

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

*PC Brief Week 47/48, 2018*

During the past two weeks there have been meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), including a Special PC on the Kerch Strait incident, and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), as well as a two-day ambassadorial retreat. A number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have also held meetings, and there was an "hour of the Secretary General with participating States". Francesco Pagani accompanied PA Secretary General Roberto Montella to an election observation-related conference in London and participated in a Needs Assessment Mission for the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine. I took part in a Symposium on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (as reported in the News from Copenhagen). The event included a discussion with members of the Bundestag Defense Committee and the German OSCE PA Delegation.

The PC decided to submit the decision about Albania's bid for the 2020 OSCE Chairmanship to a Ministerial Council Silence Procedure Decision and extend the Deployment of OSCE Observers to Two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border, the Mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania and the mandates of the OSCE Program Office in Astana, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the OSCE Mission to Skopje as well as the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan.

While engaging in intensive drafting exercises in preparation for the Milan Ministerial Council next week, delegations were dealing with three burning issues: The OSCE Chairmanship in 2020, the Scales of Contribution and the latest escalation of tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The latter led to various debates in PC and FSC meetings, including the above-mentioned Special PC. Quoting from the Press Release of PA President George Tsereteli, I made a statement outlining the concerns of the Parliamentary Assembly about the escalation which constitutes a serious threat to European Security. Both Russia and Ukraine presented what they described as facts regarding the Kerch Strait incident. The positions were substantiated, but contradictory. Despite the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and other OSCE field presences in the region, there is no OSCE mechanism that investigates further into these facts in order to establish which assertions are accurate. However, there are initial discussions regarding a possible risk prevention mechanism for the Azov Sea.

No consensus has been reached regarding the Scales of Contribution. A proposal to continue with the existing Scales was rejected. If some delegations stick to previous positions, this could seriously endanger the financing of the OSCE. Albania has received almost unanimous support for its bid for the 2020 OSCE Chairmanship, and if no country objects before December 5 noon, the decision will be final. However, Serbia's reference under "Current Issues" to certain "statements regarding the unification of Albania and Kosovo and Trade Tariffs Imposed by Pristina" by Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama led to a heated debate. Serbia's complaints were supported by several participating States that have not recognized Kosovo's declaration of independence, among them EU countries.



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Ambassador  
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