

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

PC Brief Week 20/21, 2017

During the past two weeks there have been meetings by the Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), as well as of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the three topical committees, and many more informal meetings. In addition, there was a two-day 2017 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, attended by PA Special Representative on Terrorism Nikolay Kovalev and PA Deputy Secretary General Dzakhiev. I spent the first week on a field visit of the PA Special Representative on South East Europe, VP Roberto Battelli, and another two days of the second week at the election observation coordination meeting in Warsaw. All three events have been covered in Press Releases and the News from Copenhagen. In parallel to the second week of Vienna meetings, there was also the 2017 OSCE Youth Conference in Malaga, where the OSCE PA was represented by Ruta Miliute, MP, Lithuania.

Neither the PC nor the FSC took any decision. In fact, it failed to decide the calendar of the Human Dimension events, with the consequence, that the annual Human Dimension Seminar that was planned to take place in two weeks, had to be cancelled. Apart from the usual exchange on Ukraine and related topics under "Current Issues", the PC heard and debated a number of routine reports from the field. There was also an address by a Vice President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, in charge of the Energy Union. The main focus of the second week was on the very well-attended Anti-Terrorism Conference.

Although there is a number of rumours, officially there has been no progress so far on the appointments of senior OSCE officials. On some, the Chairmanship has still not received feedback from a number of delegations. Also, there is still no consensus on the 2017 OSCE Budget, the delay of which is now beating all previous records and obviously creating tremendous difficulties.

Italy has seconded an additional staff person to the Office. Liaison Officer and Advisor Marco Bonabello, previously employed by the OSCE Secretariat, started working on May 15.



Andreas Nothelle
Ambassador
May 26, 2017