

Current Information from the International Secretariat

President Severin on working visit to the International Secretariat

President Adrian Severin worked at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen from 31 July – 6 August 2000 to familiarize himself with the Secretariat and to plan the future work of the Assembly during the coming year. Mr. Severin consulted with members of the senior staff to hear their reports on planned activities. Whilst in Copenhagen Mr. Severin held talks with the Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr. Ivar Hansen and President Emeritus Helle Degn

Helsinki Final Act Anniversary reception in Copenhagen

On 1 August the International Secretariat held a reception to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and to introduce the new President of the Assembly Mr. Adrian Severin. The reception was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps in Copenhagen and high-level political figures including the Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr. Ivar Hansen and former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen. President Emeritus Helle Degn represented the Assembly at the Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in Tampere, Finland. Mrs. Degn was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen

President Severin establishes a Bureau Working Group on the Rules of Procedure

President Severin has appointed Vice-President Bruce George to Chair a Bureau Working Group which will examine the Rules of Procedure in view of recent experience. Heads of Delegations have been asked to forward their ideas and proposals on this issue to the International Secretariat. The Bureau will meet in Limassol in conjunction with the Expanded Bureau Meeting and Seminar which will be held from 2-5 October. At that time the Bureau will consider proposals which have been submitted by members of the Assembly. The Bureau will consider the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure at its November meeting in Vienna in order to co-sponsor proposals for consideration by the Standing Committee at the next meeting in January.

Vice-President Rita Süßmuth visits Kosovo

From 13-17 August 2000 Vice-President Rita Süßmuth, Chair of the recently established Ad hoc Working Group on Kosovo, will pay a visit to the area. She will be joined by Mrs. Elisabeth Meijer (MP, Netherlands). The programme of the visit will be worked out in close co-operation with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Daan Everts. The Delegation will be accompanied by Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer, Adviser to the Secretary General

Severin to Attend Stability pact meeting

President Severin will attend the Summit of Speakers of Parliaments of all Stability Pact subjects, to be held in Zagreb on 11-13 September 2000.

New Research Fellows

During August 2000, the following new **Research Fellows** have joined the International Secretariat: Mr. Hal Ferguson (U.S.) and Ms. Anne Grandjean (Belgium).