

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 17-19, 2017

During these weeks, there have been meetings of the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), which saw the opening of the Russian chairmanship, as well as a high number of meetings of committees and other informal bodies. In addition, there were two conferences, one on "Rebuilding Trust: Dialogue-Interaction-Crisis Management", the other one on "Preventing Human Trafficking for Domestic Servitude in Diplomatic Households". The senior office staff participated also in the Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen, a subsequent staff meeting there, and the Leinsweiler Retreat. In addition, Marc Carillet participated in a meeting in Brussels with the Chair of the Adhoc Group on Belarus, Vice President Harstedt, and I was on leave between the Bureau Meeting and the Retreat.

The PC adopted a new mandate of the Program Office in Bishkek running until the end of 2017. It is a downgrade from a fully-fledged office to that of a project coordinator. The Chairmanship and OSCE Secretary General Zannier announced that – due to the failure of the negotiations on an extension - the closure of the office in Yerevan will now be completed by August 31, 2017. Armenia and Azerbaijan blame each other for this situation.

The PC also adopted a Declaration of support to the SMM following the tragic incident, which had led to the death of a US paramedic who was part of a patrol of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). Because of the incident, the SMM will, until further notice, only patrol on asphalted roads, with immediate negative consequences for the already limited possibilities for the monitoring. The OSCE Secretariat deployed an investigation team. In his last PC report as Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amb. Jonathan Moore praised the interaction with the OSCE PA as well as the degree of cooperation the Mission enjoys with the OSCE's parliamentary branch.

During the PC there also was an extensive discussion on the preliminary assessment of the Turkish Referendum. Turkey accused politicians that were part of the election observation mission of having a political agenda. Regarding the attack on the parliament in Skopje, another issue discussed, the Chairmanship sent Amb. Christian Strohal as their envoy to the country.

There also was an informal hearing of the candidates for the succession of Dunja Mijatovic as Representative on the Freedom of the Media. In addition to Mr Fava (Italy) who had already made a presentation, four candidates with a very distinct profile presented themselves: Ireny Comaroschi (Romania), a career diplomat, Harlem Désir (France) a politician and civil rights activist, Herman Grech (Malta), a journalist, and Brankica Petkovic (Slovenia), an researcher. So far, the Chairmanship has not disclosed any concrete conclusions from the informal consultations about the vacancies of the senior OSCE posts. Also, there is still no consensus on the OSCE budget for the current year.



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Ambassador
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