

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 45, 2014

During this week, there were three meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), as well as meetings of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, the Helsinki +40 Working Group, other meetings of committees and informal working groups, a High-Level Retreat on Gender and Inclusive Mediation, attended by PA member Johannes Koskinen (Finland), a two-day conference of the High-Level Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, an OSCE Chairmanship event "Information and Communication Technology Conflict Building Measures" (on Cyber Crime), and a meeting of the OSCE Academic Network seminar on The Future of OSCE Field Operations.

The Permanent Council adopted a decision on the Transfer of Ownership to the Parties to the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, Annex 1B, Article IV of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, heard a report regarding the Geneva discussions on Georgia, discussed gender, and then entered into the usual exchange of views about the events in and around Ukraine and related polemics. The same exchange took place during the FSC meeting, which prompted some ambassadors to urge again for more constructive debates about what the OSCE can do to support a de-escalation of the conflict, particularly in the interest of the people in the conflict-ridden area. The Special PC with the Head of the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) Apakan focused more on the immediate needs of the mission and resulting financial considerations, leading to pledges of another 13 million Euros in extra-budgetary contributions by participating States.

I briefed the PC about the statement by PA Third Committee Chairperson Isabel Santos, who led the OSCE PA's limited election observation mission to the US mid-term elections. US Ambassador Daniel Baer replied that some of the PA's criticism had equally been voiced by US President Barack Obama. He also expressed regret that the ODIHR did not observe these elections, although having been invited by the US to do so. Germany and Austria announced their bid for the OSCE Chairmanships in 2016 and 2017. A respective draft decision has been circulated and will probably soon be adopted by the ministers through the so-called "Silence Procedure".

Regarding other drafts, the Chairmanship is still trying to collect reactions. There is a chance that consensus will be found for some drafts, but time is limited for the Chairmanship if there is to be clarity before the start of the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel. A draft on mediation was adamantly rejected by the delegation of Armenia. Even the current version of the modalities for the meeting was rejected by Russia at this late stage, because of a special speaking right given to NATO at the Ministerial Council. Several other countries also objected to the current version of the modalities because of the issue of inviting or not inviting the Organization of Turkic Speaking Countries.

The Helsinki+40 discussions with representatives of the OSCE's academic network focused on the future of the OSCE field presences. In this context, the SMM was seen as an interesting model for future operations between peace-keeping and assistance to participating States in order to help them in the implementation of commitments. The Special PC with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, at the occasion of his participation at another conference in Vienna, saw pledges by all of their will for closer cooperation between the OSCE and the UN, with the SMM mentioned as an example. Besides a condemnation of the recent "elections" in the Donbas by the UN SG, the meeting had a character of a courtesy visit.

The Contact Group Meeting with the Asian Partners for Cooperation debated the security situation with respect to fundamentalist terrorism. The two-day Alliance against Trafficking Meeting served as a reminder that the OSCE is also dealing with topics other than Ukraine and to promote the PA's work in this area. The same is true for the very technical expert conference on Confidence Building Measures in Cyber Space.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador, November 10, 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 (MC.DD/9/14)
DECISION/DECLARATION ON 'FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS' (MC.DD/8/14)
DRAFT DECISION ON FURTHER STRENGTHENING MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE FACILITATION IN THE OSCE
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 (MC.DD/03/14/rev.1)
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 (MC.DD/12/14)

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 (MC.DD/04/14)
DECLARATION ON A YOUTH ACTION PLAN (CIO.GAL/159/14)
CHAIRMANSHIPS 2016-2017 (MC.DD/13/14)