

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 14, 2016

This week, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), including a Special PC on the crisis between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the plenary of the Minsk Group, the PrepComm, the Human Dimension Committee, the Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows, a Workshop "Reflecting on the Implementation of the SSG/R Guidelines". There also was a Working Luncheon hosted by Egypt for several main actors of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation.

The PC extended the Deployment of OSCE Observers to Two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border for another three months. In the meeting of the Special PC on the crisis between Armenia and Azerbaijan, I informed delegations about the joint statement by President Kanerva and Special Representative Vigenin. I also expressed condolences to the victims and the families and friends of the deceased and expressed the readiness of the PA to contribute – on an inter-parliamentary level - to the search for a comprehensive settlement and any confidence building-measure that reduces the risk for further hostilities on the path towards such a settlement. The members of the Group of countries working on the crisis dealt with by the Minsk Conference ("Minsk Group"), in a meeting that preceded the PC and to which I had been invited, had agreed on a brief statement regarding the immediate cessation of violence, which was presented to the PC. Co-Chairman US-Amb. Warlick, on behalf of the Minsk Group, and the Chairman-in-Office's Special Representative Amb. Kasprzyk reported about the situation. In addition, apart from the usual list of "Current Issues", there were several interpretative statements regarding the decision to extend Dunja Mijatovic's mandate and also regarding the observation of the two border crossing points.

In a meeting of the OSCE's "Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows", I informed delegations about the mandate of the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and reiterated the PA's readiness for close cooperation, as previously expressed in the Committee's mandate and in a letter I sent to the Chairman of the Group, Swiss Amb. Wild.

The week started with the launch of the OSCE's Guidelines on Security Sector Governance/Reform (SSG/R), which the Secretariat issued after close cooperation with many actors, including the OSCE PA. The latter was underlined by the OSCE Secretary General and several delegates in the meeting. I expressed the PA's gratitude for this close and fruitful cooperation and announced that we will continue working on this issue which is very close to the heart of parliamentarians.

Finally, the former Speaker of the Parliament of Cyprus and President of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities Alexis Galanos, together with several mayors from Cyprus and the Ambassador of the country, visited the Liaison Office.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
April 8, 2016