

# News from Copenhagen

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## OSCE PA Promotes Political Dialogue in Moldova

On 28-29 April 2003 an OSCE PA "Seminar on Federalism" will be held in Moldova. This is a further initiative of the Assembly's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, which was established in early 1999 to help in finding a solution concerning the status of the Transdniestrian region. Two years ago, in May 2001, the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen, organized a similar Seminar that took place in Finland and focused on 'Self-Government'. The Seminar in Finland brought together representatives of the Moldovan Parliament and the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet, as well as parliamentarians from several other OSCE countries, including Russia and Ukraine.

Governmental representatives of Moldova, Russia and Ukraine were also present, as were members of the Transdniestrian authority. The upcoming seminar in Moldova on federalism, organized in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, consists of three working sessions: "European Models of Federalism", "Moldova as a Partner in an Integrating Europe", and "Towards a Solution". Sessions will take place both in Chisinau and Tiraspol. Similar to the seminar in Finland in 2001, a group of political actors will be invited to discuss different European modes of federalism and to consider how these experiences could be utilized in Moldova.

## Berne Conference to Foster Small and Medium Sized Business in the OSCE area

From 14-16 May 2003 the OSCE PA will organize a Subregional Conference on Small and Medium Sized Business in Berne, Switzerland. This is the third conference organized by the OSCE PA in the field of sub-regional economic co-operation following Monaco (1997) and Nantes (1999). The main objective of the Berne Conference is to raise awareness among members of parliaments regarding the importance of small and medium sized enterprises for sustainable economic development, and to reflect that awareness in their legislative work. The conclusions of the Conference may be used for drawing a Code of Conduct on promoting Small and Medium Sized Business in the OSCE area.



*On 6 March 2003, Mr. Göran Lennmarker, Chair of the OSCE PA's First General Committee, visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. During his visit he met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary Pentti Väänänen and members of the staff in order to discuss the upcoming activities of the Assembly related to the first General Committee and the Balkans, as well as the Caucasus.*

## From Vienna

The Permanent Council (PC) has agreed on an agenda for the Annual Security Review Conference on June 25 and 26 2003, which is to be followed by a special PC. The Conference on Anti-Semitism (not to be confounded with the US-German parliamentary initiative on this issue) will be held June 19 and 20 in Vienna, and a meeting on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination will be held in the Autumn in conjunction with the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. The next Ministerial Council will take place on December 1 and 2 in Maastricht, Netherlands. And, finally, Afghanistan has formally requested the status of a Partner for Co-operation. Formal decisions have not been taken.