

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 43/44, 2017

During the past two weeks there have been meetings by the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC). A number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have held meetings. There also were a Conference on Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure, Conflict Cycle seminar "From preventive diplomacy to sustainable peace - strengthening the OSCE's toolbox", a Retreat on Political-Military Issues and a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of the Media. Francesco Pagani and Marco Bonabello participated in the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Palermo/Italy.

The PC approved the revision of the 2017 Unified Budget for the Program Office in Dushanbe and the timetable of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. Other than that, the body conducted routine business. Turkey, in a strong statement, announced it would refrain from participating in Human Dimension events, and probably resort to further steps, in case the organization continued to neglect the issue of participation of individuals and NGOs in those events; the establishment of rules for this was long overdue. Turkey was supported by Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. The Chairmanship announced the creation of an informal open-ended group that should look into this issue.

The FSC decided that the 28th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM – regarding politico-military commitments) will be held in February in Vienna.

The main focus is now on the preparation of drafts for the upcoming December Ministerial Council in Vienna. A number of drafts have already been put on the table, and a few first discussions have taken place. This week, an ambassadorial retreat will have a closer look at these "deliverables".

The visit by the Chairman of the PA's Third Committee, Ignacio Sanchez-Amor, who had been invited by the Chairwomen of the parallel committee of the PC, Amb. Sian McCleod to speak during last week's committee meetings, has been covered by the News from Copenhagen. Such visits to Vienna by PA officials have now become almost customary.



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Ambassador
November 6, 2017