



Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office 957th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 27 June 2013

- On 14 June, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara received the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

They briefed the CiO on the current situation around the negotiations on the Basic Principles of the settlement as well as outcomes of recent meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The timing of the visit of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to Azerbaijan and Armenia was discussed, taking into consideration the importance that Ukraine, as the OSCE Chairmanship, attaches to the fruitful outcomes of the visit, including substantive discussions at the highest level.

- On 18-19 June, the Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Kozhara visited Georgia. He held talks with President Mikheil Saakashvili, Prime-Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili and Minister for Foreign Affairs Maia Pandjikidze.

A number of issues of the OSCE agenda were discussed, including the current situation in the Geneva process. The Chairperson-in-Office expressed concern over the process of erecting fences along the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia, which creates serious obstacles for the freedom of movement of the local population. He urged to discuss this issue in the framework of the existing international mechanisms with the aim of finding its peaceful solution through negotiations.

- On 19-20 June, the Annual Security Review Conference took place in Vienna.

The Chairmanship is of the opinion that this event has been a successful and interactive. Discussions clearly demonstrated that the chosen topic of the Conference was highly relevant and offered an opportunity for the pS

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to discuss common responses to the existing and emerging threats and challenges in the OSCE area.

The Chairmanship will reflect the main results of the Conference by using them as a contribution for consideration in the Helsinki+40 process. The relevant report will be prepared by the Chairmanship and distributed before the summer recess.

- On 21 June, the 35th meeting under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism took place in Ergneti, co-facilitated by the OSCE and EU Monitoring Mission.

The security situation on the ground was assessed as calm and quiet. The participants discussed the increased level of fencing activities along the Administrative Boundary Line and its impact on local communities, especially with regard to restrictions to their freedom of movement and threats to their livelihood. The co-facilitators encouraged participants to find pragmatic solutions to the alarming issue of local communities' access to water, as well as cemeteries.

Other issues on the agenda included the situation of detained, missing and wanted persons, as well as rehabilitation of water infrastructure.

The next meeting will take place on 30 July.

- On 21 June, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Kozhara met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Nataliia Gherman. They discussed further steps in the context of the Transdnestrian settlement. The CiO noted the necessity to use all possibilities of the 5+2 negotiation process, as well as direct dialogue between the sides to discuss in a constructive manner the existing problems and to find compromise solutions.
- On 25 and 26 June, the twenty-fourth round of the Geneva International Discussions took place, co-chaired by the OSCE, the EU and the UN.

In the Working Group 1, the participants reviewed the security situation on the ground. The Co-chairs expressed their concern over construction of fences and digging of trenches along the ABLs with South Ossetia and with Abkhazia.

In the Working Group 2, the participants expressed concern over the humanitarian situation along the Administrative boundary lines, and exchanged views on the issues related to the missing persons.

The next round of the discussions will take place on 15 and 16 October.

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