

## Special Representative

To:

PA President

and

PA Secretary General

### *PC Brief Weeks 47/48, 2016*

During these two weeks, there were many meetings of the Permanent Council (PC), the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), the two Contact Groups with the Partners for Cooperation, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF), the three topical committees, and dozens of other informal meetings. Francesco Pagani accompanied PA President Muttunen to Istanbul for the NATO PA Annual Session.

The PC took a number of decisions, in particular on extensions of mandates of OSCE field presences. The proposed extensions of the mandates of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and of the OSCE Office in Yerevan had to be postponed. The Centre in Bishkek and the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan are still pending. Two field presences, the Mission in Kosovo and the Centre in Ashgabat, run on an open-ended mandate and do not need a decision. The other mandates were extended. In addition, the PC decided some technical amendments to the financial regulations and decided that the concluding meeting of the 25th Economic and Environmental Forum will be held from 6 to 8 September 2017 in Prague. The PA was positively mentioned in the discussion with the Chairs of the three topical committees.

The PC also heard reports by the Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM Ukraine, Ambassador Apakan, and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Amb. Sajdik, on the latest developments in Ukraine. There is a very worrying increase in cease-fire violations, the urgent need for a new commitment regarding the withdrawal of heavy weapons, since the positive dynamic in this direction has been reversed in the past months. Although there is some progress on individual practical issues, the prospects for the people in the affected areas looks very dim, in particular in light of the beginning winter, the spreading of hostilities to new locations, the destruction of crucial infrastructure, difficulties in access to drinking water, and the difficult passage at the crossing points.

As to the numerous informal negotiations regarding possible draft Ministerial Council (MC) Decisions, there is little progress on controversial issues, although some texts contain long passages which could be consensual. I attach again a list of "official" drafts, i.e. drafts that the Chairmanship has taken on board. In addition, several delegations have proposed drafts, one of them (sexual exploitation of children) is based on a PA resolution. As reported last time, some of the texts on the table contain language on the role of the OSCE PA, but many of them are unlikely to succeed. This includes several texts in the Human Dimension and a text on OSCE efforts addressing the Conflict Cycle, including through mediation. Russia is now participating in the drafting of the latter, but has immediately requested to cut the text on the PA very short. It has also requested to delete the reference to the PA in the text on the crisis in and around Ukraine, to cut the PA-related text in the draft Political Declaration very short, and to delete or dilute references to the PA made in Human Dimension texts.

I had the opportunity to host a working lunch for the new Turkish ambassador and the new ambassadors from the Partner Countries Australia and Japan.



Andreas Nothelle  
Ambassador  
December 2, 2016