

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 3-5, 2017*

During these weeks, there were several meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), including two Special PCs, plus meetings of a number of committees and the first Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum "Greening the economy and building business partnerships" with the participation of the Chair of the PA's Second Committee, Nilza de Sena (Portugal). Also, the Chair of the PA's Ad hoc Committee on Belarus, Vice President Kent Härstedt (Sweden), chaired an information meeting bringing together OSCE Institutions and International Organizations dealing with Belarus. The meeting was organized by the Vienna Liaison Office and sponsored by the Swedish delegation (as will be reported in the News from Copenhagen).

A Special PC Meeting on the last day of the reporting period saw Armenia join the consensus on the outstanding extension of several field presences: the missions to the Russian-Ukrainian border checkpoints and the revision of the 2016 Unified OSCE Budget. However, there is still no full consensus on the extension of the mandate of the Offices in Yerevan and Tajikistan, the latter due to a request from the host country to re-negotiate the mandate – and, of course, the 2017 Unified Budget has not yet been approved. Also, during one of the PC meetings, there was another sharp controversy between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as a number of current issues have been raised related to the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Group, namely incidents regarding two Azerbaijani hostages in Armenia, the outstanding return of the body of an Azeri serviceman from Armenia, and the issue around the demining activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Another Special PC meeting dealt with the escalating violence in Eastern Ukraine.

One FSC meeting saw a special discussion on the future of the OSCE's core document on Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), the "Vienna Document". Calls mainly by Western countries for an update of the instrument were again met with opposition from Russia, on the basis that Russia's calls for an update had remained unheard in the past when such an update would have been timely; now the general situation in Europe had closed this window of opportunity, unless there was a change in political positions of certain participating States. However, contrary to similar recent discussions, the tone seemed altogether somewhat more conciliatory.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
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