

**Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office
970th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 07 November 2013**

- On 5 and 6 November, the 25th round of the Geneva International Discussions was held under the co-chairmanship of the OSCE, the EU and the UN.

In Working Group I, the participants discussed the security situation on the ground. The Co-chairs welcomed the relative stability and the calm situation but noted with concern the effect on the freedom of movement and the livelihood of the local population of the continued deployment of fences and other obstacles at different locations along the Administrative Boundary Lines. In this regard the Special representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia underlined the importance of continuing constructive work in frames of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism and called for a pragmatic approach to address the concerns of the local population on the ground.

The participants also agreed to continue engaging in further work on the draft statement on non-use of force.

In Working Group II, the participants reviewed the humanitarian situation on the ground. They exchanged views on practical ways to address the issues related to the freedom of movement, missing and detained persons, as well as on some aspects related to the displaced persons.

The next round of Geneva Discussions will take place on 17 and 18 December.

- On 31 October - 1 November the Chairmanship and the ODIHR organized the presentation of the “Review of electoral

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legislation and practice in OSCE participating States”. The event also provided an opportunity for presentation by OSCE pS of steps taken to improve their electoral legislation and practice. The outcomes of the event have displayed the need for continuous dialogue to strengthen confidence in the OSCE community on election-related issues.

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