

# News from Copenhagen

## Anne-Marie Lizin to lead OSCE short-term observers in Belarus

Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, has been appointed Special Co-ordinator to lead the OSCE short-term observers in the observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Belarus on 28 September.

As Special Co-ordinator, appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Finland's Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, Ms. Lizin will deliver the preliminary post-election statement at a press conference in Minsk on the day after the elections. Ms. Lizin also heads the observation delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Vice-President Lizin is an experienced election observer. In February, she served as Special Co-ordinator for all OSCE short-term observers at the presidential election in Armenia.

She is also the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantanamo and has paid three visits to the US detention facility, strongly arguing for its closure.

More than 60 OSCE Parliamentarians are expected to participate in the Belarus election observation mission. They



Vice-President Lizin led the OSCE observers in Armenia, February 2008

will be supported by the Special Representative in the OSCE PA's Vienna liaison office, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, Programme Office Anna Chernova and Logistics Officer Petra Jezkova.

## Final preparations for OSCE PA Toronto Fall Meetings

Around 200 parliamentarians from 47 countries will gather in Toronto, Canada this week for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Fall Meetings.

Starting on Thursday, 18 September the Meetings include a conference on *The OSCE in an Open World: Trade, Security and Migration*. There will be a special session on Friday, 19 September about the crisis in Georgia.

OSCE PA President Joao Soares and Goran Lenmarker, President Emeritus and Special Envoy for Georgia, will report on their recent visits to Moscow and Georgia, respectively. Also scheduled to address the delegates are Georgia's Foreign Minister Eka Tkeshelashvili, and Ambassador Jurij

Popov, from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Gareth Evans, President and Chief Executive of the International Crisis Group and former foreign minister of Australia, will give the keynote address at the opening session of the conference on the afternoon of Thursday 18 September.

The Fall Meetings also include a Mediterranean Forum on Thursday, 18 September and a meeting of the Standing Committee on Saturday, 20 September.

The Fall Meetings are open to the media. A press conference will be held on Wednesday, 17 September at 14:00 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

## Treasurer Hans Raidel visits International Secretariat



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Treasurer Hans Raidel (Germany) visited the Assembly headquarters in Copenhagen on 11 September to meet with the Secretary General, Deputy Secretaries General and Financial Assistant.

Mr. Raidel was in Copenhagen to prepare his report for the coming fiscal year, set to begin on 1 October.

The Treasurer will report on the Assembly's finances during the upcoming Standing Committee meeting in Toronto on 20 September.

## Secretary General to testify before US Helsinki Commission

The Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Spencer Oliver, will appear before the U.S. Helsinki Commission in Washington, DC on Wednesday, 17 September.

At a Congressional hearing entitled "The Role of OSCE Institutions in Advancing Human Rights and Democracy," Mr. Oliver will talk about the Parliamentary Assembly's role in OSCE election observation missions.

Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Director of OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, will also testify.

The Helsinki Commission is co-chaired by Representative Alcee L. Hastings, a former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and by Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, who is a Vice-President of the Assembly.