

President Lennmarker addresses CIS Assembly

OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker addressed the 30th Plenary Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on 3 April in St. Petersburg. Secretary General Spencer Oliver also participated in the Session.

In his remarks, President Lennmarker focused on parliamentary co-operation between the OSCE and the CIS, and the importance of open dialogue on all issues of common concern in the OSCE area. On the margins of the Session, President Lennmarker met with the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council and Chairman of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly - Sergey Mironov. Speaker Mironov and President Lennmarker discussed parliamentary co-operation between the CIS and the OSCE with



a particular focus on work in the field of election observation. Secretary General Oliver also met with the Secretary General of the CIS Assembly, Mikhail Krotov, and agreed to work toward a common agreement on standards for election observation in the OSCE area.

In addition, President Lennmarker met with Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan – the host of the next OSCE PA Annual Session and with Speakers of other CIS parliaments, including Vadim Popov from Belarus, Marian Lupu from Moldova, and Arsenii Yatseniuk from Ukraine.

Senior Counsellor Semyon Dzakhaev and Programme Officer Anna Chernova from the International Secretariat also participated in the CIS Assembly Session.

Lenmarker and Battelli in Belgrade - OSCE PA to deploy Leadership Mission to Serbian elections



Battelli and Lennmarker meet with Sonja Brkic, the President of the Republican Electoral Commission

From 6 to 8 April an OSCE PA delegation led by President Goran Lennmarker visited Belgrade and held intensive talks about the implications of Kosovo's declaration of independence and about the upcoming Serbian parliamentary elections. The delegation included the PA Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's Vienna Liaison Office.

As President Lennmarker has appointed Roberto Battelli to lead the PA Leadership Mission, consisting of Standing Committee Members, to observe these elections, the trip also served as a pre-election visit to the country. The delegation

met with the Minister for Kosovo and Metohija Slobodan Samardzic and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Radojko Bogojevic, as well as with the President of the Republican Electoral Commission Sonja Brkic, the Head of the Serbian PA Delegation Suzana Grubjesic, representatives of political parties, NGOs and the media. Finally, the delegation was briefed by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Hans Ola Urstad, and the leader of the ODIHR's Limited Election Observation Mission, Nikolai Vulchanov. All sides expressed the expectation that the upcoming elections will be held in line with OSCE commitments, similar to previous elections. At the same time, all interlocutors once more expressed their deep concern about the recent difficulties related to Kosovo's declaration of independence, which might have a negative impact on the political climate during the electoral campaign.

President Lennmarker and Special Representative Battelli underlined the readiness of the OSCE PA to help strengthen confidence and co-operation in the region in this particularly difficult situation. They stressed that the upcoming observation mission was also a sign of the strong commitment of the PA to a further development of the good working relationship it has had with Serbia and its parliament.