

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 37, 2015

This week there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the Contact Group with Asian Partners for Co-operation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm) and the Economic and Environmental Committee, as well as an OSCE-Wide Drug Conference "Enhancement of Mechanism to Cope with Increasing Spread of Illicit Drugs Amongst Young People", the Regional Meeting of Heads of Field Operations in the South Caucasus and a number of informal meetings. I hosted several meetings with newly arrived ambassadors, the most recent newcomers being from France, Germany, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. I also had consultations with the ambassadors of the USA and Ukraine.

The PC did not take any decisions. It debated the reports by the Project Coordinator in Ukraine and the new CPC Director Marcel Pesko, a former Permanent Representative of Slovakia who before headed the office of the OSCE Secretary General. The debates under Current Issues dealt with the same items as in previous meetings, but in a clearly less polemical manner. This is largely owed to the present status of the cease-fire in Eastern Ukraine. Apparently, this was the first day without any reported incident since the beginning of the hostilities. I briefly referred to the upcoming OSCE PA Autumn Session in Mongolia, and so did Francesco Pagani in the Contact Group with the Asian Partners.

The FSC Meeting was the first under the new Norwegian Chairmanship. It was addressed by the Secretary of State of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, Bård Glad Pedersen.

In the drugs conference, a general consensus was found on the need to take a broader approach by engaging civil society, bolstering early preventive measures, and improving addiction recovery (while remaining vigilant against organized crime/drug trafficking). There is a vastly divergent view between a legal/regulatory vs. prohibitionist approach to drug policy. Overall, the OSCE was mentioned as a key international organization to coordinate regional efforts in fighting drug abuse. However, there was a lack of concrete proposals on OSCE engagement, besides the continuation of organizing this conference on an annual basis.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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