

## Gender Representative Calls for Active Engagement

During her presentation to the closing joint session of the Assembly's Winter Meeting, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgaard, invited all Members to participate more actively in raising the profile of gender issues in the Assembly and the OSCE. Speaking in Vienna on February 23 2007, Mrs. Tingsgaard called upon delegations to join the 'Group of Friends of the Special Representative' to improve networking among interested Members within the OSCE PA. Since this time, Mrs. Tingsgaard has sent a letter to all Delegations specifically inviting them to join this 'Group of Friends,' and intends to hold a breakfast meeting during the Annual Session in Kyiv to follow-up on these efforts.

Mrs. Tingsgaard pointed out that women's representation in Delegations in the Assembly remains low at less than 25%. She called upon all Members to actively engage in improving this balance in the Organization through greater promotion



of women in OSCE PA activities. In addition, she stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender in Assembly work and documents, and ensuring that both genders participate and are visible in Assembly activities.

The Special Representative also drew Members' attention to the gender gap in the OSCE; the Gender Balance Report 2006 shows that statistically, the gender balance within the OSCE has not improved. While statistics show certain progress on the overall representation of women within the OSCE, women remain under-represented at the senior levels, she said. Mrs. Tingsgaard expressed her deep concern that the issue of 'gender equality' is no longer visible on the agenda of the OSCE's participating States, specifically in the Permanent Council in Vienna. She also called for greater involvement by parliamentarians in specific projects, for example with OSCE field missions, to help raise awareness and promote equal representation in participating States.

## President Lennmarker, Secretary General Oliver Meet with Chairman-in-Office Moratinos



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Göran Lennmarker and Secretary General Spencer Oliver met with Spain's Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Miguel Angel Moratinos on 6 March, 2007 in Madrid.

The primary topic of discussion during the more than one hour long meeting was the issue of co-ordination between the OSCE PA and the OSCE

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) during election observation missions. The meeting in Madrid was a follow-up to the extended discussions at the recent OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna, where many Parliamentarians supported President Lennmarker's intention

to meet with Foreign Minister Moratinos at the earliest possible date to discuss and overcome ongoing difficulties in this field. The Chairman-in-Office thanked President Lennmarker for his letter report on the Serbian election observation mission, which Lennmarker led.

All parties at the Madrid meeting agreed that the issue should be resolved as quickly as possible on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement between the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE PA President, and well in advance of the next expected OSCE election observation mission in connection with the parliamentary elections in Armenia on 12 May.

