

# News from Copenhagen

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## OSCE PA FIELD VISIT TO SKOPJE

Eleven OSCE Parliamentarians, representing the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom, visited the OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje on 7-9 April 2003. The Delegation was led by Mr. Göran Lennmarker (Sweden), Chair of the First General Committee.

During the visit the Delegation met with Ambassador Craig Jenness, Head of the Mission, and with other Members of the Mission to discuss the Mission's work.

On 8 April the Delegation met with Mr. Nikola Popovski, President of the Parliament. They then met with the Parliament's Delegation to the OSCE PA and with parliamentarians from all seven political parties represented in the Parliament. The Delegation also paid a visit to the new EU Force, Concordia.

On 9 April the Delegation visited the OSCE Field Office in Kumanovo and met with the Mayor of the city. They also met with the mayors

of Lipkovo and Aracinovo. These two towns were badly affected by the 2001 crisis.

During the talks Mr. Popovski, as well as several other interlocutors, explained the progress made in the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which requires

some 100 new laws to be adopted by the Parliament. The discussions also dealt with the FYR of Macedonia's integration into European structures, focussing on the EU and NATO in particular. In this respect Mr. Popovski and several others emphasized the importance of the Stabilization and Association agreement, appealing to those EU members who have not yet ratified the agreement to do so as soon as possible.



*The Delegation of the OSCE PA, led By Mr. Göran Lennmarker (left) meeting with Mr. Nikola Popovski, President of Parliament (right)*

This field visit was the tenth of its kind. OSCE parliamentarians have previously visited OSCE field activities in Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Croatia and Albania.

### Registration Reminder

The International Secretariat reminds Delegations that 1 May 2003 is the registration deadline for the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, to be held from 7-9 June 2003 in Almaty. The Forum, organized by the OSCE PA at the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and with the co-operation of the United Nations Development Program, will focus on "The Trans-Asian Dimension of the OSCE: A Vital Security Link". For further information please contact Programme Officer Paul Legendre.

Delegations are also reminded that 9 May 2003 is the registration deadline for the OSCE PA short-term observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Armenia on 25 May. For further information please contact Programme Officer Tina Schøn.

## PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE STABILITY PACT TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS

The 4th Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe will be held in Brussels on 21-22 May 2003. The Conference is organized under the auspices of the Tri-Parliamentary Troika, composed of the OSCE PA, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. It will be hosted by the European Parliament, which currently holds the rotating Presidency of the Troika.

The Conference will discuss the stabilization and association process of South Eastern Europe, the fight

against corruption, organized crime and trafficking, as well as the role of civil society. The President of the OSCE PA, Mr. Bruce George, will address the Conference. On behalf of the OSCE PA, Mr. Giovanni Kessler (Italy) will give a report on the fight against organized crime.

A preparatory meeting of the Conference between the three Secretariats was held in Strasbourg on 10 April. Mr. Pentti Väänänen, Deputy Secretary General, represented the OSCE PA at the meeting.