

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 47, 2014

During this week, there were two meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), and meetings of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact group with the Mediterranean Partners, the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the Economic and Environmental and the Human Dimension Committee, as well as many meetings of informal working groups. During the first three days, I participated in the PA's Washington Helsinki+40 Seminar.

The PC approved a decision on the Extension of the Deployment of OSCE Observers to Two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border (one more month and a slight increase in the number of observers), as well as – two weeks before the Ministerial Council Meeting in Basel - the decisions on the Timetable and Organizational Modalities of the Twenty-First meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council on Forwarding of a Draft Agenda to the Ministerial Council. As far as the border monitoring mission is concerned, Western countries regretted again the limited extent of this mission, which cannot give an accurate picture of what is going on along the border between Ukraine and Russia, but did not follow PA President Kanerva's advice that it is better not to have such a mission that creates the false impression of a valid observation. The body also heard reports by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Amb. Heidi Tagliavini, and by the High Commissioner on National Minorities. There were the usual mutual accusations over the crisis in and around Ukraine, supplemented by polemics between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

With regard to draft Decisions for the Ministerial Council (MC, see attached list) the EU has proposed, with the support of the USA and Ukraine, several additional texts that Russia immediately rejected. Russia, in turn, forwarded a number of texts which will not be met favorably by Western countries. This seriously endangers the modest package of decisions proposed by the Chairmanship and creates the likelihood that the upcoming MC will not adopt texts on humanitarian issues. Another highly controversial point is Kazakhstan's request to downgrade the OSCE Office in Astana to that of a Project Coordinator, following the precedents set by some other countries, including Ukraine and Azerbaijan. Kazakhstan threatens that if there is no agreement on this before the MC, it will close down the office.

The Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners discussed important issues of migration and the fight against so-called Islamist terrorists, on the basis of presentations by Morocco and Egypt. I briefly reminded participants of the need for the respect of human rights in the fight against terrorism. Turkey and Egypt had a controversial discussion about the terrorist nature of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Chairmanship also informed the participants of the innovations it has proposed for the MC, which, for the first time, will not have the Partners lined up at the end of the meeting to make their statements. All partners expressed their strong concerns regarding the deteriorating situation in Libya, and Malta urged the OSCE to accept Libya as a Partner, in order to be able to assist it in this situation. A draft declaration of the Partnership with the Mediterranean Countries has been proposed, which also makes a reference to the PA's work in the field.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
November 24, 2014

LIST OF 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 (MC.DD/14/14/rev.1)
 - DECLARATION ON THE OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING KIDNAPPING AND HOSTAGE TAKING COMMITTED BY TERRORIST GROUPS IN THE CONTEXT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2133 (2014) (MC.DD/9/14/rev.1)
 - DECLARATION ON THE OSCE ROLE IN COUNTERING THE PHENOMENON OF FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS IN THE CONTEXT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 2170 (2014) AND 2178 (2014) (MC.DD/8/14/rev.1)
 - DRAFT DECISION ON FURTHER STRENGTHENING MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE FACILITATION IN THE OSCE (CIO.GAL/190/14)
 - Draft decision on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation (MC.DD/6/14)
 - Draft decision on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.DD/7/14)
 - 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
 - FSC.DEL/150/14/Rev.4 - Proposal for FSC DD on enabling the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners using procedures outlined in the OSCE SALW and SCA documents
 - FSC.DEL/143/14/rev.2 - Proposal for DD on voluntary criteria on re-export controls for SALW
- **2nd Dimension**
 - DECISION ON ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (MC.DD/5/14/rev.1)
 - DECISION ON PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION (MC.DD/10/14/rev.1)
 - DRAFT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECLARATION ON SECURITY IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE OSCE REGION (EU Proposal, PC.DEL/1339/14)
- **3rd Dimension**
 - DECISION ON THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE DECISION ON THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (MC.DD/03/14/rev.1)
 - DRAFT DECISION ON THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (EU proposal, PC.DEL/1362/14)
 - DRAFT DECISION ON THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN THE OSCE AREA (EU proposal, PC.DEL/1363/14)
 - DECLARATION ON INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WORK OF THE OSCE (MC.DD/04/14/rev.1)
 - DECLARATION REAFFIRMING COMMITMENTS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM (MC.DD/18/14)
 - DECISION ON THE ADDENDUM TO THE GENDER ACTION PLAN (PC.DD/23/14/rev.3)
 - PC.DEL/1370/14, Proposal by the Russian Federation for a DD on Combating Racism, Aggressive Nationalism, Extremism and Neo-Nazism in the OSCE Area
 - PC.DEL/1368/14, Proposal by the Russian Federation for a DD on Nationality and Statelessness
- **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/rev.1)
 - DECLARATION ON THE CO-OPERATION WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION (MC.DD/12/14/rev.1)
- **Other, Cross-Dimensional Issues**
 - POLITICAL DECLARATION (not yet circulated) / Basel Declaration on the role of the OSCE in the crisis in and around Ukraine
 - DECLARATIONS ON THE PROTRACTED CONFLICTS IN THE OSCE AREA (not yet circulated)
 - + Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the "5+2" Format
 - + Draft Declaration on the Geneva International Discussions
 - + Draft Declaration on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group
 - DECLARATION/DECISION ON HELSINKI +40 (not yet circulated)
 - DECLARATION ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (MC.DD/17/14)
 - OSCE PRESENCE IN MONGOLIA
 - DECLARATION ON A YOUTH ACTION PLAN (CIO.GAL/159/14)
 - OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEARS 2016 AND 2017 (MC.DD/13/14 Germany and Austria)
 - RUSSIAN PROPOSAL ON A DRAFT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION ON INADMISSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES, ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND/OR POLITICAL SYSTEM (PC.DEL/1378/14)