

## President Lennmarker Visits Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

From September 9 to 12, 2007, OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker paid official visits to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The President travelled overland, meeting with officials in Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar, accompanied by the Assembly's Special Representative on South-East Europe Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's Vienna Office, and Asa Ekwall from the Swedish Parliament. The visits were aimed at becoming more familiar with the political processes taking place in these countries with the support of the OSCE and particularly with the work of OSCE field missions here. These visits complete a tour through the region that President Lennmarker started last December. The visit was co-organized by the OSCE Missions to Croatia and to Bosnia-Herzegovina and included meetings with senior parliamentary and government officials from the national level, but also with representatives of regional and local entities, like the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Mayor of Dubrovnik. The delegation also received extensive briefings by the OSCE missions and their field offices.

Meetings included discussions with the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Seks and the Bureau of the Parliament of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Speakers of Parliaments of entities, with the Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, with Nedžad Hadzimusic, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with



President Lennmarker met with Vladimir Seks, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament

the Mayor of Dubrovnik, Dubravka Suica.

In Croatia, one central point of the discussions was the possible closure of the OSCE mission to Croatia by the end of the year and the country's negotiations with the EU on its future membership. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the discussions focused on the necessity to move the constitution of the country forward from the current status based on the Dayton Peace Accords to one that is more up to the requirements of becoming an active and normal member of the international community. Linked to this were briefings about aspects of the relationship between the three constituent peoples of the country and national minorities, as well as other reform issues.

## President Lennmarker Visits Italy



Following an invitation from Senator Carlo Vizzini, Head of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, President Lennmarker and Secretary General Oliver paid a visit to Rome on 12 and 13 September.

During their stay in the Italian capital, the President and the Secretary General of the Assembly met with Senator Vizzini and other Members of the Italian Delegation to discuss issues of interest to the Assembly and the OSCE, including the upcoming Fall Meetings in Portoroz, election observation missions and future activities. The Delegation also held meetings with Senator Giulio Andreotti, Member of the Italian Delegation, and Umberto Ranieri, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. President Lennmarker and

Secretary General Oliver were accompanied by Presidential Advisor Gustavo Pallares from the Assembly's International Secretariat and Asa Ekwall from the Swedish Parliament.

### PA in Slovenia and Ukraine

Next weekend, 29-30 September, parliamentarians from across the OSCE will be taking part in Parliamentary Assembly activities in Slovenia and Ukraine. More than 150 parliamentarians will gather in Portoroz for the Assembly's annual Fall Meetings which include a Conference on 'Security Through Co-operation in South East Europe: the Role of Parliamentarians' as well as a meeting of the Standing Committee of Heads of Delegation and a Mediterranean Forum.

In addition, more than 50 MPs will be observing the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The Assembly's International Secretariat will similarly be deployed in both countries to provide support for these activities.