

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 19-21, 2016

During these weeks, there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the Contact Group with Asian partners, the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the topical committees, working groups and several other informal meetings, as well as ambassadorial retreats of the Permanent Council and of the Mediterranean Contact Group that I attended, the latter preceded by a workshop of experts on Dialogue in Search for Social Cohesion. Francesco Pagani participated in the Needs Assessment Mission for the next elections in Montenegro and attended a two-day brainstorming retreat for the PA on mediation in Helsinki. Marc Carillet attended a two-day Gender Focal Points meeting. One of the weeks was devoted to part 2 of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Berlin.

The PC extended the Mandate of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine and decided that the next OSCE Mediterranean Conference will take place in Vienna from the 5-6 October 2016. Secretary General Zannier presented the Program Outline (draft political instructions for the next OSCE budget), which is undergoing intensive discussions in the PrepCom. The EU welcomed the joint statement by PA President Kanerva and Director Link of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights regarding a constitutional amendment passed by the Turkish parliament lifting the parliamentary immunity of certain members of parliament.

The ambassadorial (PC) retreat served as an opportunity to discuss the role of the OSCE with respect to the crisis in and around Ukraine, the OSCE's involvement in the efforts on tolerance and non-discrimination, and possible issues for the December Ministerial Council Meeting (MC) in Hamburg. The discussions, while being lively, did not yield in anything going beyond the OSCE's routine work. On Ukraine, the main point of discussion was considerations for an eventual protection of local elections by international armed police. Among other topics, there was also a discussion on migration.

The retreat of the Mediterranean Contact Group focused on ideas for strengthening cooperation with the Partners in general, on the outcome of the Expert Workshop on Social Cohesion, which was attended by the PA's Special Representative on Border Issues, Ignacio Sanchez-Amor, and on possible OSCE contributions to stabilizing the situation in Libya. The UN's Special Representative on Libya, Amb. Kobler, and representatives from the country's civil society attended the meeting. Kobler suggested that the OSCE PA should organize a Libyan "youth parliament" in order to reach out to the Libyan society, help develop democratic ideas and promote reconciliation efforts.

The FSC discussed the future of conventional arms control and confidence building measures, which triggered a comprehensive statement by Russia on what it considers to be a hostile atmosphere spread by countries west of Vienna. It also saw a controversy with Russia about the Anaconda NATO military exercise to be held next month (7-17 June). It is Polish led and the largest NATO exercise this year with 25.000 troops, including air and land forces.

In a special event on the issue of disabled persons, I recalled the Baku Declaration of 2014.

Marc Carillet referred to the PA's resolution on the Scales of Contribution in a meeting on the same topic.

The Mediation Retreat in Helsinki was hosted by the Finnish Parliament and sponsored by the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). Participants included President Ilkka Kanerva, Vice-Presidents Kent Harstedt, Christine Muttonen and George Tsereteli as well as Secretary General Roberto Montella.



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Ambassador
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