE CO-OPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION (MC.DD/11/14)
 - DECLARATION ON THE CO-OPERATION WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION (not yet circulated)

- **Other Cross-Dimensional Issues**
 - POLITICAL DECLARATION (not yet circulated)
 - DECLARATIONS ON THE PROTRACTED CONFLICTS IN THE OSCE AREA (not yet circulated)
 - DECLARATION ON HELSINKI +40 (not yet circulated)
 - DECISION ON THE ADDENDUM TO THE GENDER ACTION PLAN (Circulated PC.DD/23/14)
 - OSCE PRESENCE IN MONGOLIA
 - DECLARATION ON INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WORK OF THE OSCE (Circulated as MC.DD/04/14)
 - DECLARATION ON A YOUTH ACTION PLAN (Circulated as CIO.GAL/159/14)