

**Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office
961st Meeting of the Permanent Council, 18 July 2013**

- On 11-12 July the Second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting devoted to the topic of the "Rule of Law in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" took place in Vienna.

In our view it was a good event which provided a forum to discuss how the rule of law in the promotion and protection of human rights could be enhanced in the OSCE area.

- On 15 July the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara paid a visit to Armenia. He held meetings with President Serzh Sargsyan, Speaker of the Parliament Hovik Abrahamyan and Minister for Foreign affairs Edward Nalbandian.

The talks focused on the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement process and the ways to intensify the negotiations. The Chairperson-in-Office expressed his support to the activities of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at promoting dialogue between the parties to the conflict.

Minister Kozhara further underlined the important role of a dialogue at the parliamentary level and at the level of civil society in seeking effective ways to solve the conflict.

The OSCE Chair also discussed with the Armenian leadership the OSCE activities across all three dimensions and the implementation of priorities of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship.

- On 16 and 17 July the negotiations round on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the 5+2 format took place in Vienna,

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chaired by the OSCE Chairperson's Special Representative for conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia.

The participants discussed a range of issues, including freedom of movement, modalities for dismantling the Rybnitsa-Rezina cable car, environmental and economic issues, co-operation between law enforcement structures and education.

A protocol decision regarding the draft joint action plan on environmental issues and sustainable use of natural resources was agreed and signed at the round. The joint action plan, which includes legislative co-operation, monitoring and issues related to fisheries, is being developed at the Working Group level with the support of the OSCE.

The participants reaffirmed the need for a more intensive co-operation at the level of political representatives and the expert working groups in the period between the official talks.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 3 October.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship would like to express its high appreciation to the Austrian Foreign Ministry for its kind hospitality in hosting the talks.

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