

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

November 16, 2018

PC Brief Week 38-46, 2018

These weeks were marked by an extensive involvement of Liaison Office Staff in OSCE PA activities outside of Vienna and a considerable number of visits by OSCE PA officers to Vienna, which the News from Copenhagen have already reported about. OSCE PA activities staffed by the Office included the visit of Special Representative for South East Europe Mark Pritchard to Serbia, the Bishkek Fall Session, the Election Observation Missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, the Needs Assessment Mission to Armenia, the Presidential visits to Bratislava, Italy, the Holy See and San Marino, the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (where I held two key note speeches on election-related matters), a Rome Meeting of Political Directors and the Madrid Conference on Victims of Terrorism. PA President Tsereteli addressed the PC on 11 October, followed by a presentation at a side event of an Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy and an anniversary reception organized by the Vienna Office. The Chair of the Committee on Countering Terrorism Makis Voridis came to Vienna to speak at the 2nd OSCE-wide seminar on Passenger Data exchange and again at the Security Committee. The Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's Human Rights Committee Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni participated in a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights and Education. The OSCE PA's Second Committee Rapporteur Elena Gjebrea Hoxha participated in the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM). I represented the OSCE PA as an opening speaker at the ODIHR Seminar on Election Observation and Election Campaigns.

There were meetings of the PC – including a joint one with the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) on Structured Dialogue and a Special PC on the illegal “elections” in Eastern Donbas, Ukraine, - of the FSC, of the Committees and other informal sub-structures, as well as the events mentioned above, plus a Conference on Women in the Security Sector, a Conference on Gender and Second Dimension: Digital Transformation, and an OSCE Seminar "Leveraging migration for socio-economic development". In addition to the addresses by PA members we spoke at several of these presenting the PA's positions and activities.

The output of all these meetings in terms of decisions was minimal: A decision to forward Draft Agenda to the Ministerial Council, the Timetable of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and the Dates and Venue of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM). However, the Milan Ministerial Council will most probably be held without modalities due to conflicting views on which International Organizations should be officially invited to attend.

A number of Western countries invoked the “Moscow Mechanism”, an investigation by human rights experts into “alleged human rights violations” in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, referring to 27 individuals who allegedly were extrajudicially executed by Chechen authorities in Grozny in 2017.

The drafting of MC documents is at the centre of attention (list of 14 November attached), with six of them mentioning the importance of PA activities in the fields of the fight against terrorism, digital economy, combating gender-based violence, promoting women political participation and in the Draft Milan declaration on dialogue, ownership and responsibility for a safer Europe, as well as in the Draft declaration on the OSCE'S efforts in addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine.



Andreas Nothelle, Ambassador