

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Weeks 39/40, 2016

During these two weeks, again no regular meeting of the Permanent Council (PC) was scheduled, due to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw and the Annual OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Vienna. However, there were two extraordinary meetings of the PC, two meetings of the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC) as well as meetings of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) – including a retreat -, the Economic and Environmental Committee and other informal meetings. In addition, there was the 5th CFE Review Conference and a Security Day on “Revitalising Military Confidence-Building, Risk Reduction and Arms Control in Europe”. Francesco, Marc and I spent several days in Skopje for the PA Autumn Meeting and a short pre-electoral visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The PC extended the Deployment of OSCE Observers to Two Russian Checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border (PC.DD/25/16 of 7 September 2016) and decided that the Human Dimension Seminar will take place in Warsaw from 21 to 23 November 2016 and will be devoted to the topic “Promoting effective and integral justice systems: how to ensure the independence and quality of the judiciary”. It also permitted the ODIHR to use unspent funds for the Election Observation Missions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Uzbekistan. In his report, Secretary General Zannier reported on his fruitful participation in Skopje and the good spirit of cooperation that emanated from his meetings there. He also presented the draft Unified Budget proposal for 2017 (144,5 Million Euros), which will be discussed in the coming weeks. Following a Ukrainian letter referring to a Verkhovna Rada Resolution calling for participating States and international organizations not to accept the newly elected Russian State Duma, Ukraine called on the PA not to accept “illegally elected” Russian Duma members.

During the reinforced ambassadorial retreat, ambassadors and representatives from the capitals discussed possible “deliverables” for the Hamburg Ministerial Council in December. Despite the little likelihood of consensus, the Chairmanship wants to make another endeavour to get consensus on a political declaration and a text on Ukraine.

The highlight of the ministerial part of the Mediterranean Conference was a debate with the Foreign Minister of the UN backed Libyan Unity Government and UN Special Representative Martin Kobler. Kobler reiterated the call he had made already earlier this year at the retreat in Madrid (I reported) for the PA to organize a “Youth Parliament” in the form of a mock parliament in order to provide young future decision-makers, in a particular from Libya, with a practical example of parliamentary work.



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Ambassador
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