

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 27/28, 2017

During the past two weeks, there have been meetings of the Ministerial Council (MC – informal), Permanent Council (PC), including a joint meeting with the FSC and a Special PC, and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), and a meeting with the Contact Group with the Asian Partners. A number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have also held meetings, including a meeting of the Informal working group on Legal Personality. There was also a Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs. The PA's Special Representative on the South Caucasus Kristian Vigenin visited Vienna for meetings with the Chairpersons of the Minsk Group (as reported in the News from Copenhagen and during the PA Annual Session in Minsk). All Permanent Staff members and Research Fellow Mariia Pavlova participated in the Annual Session. The informal OSCE MC took place outside of Vienna in Mauerbach, Lower Austria. All Permanent Staff members were also involved in a PA International Secretariat Retreat on the future work of the Vienna Office with PA SG Roberto Montella and Deputy SG Gustavo Pallares.

The most important outcome of the work of the OSCE during the reporting period was the political agreement on the four senior OSCE appointments, which the PC implemented by adopting decisions to put the four appointments of Thomas Greminger – Switzerland – for Secretary General, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir – Iceland – for Director of the ODIHR, Harlem Désir – France – for Representative on the Freedom of the Media and Lamberto Zannier – Italy – for High Commissioner on National Minorities before the ministers in the so-called "Silence Procedure". This means that – if no participating State objects before Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at noon, all four will be appointed and can start working the following day.

In addition to these decisions, the PC also adopted the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 and the Report of the External Auditor, approved the dates (11 to 22 September) of the 2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) and rescheduled the Mediterranean Conference to October 24/25, 2017. The PC also approved the topics for the second part of the 2017 HDIM, the dates (16th and 17th October) and agenda of the 2017 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, as well as the theme, agenda and modalities for this meeting. Although the official presentation of the results of the Minsk Annual Session will take place next week, several delegations already made references to the meeting, and the Swedish ambassador thanked the OSCE PA for its cooperation.

The FSC decided to hold an OSCE meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE assistance projects in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (October 3 to 4, 2017).

The News from Copenhagen has reported about the informal MC and President Muttunen's address to the ministers. The topics on the agenda were the Structured Dialogue on current challenges in the OSCE and the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. There was general agreement that the dialogue would continue. However, the interest was mainly focused on the issue of the senior OSCE appointments.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
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