

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 44, 2015

This week there were meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepComm), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), a two-day Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SDHM) on the OSCE's Contributions to the Protection of National Minorities, and the "Security Days on Climate Change and Security". Roberto Montella was back in the office on Thursday after parental leave and a preparatory visit in Copenhagen.

The Permanent Council was addressed by the Chairman-in-Office of the South East European Cooperation Council (SEECP), Bulgarian FM Daniel Mitov, and heard the ODIHR report about the HDIM. As usual, there was a discussion about the effectiveness of this event. ODIHR Director Link underlined the good cooperation with the PA and the role of the PA's representative, Vilija Abramikiene, during the meeting. Besides the usual discussions on Ukraine and related issues, which are heating up again, discussions under "Current Issues" also addressed the ongoing protests in Montenegro, a recent Minsk Group Statement and the ongoing dispute between Azerbaijan and ODIHR Director Link about the ODIHR's decision not to observe the Azerbaijani elections, because of the restrictions regarding the size of the observation mission. Apparently, Azerbaijan wanted to negotiate with the ODIHR a downsizing of the observation of the Azerbaijani elections to a small technical team. ODIHR's non-compliance with this request is now threatening to affect the discussions on the Unified Budget for 2016. ODIHR Director Link was present and clarified that ODIHR remains ready to continue assisting Azerbaijan on electoral matters with technical experts, but that sending a small expert team for election day would not be in line with established OSCE election observation methodology. He was supported in this by the EU, the US, Canada and Norway.

The FSC devoted its debate under the Agenda Item "Security Dialogue" to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Affairs. Having been asked by the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship to take the floor after several presentations about ombudsmen for the Armed Services, I briefed the FSC about the long-standing support that the PA has given to the issue and referred to the latest pertinent resolution at our Annual Session in Helsinki, as well as the previous one on parliamentary oversight over the public and private security sectors (Baku 2014). The EU, in its statement, welcomed the PA's engagement.

The SHDM on 29 and 30 October dealt with the issue of national minorities in states, especially in the light of the Copenhagen Document, the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations and the Ljubljana Guidelines. Marc Carillet referred to the upcoming OSCE PA seminar on German-Danish Minorities in Germany and Denmark. The Security Days Event on "Climate Change and Security : Unprecedented Impacts, Unpredictable Risks" precedes the Paris Summit on Climate Change due to take place in early December. The discussion revolved around possible roles for the OSCE after the Paris Summit. However, Climate Change is a topic that many delegations do not see as part of the OSCE's responsibilities. The minimum common denominator among participating States on this topic is "Improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities in the OSCE Region". To some extent, the event was used to propagate nuclear energy.

The discussions in the ACMF on the 2016 Unified Budget Proposal of 145.4 million Euros, proposing an increase by 4.3 million Euros (+ 3 %), all of which goes to the Secretariat and the institutions, continue. However, the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has a separate 88.7 million Euros budget, which has caused a de facto increase of the total spending of the OSCE by 61 %, more than doubling the expenditure on field operations.



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Ambassador
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