

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

July 20, 2015

PC Brief Week 29, 2015

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), one joint meeting between the two, meetings of the Preparatory Committee (Prep-Com), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the Human Dimension Committee (HDC), as well as an OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of Practical Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) (14-15 July), and an Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE.

The PC approved the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2015 OSCE Mediterranean Conference (20 and 21 October 2015 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan). In addition, it discussed at length the issues that are continuously being debated since the beginning of the crisis in and around Ukraine and the newly deepened divisions in Europe. Ambassador Apakan briefed the joint PC-FSC meeting about the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, once more deploring the security situation regarding the monitors. No practical steps to defuse the tensions or solve the crisis were discussed, even less approved in the regular PC meeting which started at 10 in the morning and ended after 18:00 hours in the evening.

These days, many heads of the permanent delegations to the OSCE are leaving Vienna, among them the ambassadors of Russia, UK, France, Germany and the Swiss ambassador and former PC Chair. In my experience, it will take a while before the new ambassadors will build up their communication avenues, which will probably add to the present difficulties.

The main topic of the Human Dimension Committee was Gender Equality. In reference to the recent PA Annual Session, Finland and Canada emphasized the quality of the OSCE PA's contribution to gender equality that took place in Helsinki. The Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework held one of the many routine meetings it has been holding over the past eight years. Although the long list of problems resulting from the absence of a legal status of the organization was illustrated by additional examples, including the decision of Finland to prevent Russian PA members from participating in the Annual Session in Helsinki, no progress was made, due to the irreconcilable positions of the US and Russia. I had the opportunity to reiterate the PA's position on the draft Convention and possible further documents.

The SALW meeting was reasonably more interactive than many others, but mainly discussed technical project details and requests for more financial support.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
July 20, 2015