

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 1 - 3, 2020

The last weeks of December and the first weeks of January, which included a two-week Winter Recess, were largely devoted to the Ministerial Council Meeting in Bratislava and the opening events of the new (Albanian) OSCE Chairmanship. By - in the meantime established - practice the latter now include the early address of the OSCE PA President to the Permanent Council, a week after the formal opening by the Chairman-in-Office. All these events took place with active participation of senior members of the OSCE PA and have been covered by the reporting in the News from Copenhagen and on the OSCE PA website. They also included the traditional Annual Meeting of Heads of OSCE Institutions and Field Presences. In addition to these events, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), in particular during the Ministerial Council meeting in Bratislava. In parallel, the staff of the Vienna Liaison Office participated in the presidential visit to Kyiv, the visit of the Ad-hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to Norway, the visit of the OSCE PA's Third General Committee to Berlin, the ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission to Azerbaijan and the Election Observation Mission to Uzbekistan.

The MC decided on the OSCE Chairmanships in the Years 2021 and 2022, to rename the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the Time and Place of the Next Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council and adopted Commemorative Declarations on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the 25th Anniversary of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1540. Finally, there was a Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the "5+2" Format.

Some see the outcome of the Ministerial as a partial success, largely because it was possible to decide who will lead the organization in 2021 and 2022 (Sweden and Poland), but also because some of the informal talks that had been held on the sidelines. However, the OSCE Unified Budget 2020 remains a draft, and the Albanian Chairmanship is faced with the challenge of having to find a consensus on the (re-)appointment of the most senior OSCE officials.

From a pure OSCE PA perspective, it was encouraging to see how much the PA's contributions and its participation in all major activities has become an integral part of the work of the OSCE's structures. The OSCE PA's continuous input and its numerous activities are not only accepted, but actively requested. For instance, the presidential visit to Kyiv, which included the Chairperson of the OSCE PA's Third Committee Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) and the Rapporteur of the Second General Committee Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania), as it took place right after the Normandy Four Summit, offered an excellent opportunity to get first-hand information and discuss the results with Ukraine's leadership.



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Ambassador
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