

Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

September 8, 2017

PC Brief Week 35/36, 2017

During the past two weeks, which relaunched the activities of the Permanent Council (PC) after the Summer Recess, the PC and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) met. A number of committees and other informal bodies and gatherings have also held meetings. All Vienna Permanent Staff spent a full day in a meeting with the PA President and the staff in Copenhagen. In addition, Marco Bonabello, Francesco Pagani, Tim Knoblauch, Katerina Koci and Mariia Pavlova spent several days at the headquarters of the International Secretariat in Copenhagen.

Over the Summer Recess, two PC decisions on the topic and dates as well as on the agenda, timetable and other organizational modalities of the 2017 Human Dimension Seminar were adopted through a silence procedure. At the first meeting of the PC after the recess the new OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger underlined his intention to continue and enhance the good cooperation between the OSCE Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly. In response, I referred to the letters of congratulations sent by PA President Muttonen and PA Secretary General Montella and offered the PA's continued good and friendly cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dacic opened the Serbian FSC Chairmanship. The minister stated that during the upcoming months the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in the politico-military dimension, including parliamentary oversight, will be one of the three focus areas of the Serbian Chairmanship.

The 3rd Meeting of the Informal Working Group (IWG) "Structured Dialogue" in "Capitals Format" dealt with the topics "OSCE principles under strain. The undiminished relevance of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris" and "Arms control arrangements under the aegis of the OSCE: Is there a better way to handle compliance?". During the latter discussion the Russian delegation stated that the CFE regime cannot be restored, although its best practices should be utilized. On the eve of the meeting, the Chairmanship held a Panel Discussion. In that discussion, the Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Amb. Ischinger, criticized those who gave up on diplomacy. He strongly urged diplomats to accept that in times of general distrust and violations of fundamental norms efforts to negotiate arms control and confidence building instruments are more necessary than ever.

At the meeting of the economic and environmental committee, Marco Bonabello stressed the crucial role of parliamentarians in promoting good legislation in the field of labor migration. The important work conducted by OSCE PA on migration was duly highlighted.

I hosted a working luncheon with the two recently arrived ambassadors from Belarus and Slovakia, Alena Kupchyna and Radomir Bohac. Slovakia will chair the OSCE in 2019. The Belarusian ambassador emphasized again the good cooperation her country and the PA had enjoyed during the recent Summer Session in Minsk. The Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Amb. Braathu and I also discussed further cooperation between the PA and the mission.



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Ambassador