

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 8 - 11, 2018

The first of these weeks was devoted to the Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which the News from Copenhagen have extensively reported about. During the remaining weeks there have been (routine) meetings by the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC). The latter also held the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM). A number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have also met. Francesco Pagani participated in a visit to Baku and a pre-assessment visit for the upcoming elections in Azerbaijan.

The FSC approved Agenda, Timetable and Modalities for the 7th Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (13 June 2018 in Vienna). No other decisions have been taken in the PC and the FSC. The main outstanding decisions are the one on the extension of the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM) and the selection of a new Head of that Mission. Since the latter process could not be completed on time, the term of Ambassador Apakan has been extended – on an exceptional basis - for another 12 months. Other than that, the PC and the FSC held routine discussions.

The AIAM turned out to be more interesting and lively than in past years, with some noting (very) small progress in the rhetoric. Most “Western” delegates underlined the importance of Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), calling for the modernization of the Vienna Document, but emphasized the need to implement it to the spirit of the letter in the meantime. Italy noted that modern developments have changed the dynamics of the document

Ukraine questioned the relevance/strength of current CSBMs due to Russia’s behavior. In the same vain, Armenia complained about the lack of transparency and large-scale military activity in reference to Azerbaijan. In the context of discussions about Military Doctrines, Ukraine noted that they developed a new military doctrine in 2015 which called for greater partnership with NATO, naming Russia as the enemy. Russia informed delegates on a snap exercise and armed forces, criticizing western nations for not engaging in a dialogue during the Moscow Conference on International Security. One important discussion focused also on military to military contacts, and on the role of the Conflict Prevention Center.



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Ambassador
March 19, 2018