

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Week 40-42, 2017*

During these weeks, the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) met separately and in a joint meeting. Also, the Contact Group with Asian Partners as well as a number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have held meetings. In particular, there were a number of conferences: The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM), a conference on “Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Hatred against Muslims”, one on “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Crisis and Conflict Situations”, another one on “Internet Freedom - The Role and Responsibilities of Internet Intermediaries”, and a practical OSCE-UNHCR Seminar on “Sharing good practices on statelessness amongst OSCE participating States”. In lieu of the regular meeting of heads of missions and institutions dealing with Eastern Europe there were “Informal Consultations on Eastern Europe at the OSCE Secretariat”.

PA President Christine Muttonen delivered the annual address of the President to one of the PC meetings, and the Chair of the PA’s Second Committee Nilza de Sena delivered a statement to the EEDIM. Both appearances, which demonstrated once more the good and close cooperation between the PA and the OSCE’s governmental side, have been covered on the PA website and in the News from Copenhagen. Nilza de Sena also had an extensive program of meetings with key interlocutors. Francesco Pagani, Marco Bonabello and I participated in the PA’s Autumn Meeting in Andorra, Francesco Pagani also in the Regional Heads of Missions Meeting on South East Europe in Skopje, and Marco Bonabello in the PA visit to Morocco.

The PC extended the deployment of OSCE Observers to two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border until end of January 2018. The debate with PA President Muttonen was marked by very detailed and substantive replies to her statement and comprehensive references of delegations to PA activities that took place over the past year. In addition to overwhelming praise for the PA’s work, there was also isolated criticism by two delegations. The general assessment was that the President’s statement had taken up all relevant issues the OSCE is currently dealing with. Marc Carillet delivered a reply to the report by ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir.

The sub-structures of the OSCE decision-making bodies have started to discuss the draft 2018 budget (141.4 million Euros, which is a plus of 1,7% compared to the 2017 budget, but which also means it stays far below usual budgets in the previous decade). However, it should be noted that around 84 million Euros need to be added for the separate budget of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), and that there continues to be additional financing through voluntary and in-kind contributions in the order of around 140 million Euros, although this figure had also been significantly higher several years ago.



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Ambassador  
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