



TO: OSCE PA BUREAU

THROUGH: OSCE PA SECRETARY GENERAL

MONTHLY REPORT for SEPTEMBER 2022

As in previous months, the war in Ukraine has dominated the OSCE executive structures' agenda. The main developments on the Governmental side of the OSCE family are presented in thematic order below:

- As was the case before the recess, the **COVID-19 pandemic** continues to impact the conduct of business, with meetings remaining in hybrid format: with physical participation (limited to just 1+1 or 1+0 per Delegation, depending on the room) and online.
- While the **Permanent Council** meetings continue to be dominated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, extensive discussions were held recently on armed clashes along the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as those between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. During the summer recess in August, 6 months since the start of the invasion was commemorated at two **Special PC** meetings.
- The incoming CiO Osmani presented the **North Macedonian 2023 Chairmanship priorities** on 01 September, announcing the focus to be on making a difference on the ground, implementing the commitments made by all participating States, and rebuilding stability by restoring dialogue.
- The Personal Representatives of the OSCE CiO on Combating **Anti-Semitism**, on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against **Muslims**, and on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against **Christians** and Members of Other Religions; and the report under the **Moscow Mechanism** invoked by 38 OSCE participating States in relation to particularly serious threats to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE Human Dimension by the Russian Federation, were presented to the PC in September. Additionally, one **reinforced PC** meeting with (online) participation of representatives from capitals was held to discuss illegal attempts to legalize the occupation of the eastern Ukraine (through annexation of parts of its territories), with in-person participation of the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Emine Dzhaparova.
- The **30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**, the main conference in the second dimension, was held in Prague from 08-09 September. The PA was represented through the participation of Vice-President Pons.
- Since consensus on holding the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting could not be reached for the third year in a row, Poland is organizing the **Warsaw Human Rights Conference** as Chairmanship event, from 26 September to 07 October – the period normally belonging to the HDIM. The official RF Delegation is not participating due to the alleged failure of the organizer to provide security. However, several Russian civil societies have confirmed their attendance. The PA is planning a round table on "*Parliamentary partnership with civil society for human rights*" for 05 October.

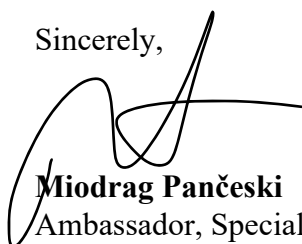
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- There is no progress in the process of the **2022 Unified Budget** adoption, with a few delegations unable to join the consensus on the latest draft. The Polish Chairmanship is still addressing the issue. However, according to the interpretation of the Secretariat, if the UB 2022 is not adopted by the end of the year, the Governmental side of the OSCE can continue to operate on the monthly allotments from the 2021 UB. This is far from optimal, bearing in mind the inflation and other issues negatively impacting the budget and the programmatic activities. North Macedonia, as the incoming OSCE Chair, took over the Chairmanship of the Administrative Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) on 30 September.
- As this year's Chair of the Mediterranean Group, North Macedonia is organizing a **Mediterranean Conference** in Jordan on 24-25 October: for the first time since 2015, and the Serbian/German Chairmanship, the Mediterranean conference is held in one of the Partner Countries. This is a good first sign for the successful Chairmanship.
- There has been no progress on the **2024 Chairmanship**. The application of Estonia still stands, as does the Russian Federation and Belarus' position against it. Consequently, the Troika format and composition, consisting of former, current, and the incoming Chair, will have to be reconsidered.
- Given the current situation in the Organization, the Polish Chairmanship does not plan to propose any substantive draft decisions/declarations for the **MC in Lodz** scheduled for 01-02 December, as per the decision reached in Stockholm last year. The distribution of the draft agenda and modalities for the MC are pending. Poland hopes for the universal participation at the MC.
- The ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci, young diplomats from the OSCE Partner Countries, and representatives of the alumni of the Program Office in Dushanbe, visited the Vienna Office in September.
- Delegations of participating States are expressing interest for new dates and venue of the PA Autumn Session (Warsaw, 24-26 November).

Vienna, 03 October 2022

Sincerely,



Miodrag Pančeski

Ambassador, Special Representative