

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 2/3, 2019

During the past two weeks there have been the opening sessions of the Permanent Council (PC) – Chairmanship Slovakia - and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) – Chairmanship Switzerland. The second PC heard and debated the address of the OSCE PA President. In addition, there was the two-day Annual Meeting of Heads of Institutions and Field Presences. The News from Copenhagen reported about these events. It is noteworthy again, however, that the debate following the address of President Tsereteli was again very comprehensive, in-depth and marked by a considerable degree of fruitful interaction.

The increasingly good climate and fruitful cooperation with the governmental side was also the subject of the many intensive informal meetings that the PA President and the PA Secretary General participated in.

The OSCE's failure to adopt the 2019 Unified Budget on time continues to worry participating States as well as the Secretariat, Institutions and Missions. On December 2018, there were no objections of substance against the budget. However, because one delegation argues that it is impossible to adopt a budget without valid Scales of Contribution, there was no consensus regarding its adoption. The Slovak Chairmanship is making efforts at the highest-level to find a solution for a problem that the participating States have not managed to solve for the past two decades. Hopefully, this will not affect other budgetary discussions, like the one on the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine which expires March 31.

The OSCE Academic Network presented the report of the Project on Religion and Conflict prevention in the OSCE context, an interesting plea to make better use of religious institutions when addressing the conflict cycle.



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Ambassador
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